

2025 CHRISTMAS PARADE RULES

1. **SANTA** - No unit may have a live Santa Claus on it. More than one Santa causes confusion, especially for small children. Santa comes at the end of the parade and is sponsored by the Tahlequah Area Chamber of Commerce.
2. **ENTRY IDENTIFICATION** – Each entry must display their parade entry number on the front left side of the vehicle so it can be easily seen by the parade announcers and judges while traveling down the parade route. All entries are also asked to have their name of club, organization, business, church, or group affixed to the towing vehicle, on the float itself or carried in front of marching units for easy identification.
3. **ENTRY INFO** - Maximum entry height is 15 feet from street level. There is no maximum length. However, entries must be able to make tight turns before and during the parade staging areas and route. In addition, if the size of your entry changes since completing the parade registration form, please contact us so that we can provide your entry with the proper space to line-up in the staging areas. Changes in length of entry may not be accommodated in the staging areas if not available.
4. **SAFETY** - You must drive slow for the safety of other floats, walkers, and spectators, while also preventing gaps in the parade. If a gap occurs, a police officer will be stationed along the parade route to nicely encourage you to move forward. **Entries cannot stop for “walkers” to catch up to them.** Letting a gap occur creates havoc for the flow of the parade and leaves an opening for spectators to dart across the street and other safety concerns.
5. **SAFETY** - You may **ABSOLUTELY NOT THROW CANDY OR OTHER ITEMS**, or you may be removed and unable to participate in the parade for 3 years. This is a VERY SERIOUS safety issue, and your cooperation is appreciated. Entries wishing to distribute candy should use walkers alongside the unit and candy/items HANDED to the crowd. However, as stated above, you cannot stop and wait for walkers to catch up to you.
6. **SENSORY FRIENDLY ZONE** – The Sensory Friendly Zone has been established at the beginning of the parade for spectators/families affected by audio-sensory issues. **The Sensory Friendly Zone will begin at NSU University Center through Goingsnake.** A volunteer and police officer will be on hand to remind all parade entries that you will be entering the SENSORY FRIENDLY ZONE. **Please remain sensory friendly through this area – no flashing lights, loud vehicles, car horns, sirens, and any other loud noises.** Please be sure to share this information with your parade participants and their family members so they will be aware of the Sensory Friendly Zone area.
7. **PARADE LINEUP** - A lineup number has been assigned for your entry which you will receive prior to the parade taking place. **PLEASE DO NOT LOSE YOUR NUMBER. It must be prominently placed on the left-hand side of your front windshield with tape by parade start time.** This allows us to move the parade forward and the parade emcees to make the proper entry announcement.
8. **PARADE START** – **All of your parade participants must be ready to move out by 5:15 p.m.** Although the parade does not begin until 6:00 p.m., we will be moving out of designated areas by 5:30 p.m. to begin the parade at University Center on time.
9. **CHECK IN** – Begins at **2:30 p.m.** at your designated area. Entries must be checked in and in their assigned line-up location by 5:00 p.m. on parade night to eliminate problems and congestion during street and intersection closings. **We will be unable to accommodate your entry if you fail to check-in or be in line-up location by 5:00 p.m.**
 - **Yellow (Floats) – NSU Stadium Parking Lot**
 - **Blue (Decorated Vehicles) – Enter on Crafton from Bypass – Check-in will begin at Crafton & Cedar St intersection only**
 - **Green (Bands and Horses) – NSU Library Parking Lot**
 - **Orange (Emergency Vehicles)- NSU Event Center Parking Lot**
 - **Pink (Walking Groups) - NSU Event Center Grassy Front Lawn**
10. The Chamber, or any other agency or entity associated with the parade, will not accept any responsibility for damages or injuries occurring during parade activities. The Chamber or designated agents thereof may withdraw or remove any entry from the parade at any time without cause.