



# 2025 Mayor's Christmas Parade Participation Guidelines

*Hampden/Medfield, Baltimore*

Thank you for being part of our beloved community tradition! To ensure a safe, organized, and festive parade for everyone, all participants must follow these guidelines:

## 1. Mandatory Virtual Meeting

- All group leaders must attend a virtual parade briefing held no later than one week before the event.
- The meeting will cover staging details, rules, safety protocols, and last-minute updates.
- Attendance is required; groups that do not attend may not be allowed to participate.

## 2. Arrival & Check-In

- Check-in begins at 11:00 AM in the Poly-Western High School parking lot.
- All participants must arrive by 12:00 PM; late arrivals may be turned away.
- The parade begins promptly at 1:00 PM.

## 3. Cleanliness & Responsibility

- Each participant group is responsible for keeping their staging area, float area, and parade route clean.
- No littering. All trash, decorations, and materials must be removed after the parade.
- Groups are encouraged to leave their area cleaner than they found it.
- Groups leaving trash behind may be excluded from future events.

## 4. Line-Up & Parade Conduct

- Stay in your assigned order and maintain a steady pace; avoid large gaps between units.
- Do not throw items into the crowd. Items may be safely handed out by walkers only.
- Open flames and fireworks are strictly prohibited.
- All participants must maintain respectful, family-friendly behavior—no profanity, lewd gestures, or aggressive conduct.
- Emergency access routes must remain clear at all times. Parade officials' instructions must be followed immediately to ensure everyone's safety.

## 5. Vehicles & Floats

- All vehicles and floats must be decorated in a festive holiday theme—creativity encouraged!
- Drivers must be licensed and insured, and vehicles must travel at walking pace (2–3 mph).
- Floats and trailers must be secured and stable; no riders are allowed on vehicle roofs.
- Each motorized float must carry a working fire extinguisher.

## 6. Performances & Sound

- Music, performances, and displays must be family-friendly.
- Amplified sound should remain at a respectful level so as not to overpower nearby groups, especially marching bands. Parade officials may request volume adjustments.
- Marching bands, drum lines, or performance groups must maintain consistent pace and reasonable spacing. Notify organizers in advance if you plan performance stops; keep stops brief to avoid delays.

## 7. Animals

- Only leashed or harnessed, well-behaved animals are allowed.
- Groups bringing animals must bring cleanup supplies and use them.

## 8. Political & Commercial Messaging

- This is a non-partisan, family-friendly event; parade entries must not include political signs, slogans, or controversial statements.
- No commercial advertising is allowed on signs or banners. Groups may carry signs/banners displaying their organization's name only.

## 9. Santa Claus Policy

- There is one official Santa Claus who appears at the end of the parade.
- Please do not include traditional Santa impersonators in your entry—this helps preserve the magic and avoids confusing young spectators.
- **However, entries that are part of the “Santaverse” theme are welcome.** These must clearly represent alternate-universe interpretations of Santa or original characters from a reimagined Santa world, and should be distinctly different from the traditional Santa Claus in appearance and concept.

## 10. Safety & Conduct

- No alcohol or illegal substances before or during the parade.
- Parade officials' instructions must be followed at all times.
- Emergency access routes must remain clear.

## 11. End-of-Parade Procedures

- Exit the area promptly after completing the route.
- Clean up all trash, decorations, and materials before leaving.

## 12. Weather Policy

- The Mayor's Christmas Parade will be held rain or shine, unless unsafe conditions require cancellation.
- Updates will be posted on [website/Facebook page].

## 13. Contact Information

- For questions or updates, contact the parade committee at (email) or visit [website/Facebook page].
- For urgent issues on parade day, contact the parade coordinator at (insert phone number).

Failure to follow these guidelines may result in immediate removal from the parade and/or exclusion from future events.

Thank you for helping us keep the Mayor's Annual Christmas Parade festive, safe, and clean for everyone! We can't wait to see your holiday spirit shine!

## Agreement & Signature

By signing below, I confirm that I have read and agree to follow the 2025 Mayor's Annual Christmas Parade Participation Guidelines.

Group/Organization Name:

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Group Leader's Printed Name:

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Group Leader's Signature:

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Date:

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Parade Coordinator's Signature (optional):

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Date:

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