

Rules and Regulations

MISSION

The primary mission of the Annual Festival of Lights Parade is to provide a safe, enjoyable, and quality family environment, in and on the streets of Douglas.

REGISTRATION AND ENTRY FORM

All entries (**no exceptions**) must have an entry form on file at the Chamber of Commerce office located at 114 N Peterson Avenue, Suite 205 on or before 4pm on Friday, November 13, 2019. Entry fees should be paid to the Douglas-Coffee County Chamber of Commerce. Fees are as follows: Commercial \$25.00/Non-Commercial \$10.00

All vehicles/units bearing a business name or message are considered commercial. No skateboarders are allowed in the parade. No sex offenders are allowed in the parade. Parade will begin at 6:00pm on Saturday, December 7, 2019.

DESCRIPTION OF ENTRY A description or history of the entry, in about twenty-five words, must be submitted. This should be included with the entry form at registration. If it is not completed at that time, it must be mailed two weeks prior to the parade at: Douglas-Coffee Co Chamber of Commerce ATTN: Christmas Parade 114 N Peterson Ave Suite 205, Douglas, Georgia, 31533.

PARADE DECALS Decals will be given out as you register. The decal should be visible from the **outside right front windshield** on parade night. Parade entries will not be allowed to advance in the parade if decal is not displayed.

PARADE ASSEMBLY & DISBURSEMENT

Participants are responsible for obtaining spaces for decorating and building the floats. Floats shall be constructed and decorated so that viewing from either side is equally appealing to the eye. No materials will be available for last minute repairs and additions. TIRES may not rub any part of the frame or float decoration when making turns. When working with floats, please dispose of materials properly to prevent litter. **Parade will end at South Georgia State College.** Please study map in advance to learn end route and instructions regarding entries/floats disbandment. Dumpsters will be located on Shirley and Wheeler for disposal of litter.

FLOAT DIMENSIONS Floats must not exceed 20 feet in width and must not be taller than 15 feet (overall height – traffic clearance). Floats with parts that are more than the 15-foot requirement must be lowered in a quick and efficient manner when approaching overhead traffic lights and other obstructions. Maximum float length is 55 feet. Traffic light clearance is 15.5 feet.

ELECTRICAL WIRING Wire and lighting devices must have sufficient capability for the use intended for them on the float. Wiring should be properly secured to the float to avoid mechanical damage and injury to parade participants.

PORTABLE GENERATORS Portable generators used in conjunction with float lighting must be securely mounted on a vehicle or other substantial base. A minimum of 12 inches clearance must separate any part of the generator from light, combustible fabrication or decorating materials.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER At least one five-pound dry chemical or 10-pound carbon dioxide fire extinguisher should be placed within easy reach of the float driver. There should be at least one fire extinguisher near each generator. ***For more information, call the Douglas Fire Dept. at 912-384-4815.***

ILLUMINATION To maintain the overall effect of the nighttime parade, ALL entries must be thoroughly decorated with lights and follow the “Christmas Classics” theme. **Entries will not be accepted without lighting.** Walkers such as bands, marching units, drill teams, and colorful performing groups are excluded from this rule.

SPONSOR NAME, BANNERS, AND FLOAT THEME

All units MUST identify themselves so parade viewers, judges, television coverage cameras, and program announcers can easily read the name of the unit or sponsor at a distance of 100 feet. The name of the business or organization MUST be displayed in front of each entry and the theme and other information should be along the side on all entries.

PARADE LINEUP The parade will begin at the First Methodist Church and continue south on Peterson Avenue. It will disband at South Georgia State College on College Park Drive. Units may begin lining up at 4:00 PM in the west (right-hand) lane of Peterson Avenue in front of the First Methodist Church at the corner of North Peterson Avenue and Jackson Street. Units will be placed in line by parade officials. Parade will move at a walking pace at all times.

FLOAT & VEHICLE DRIVERS All drivers must be licensed and adequately trained to drive their float. The driver should have perfect visibility of the road ahead. Once the float is in position in the line-up area, the driver must be in attendance at all times and available to move the unit as necessary.

FLOAT RIDERS No children under the age of twelve can ride on a float in the parade without direct supervision of an adult on the float. NO CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF TWELVE ARE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE WITHIN THE PARADE “LINE OF MARCH” WITHOUT ADULT SUPERVISION. After the parade, it is the responsibility of the parents, with children participating in the parade, to make necessary arrangements to meet your children and/or pick them up at the designated location at South Georgia State College.

CANDY THROWING As a safety precaution, **NO CANDY THROWING** is allowed during the parade. Walkers may hand out candy to spectators.

AUTHORITY Parade Workers have the authority to seek the removal of any person or units from the parade, when, in their judgment, parade guidelines are being violated.

PARADE ETIQUETTE During the parade, individuals and organizations are expected to perform courteously, in good taste, and with safety in mind at all times. Parade participants are asked to refrain from signs with profanity or vulgar language.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND SMOKING

No smoking or alcoholic beverages of any kind will be allowed in or on the float or tow vehicle. The consumption of any alcoholic beverage is strictly prohibited, and violators will be prosecuted. No advertisements are allowed for alcohol or tobacco usage.

COSTUMED CHARACTERS Float builders are encouraged to use costumed characters on floats. However, **no Santa Claus** will be allowed (Santa is featured in the parade by the event sponsors).

GO-CARTS, 4-WHEELERS, MOTOR BIKES, ETC. SAFETY IS PRIORITY!!! Riders MUST be under the supervision of a responsible adult. Out of concern for safety, riders will be pulled from the parade route if the proper safety measures are not considered by the riders. HELMETS ARE REQUIRED!!!

HORSES Entries must register to participate in the parade and sign a Hold Harmless form. All horses must be healthy; horses who appear to be sick will be pulled from the lineup. Riders must be able to control the horse in the event it becomes spooked by the crowd, lights, sounds, and other ambiances of the Parade. Owner & rider will be liable for any costs that may be from personal injury or personal property damage of themselves and spectators, business owners, or participants of the parade. Spacing must be maintained between horses. Saddles and bridles are required for all riders. Tack shall be in good condition so that riders can maintain control of their horse. Riders should not move out of line formation for other than emergency conditions. Riders are not to dismount or tie unattended horses along the parade route. Horse riding groups and vehicles being pulled by mules/horses are required to provide, at least one (1) person at the rear of the riding group with a barrel type container to pick up all droppings or for individual riders, horses must have a “manure bag” for sanitation purposes. Proof of negative Coggins Test must be supplied with horse entries.

INCLEMENT WEATHER If weather conditions are considered extreme and unsafe by the Parade Coordinators, the parade may be canceled and rescheduled for the following weekend. No refunds will be issued for cancellations by weather or parade organizers.