CELEBRATE PINELLAS PARK, INC.
2026 PINELLAS PARK CHRISTMAS PARADE
PARTICIPANT RULES & REGULATIONS

I. DEFINITIONS

a. An **ENTRY** consists of one registered individual, organization, or business.
b. A **VEHICLE** is a car, truck, van, or sport-utility vehicle, and the trailer attached (if applicable). Golf carts are not considered vehicles unless part of a Car Club entry.
c. A **FLOAT** is a permanent, decorated platform that is either towed behind a vehicle or built on a self-propelled vehicle chassis. Floats are designed and constructed for the sole purpose of participating in parades.
d. A **WALKER** is an individual that is not within a vehicle walking in the parade.
e. A **HANDOUT** is any item distributed to the crowd by parade participants.
f. **STAGING AREA** refers to eastbound Park Boulevard and perpendicular side streets between 65th Way North and 58th Street North.
g. The **PARADE ROUTE** refers to eastbound Park Boulevard between 58th Street North (Railroad Crossing) and 40th Street North.
h. A **PARADE SAFETY OFFICER** or **PSO** is a member designated by the registering entity that has the sole responsibility of ensuring all rules, regulations, and procedures are followed by the registering entity prior to, during, and after the event.
i. **SIGNAGE** refers to a poster, sign, banner, flag, or articles of clothing with a prominent message.

II. APPLICATION PROCESS

a. Applications are online-only and available at www.pinellasparkchristmasparade.com.
b. The application period begins on September 1st of each year and concludes the Friday before Thanksgiving.
c. Completing an application will require general information including the entry name, general knowledge of the entry, and vehicle details.
d. The application is not considered complete until the application fee payment is submitted.
e. Applicants can expect feedback from the committee within three business days of the application.
f. Registration and participation is not finalized until lineup information is picked up by the PSO the week of the parade. Failure of the PSO to attend will result in the removal of the entry.

III. REGISTRATION TYPES AND FEES

a. There are **five types of parade applications**:
    i. **PRIVATE/NON-PROFIT** applications are for private individuals or non-profit organizations.
    ii. **GOVERNMENT** applications are for local, state, or federal government agencies (including the military) and currently elected officials.
    iii. **CAR CLUB** applications are for entries that are comprised exclusively of vehicles of like style, manufacturer, era, or capability.
    iv. **COMMERCIAL** applications are for businesses that by use of vehicles, signage, or otherwise, are advertising a product or service.
    v. **MARCHING or WALKING** applications are for marching bands, dance troupes that perform, or entries comprised exclusively of walkers.
        1. All types and disciplines of marching bands are welcome to participate in the parade.
        2. High School marching bands are eligible to receive a $350.00 travel stipend for their attendance.
        3. High School marching bands are judged on their performance and eligible to receive prize monies as follows:
            a. 1st Place - $1,500.00
            b. 2nd Place - $1,250.00
            c. 3rd Place - $1,000.00
        4. High school marching bands that place in the competition are not eligible for the travel stipend in addition to prize money.
    vi. To encourage early registration there is a tiered registration fee schedule (GOVERNMENT and marching band MARCHING or WALKING entries are free of charge):
        1. September 1st through September 30th
            a. PRIVATE/NON-PROFIT - $50.00
            b. COMMERCIAL - $100.00
        2. October 1st through October 31st
            a. PRIVATE/NON-PROFIT - $75.00
            b. COMMERCIAL - $125.00
        3. November 1st through Closure
            a. PRIVATE/NON-PROFIT - $100.00
            b. COMMERCIAL - $150.00

IV. GENERAL RULES & REQUIREMENTS

a. All floats and vehicles must be completely decorated in an appropriate Christmas or holiday theme. This includes tow vehicles.
    i. Exemptions:
        1. Antique vehicles

b. Any music or audio played by an entry must be of a Christmas or holiday theme.
c. There are float and vehicle limitations based on the type of entry:
    i. PRIVATE/NON-PROFIT and GOVERNMENT – Four (4)
    ii. Car Club – Fifteen (15)
    iii. COMMERCIAL – Two (2)
    iv. MARCHING BANDS – Two (2)
    v. Bicycles, motorcycles, scooters, and all-terrain-vehicles are not considered vehicles and are therefore not applicable to the limitations.
d. Each entry may have a maximum of ten (10) individuals walking (excluding the Parade Safety Officer).
    i. Exemptions:
        1. Marching or Walking Entries
        2. Others at the Discretion of the Parade Committee
e. Children under the age of eight (8) years of age are not permitted to walk in the parade.
f. Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus or their likeness may not appear on or within any other entry. Blow-ups or other decorations are permitted.
g. Alcohol onboard any participating vehicle or float or in the possession of any participant is strictly prohibited.
h. All applicable Florida Statutes apply to vehicles and vehicle operators during the parade.

V. PARADE SAFETY OFFICERS

a. Each entry regardless of size and scope is required to designate a Parade Safety Officer (PSO).
    i. Exemptions:
        1. Car Club entries
        2. Marching or Walking entries
        3. Government entries
b. The designated PSO will have the following responsibilities:
    i. Attend a mandatory PSO meeting on behalf of their respective entry the week of the parade.
    ii. Ensure all individuals participating within the entry adhere to the rules and regulations set forth by the parade committee.
    iii. Serve as the primary point of contact for the parade committee.
c. The PSO will walk along the parade route in the curb lane behind their respective entry during the parade. They are not permitted to do anything other than walk during the parade.

d. The PSO will wear a safety vest that will be provided by the parade committee so that they can be easily identified by parade officials and law enforcement personnel for the duration of the parade should any violation occur or other matters that need to be addressed.

VI. HANDOUTS

a. Permitted handouts include, but are not limited to beads, apparel, and soft/inflatable items.
b. Prohibited handouts include, but are not limited to candy, paper products, lollipops, coins, and pens/pencils.
c. All handouts must be approved by the parade committee prior to the event.
d. Handouts must be thrown underhand from vehicles/floats or tossed to spectators by walkers along the route.
e. Drivers of vehicles/floats may not distribute handouts along the parade route.
f. Any participants found to be intentionally throwing handouts carelessly or with the intent to cause injury will result in ejection from the parade.

VII. POLITICAL SIGNAGE

a. Candidates for elected office and/or political organizations that have registered for the parade are only permitted to display signage promoting the respective candidate or political organization.
b. Political signage prominently displayed outside of entries promoting a specific candidate for elected official and/or political organization is strictly prohibited.

VIII. ANIMAL PARTICIPATION

a. Participating animals must be noted on the registration form, in good health, and capable of coping with the distance of the parade route, crowd, bright lights, and noise from other entries.
b. Participating animals must be on a lead of some type and under a handler's control at all times. Animals deemed out of a handler's control at any time by parade officials will be removed from the parade route.
c. Due to the nature of the parade and unpredictable conditions, only certified law enforcement horses affiliated with a law enforcement agency are permitted to participate. Horse-drawn entries are prohibited.

IX. PARADE LINEUP

a. Parade lineup begins in the staging area two hours before the scheduled parade start and concludes one half hour before the scheduled parade start.

b. All entries will access the staging area via a designated side street provided by the parade committee.
    i. Due to their size and scope, some entries will be assigned a specific side street by the parade committee. This would be communicated directly to that specific entry by the parade committee.
c. Assigned numerical lineup positions will be posted on a wooden stake at your designated location.
d. The space allotted to lineup will be based on the vehicles/floats listed on the registration being positioned side-by-side in the curb and center lanes. Once the parade begins to move, vehicle/floats will move to the center lane in a single file formation.
e. The median lane must remain clear at all times for other vehicles/floats moving through the staging area to their assigned lineup position.

X. DURING THE PARADE

a. Once an entry clears the staging area and enters the parade route, vehicles/floats are to remain in the center lane and walkers are to remain in the curb lane.
b. The median lane must remain clear at all times for parade officials and emergency personnel as needed.
c. Vehicles/floats are not permitted to stop at any time and are required to maintain reasonable spacing during the parade.
d. The loading or unloading of walkers during the parade is strictly prohibited.
e. Parade officials will be stationed along the parade route in previously identified sectors. These officials are there to serve as a resource for PSOs and to monitor entries.