

2009 Christmas Parade Fact Sheet

Date and Time

The parade will be held Friday, December 4, starting at 7 p.m.

Theme

As in years past, the theme for this year's parade will be "*Christmas in Franklin Parish*". This is our recurring theme so that those making a significant investment in their floats will be able to re-use them in ensuing years. **Christmas-type lighting for all parade entries and parade units is mandatory.**

The Parade Route

This year's parade will follow the traditional parade route through Winnsboro. The parade will line up in its usual spot along Fair Avenue. Once the parade starts, it will turn right onto Kinloch Street, then take an immediate left and proceed south along Common Street to the Franklin State Bank. At that point, the parade will turn left and proceed in an easterly direction down Prairie Street to Pine Street, where it will turn north and proceed to the stoplight at the intersection of Main and Pine Street by the courthouse.

The parade will turn left and head west along Main Street to Gill Funeral Home, then turn right on Kinloch and proceed in a northerly direction to Johnny's Pizza. The parade will then turn right back on Fair Avenue and proceed to Progressive Bank before dispersing.

Float Categories

There are two categories this year, **commercial** and **non-commercial**. **Float entries in all categories will pay a \$50 entry fee.** Deadline for entry is **November 10**, and entry fees must be paid by that time. This fee is non-refundable after November 10.

Commercial entrants are businesses with no limit on building supplies for their floats. These entrants are not eligible for cash awards, but the top judged entry will receive possession of the coveted revolving "**Santa Award**" trophy for one year.

Non-commercial entrants include civic organizations, schools and school organizations, non-profit organizations, and churches. **These organizations are responsible for securing their own sponsors.** These entrants are eligible for cash prizes.

This year, \$500 cash prizes will be awarded to the non-commercial entrants in the following categories: **Chamber of Commerce Award**; **Community Award**; and **Judge's Award**. (See enclosed "Parade Float Checklist" for float requirements)

Lighting Requirements For Floats

Since this is a night parade, **it is mandatory that all entries light their floats and/or vehicles with Christmas lights**. There are no set requirements for this, but entrants should use liberal amounts of lighting that will add to the spirit of the nighttime parade.

Entrants should also decorate the vehicle used to pull their float. **This will be used as a tie-breaker for the float judging.**

Lighting Requirements for Other Vehicles

Vehicles used in the parade for non-float pulling purposes **must** be decorated for Christmas in an appropriate manner for a nighttime Christmas parade.

Participation

The parade is open to any individual or group. All entries and participants **must** be registered through the Chamber office. Non-judged entries (*i.e., vehicles with elected officials, beauty queens, etc.*) must be registered with the Chamber of Commerce office prior to the parade, and their vehicle must be lit with Christmas lighting.

Bands

Bands, both high school and junior high school, are encouraged to participate. High school bands will receive \$250. **Marching bands, drill teams, cheerleader squads, and other similar units will be required to have security walkers on all four corners of their formation.**

Judging and Prizes

The announcement of the winners of this year's parade will be made on the stage that will be located on the parking lot adjacent to Robinson Photography and directly south of Franklin State Bank.

The \$500 cash prizes will be awarded to the float building organizations, and a float can only win one cash award. The winning organization will also be recognized in the Franklin Sun, as will the commercial float winner.

Float building organizations are encouraged to use their imagination, and pull ideas and materials from the resources to which they have access.

Only entrants in the non-commercial division will be eligible for cash prizes.