



Parade Rules & Regulations
Saturday, December 12, 2026

REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

1. The Annual Christmas Parade will be held on December 12, 2026 and will start promptly at 6:00 p.m. Complete entry forms and fees must be received by Sunday, November 01, 2026.

GENERAL INFORMATION

2. REGISTRATION IS ONLINE ONLY. Entry forms without payment will not be accepted.
3. *The City of Kannapolis reserves the right to reject any application for any reason.*
4. **Due to the nature of the route through West Avenue, your entire float length is restricted to 50 FEET. This includes the total length of a truck and trailer. Multiple vehicle entries or walking units that are longer than 50 feet are welcome; we are only restricting the total FLOAT LENGTH to 50 FEET (ABSOLUTELY NO TRACTOR TRAILERS.)**
5. Professional floats are available to be rented through the City of Kannapolis. Float designs can be viewed on our website or at the Parks and Recreation administrative office on the 1st floor of the City Hall and Police Headquarters.
 - a. All professional floats will be adequately lighted and have Bluetooth sound.
6. All vehicles and floats must be decorated in a Christmas/Holiday theme AND be ILLUMINATED with Christmas Lights.
 - a. This includes support vehicles, fire trucks, cars, bands, walking units, horses, floats, etc.
 - b. Lights must run alongside of the float entries, as well as any props on the float.
 - c. Please have your participants lighted well enough to be seen by spectators without the use of glaring spotlights.
7. All entrants will be notified by email of your parade position on or before Friday, November 20, 2026.
8. To ensure good flow of the entire parade, please DO NOT STOP. Walking units must continue moving forward. Please choreograph any performances to maintain a forward movement.
9. All performance groups (bands, dance groups, cheer groups ect.) will be limited to a 60 second performance in front of the TV broadcasting area, during this performance they must remain forward moving.
10. Only ONE APPROVED SANTA CLAUS is allowed in the parade. Santa will be provided by the City of Kannapolis and be stationed at the end of the parade.
11. All horse riders must file an individual application.
 - a. There may only be one rider per horse and no more than three abreast.
 - b. All horses are required to have a horse manure bag.
 - c. Horse entries will be provided a special location to load/unload.
 - d. Entrants are asked to clean these areas before departing.
12. Soliciting during the event is prohibited.
13. Only participants/groups who have been issued a parade number may participate. **PLEASE make sure your group members are informed of your group number.**
14. There is no charge for school bands, EMS, Fire, Police or Military entries. Schools with participating bands may have an additional four (4) entries at no charge. Participating bands will receive a \$500 stipend.
15. Entries that do not adhere to the guidelines will be asked to leave the parade and will not be allowed to participate in future parades.



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16. In case of inclement weather, no rain date is available due to road closing restrictions. The parade will be held rain or shine.



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SAFETY & REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

All the following rules, regulations, parking information, and safety guidelines can be found on our website:
<https://www.kannapolisnc.gov/ChristmasParade>

WRITTEN SAFETY PLAN AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

17. A written safety plan is being prepared by fire and police official to address any unexpected emergencies. This plan will assess risk mitigation and contingency planning; safety briefings for event volunteers and other stakeholders; and notification all other entities with control over potential hazards. This plan will also include inclement weather and emergency/security response. Additionally, all parade drivers will receive information to contact key emergency parade and municipal personnel.

ROUTE

18. Parade route maps with clearly delineate street closures are included on the website and below for your reference. The City has notified residents and businesses along the parade route of the events and possible street closures affecting them well in advance.

VEHICLES

19. Police officials have determined that all drivers should keep a steady pace of no more than 3 MPH. The City is also asking all participants to send in copies of drivers licenses and registration cards for all vehicles participating in the parade. This information is required upon registration, no entries will be permitted to participate without license and registration submissions.

DRIVERS

20. Beyond the requisite driver's license needed to operate a moving vehicle, Police officials have determined 21 to be the minimum age for drivers participating in the parade, especially those that are pulling the extra length and load of a large float. All individuals that will be driving a tractor are required to be 16 years of age with a valid drivers license.

PARTICIPANTS

21. Chaperones are required for participants under 18. Minors associated with your organization and entry are your responsibility. Please have an exit plan in place to connect your participants to their parents. No children under the age of 12 should be on a float without adult supervision.
22. The distribution of candy along the parade route is allowed if HANDED to parade viewers by walking entry members. It is prohibited to toss or throw any candy and/or other favors or objects at parade viewers.
23. The use of alcohol or illegal drugs in any form is prohibited before and during the parade by any parade participants and officials. Individuals violating this requirement will be immediately removed from the parade.
24. All drivers and participants must follow the directions of the parade marshals. They are in place to keep the flow of the parade safe and moving.



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ANIMALS

25. All animals participating in the parade should be healthy and current on their vaccinations. Unrestrained pets are not allowed in the parade. Please always keep animals under control. Leashes should be no longer than six feet. There may only be one rider per horse and no more than three abreast. Horse entries will be provided a special location to load/unload. All animal entries must be accompanied by someone dedicated to immediately clean up after them along the parade route.

ASSEMBLY AND DISASSEMBLY

26. Assembly and disassembly areas have been identified and will be communicated to all participants through the mail. These sites will also be given to each driver at the beginning of the parade and staff will direct entries to them at the end of the parade.

VIEWING STANDS AND VENDORS

27. Designated viewing areas are all along the parade route. Please remind your parents, friends and any spectators of basic safety measures for children and adults—such as not running in front of or attempting to board floats and staying on the sidewalk and out of the street.

DEBRIS REMOVAL

28. Parade planning procedures always incorporate debris clean up and removal. Please help eliminate litter by not handing flyers and putting all trash in the receptacles provided.

GENERAL

29. General parade questions? Please call the Parks and Recreation Department at 704-920-4343 or email rellis@kannapolisnc.gov or amiller@kannapolisnc.gov.



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Schedule of Fees

Professional Float Rental	\$1050.00
Commercial Entry	\$125.00
Dance Group Entry (including cheer, baton, etc)	\$125.00
Church, Civic, Non-profit, School Entry	\$75.00
Non-commercial Car Entry (including King, Queen, Political, Person)	\$75.00
Horse Entry (per horse, including wagon or rider)	\$20.00
School Bands & Emergency Vehicles	FREE

Please note that only **one** vehicle or group is permitted per entry.

Awards & Prizes	1 st	2 nd	3 rd
Bands	\$1,000.00	\$500.00	\$250.00
Church	\$250.00	\$150.00	\$100.00
Civic/Organization	\$250.00	\$150.00	\$100.00
School	\$250.00	\$150.00	\$100.00