

CITY OF WESTMINSTER, SOUTH CAROLINA –

2026 CHRISTMAS PARADE

Official Entry Application, Parade Rules & Participant Liability Waiver

Date: Friday, December 4, 2026
Parade Start Time: 6:00 pm
Registration Deadline: 11/27/2026

Parade Line Up Location: Old Dollar Tree Parking, 907 E Main S
Lineup Begins: 4:00 pm / 4:30 pm

The City of Westminster warmly invites businesses, churches, schools, civic organizations, families, and community groups to join us in celebrating the joy and spirit of the Christmas season!
We encourage all participants to showcase their holiday creativity while helping create a festive, fun-friendly, and safe experience for everyone.
***Important:** For the safety of all participants and spectators, animals, including horses, are not permitted.*

We look forward to celebrating this wonderful holiday tradition with our community!

SECTION 1: PARADE ENTRY APPLICATION

Organization / Business / Group Name: _____

Primary Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City / State / ZIP: _____

Phone: _____
Email: _____

Entry Classification

- ☐ Business / Commercial Organization
- ☐ School / Student Organization
- ☐ Nonprofit Organization
- ☐ Dance / Cheerleading Group
- ☐ Decorated Float / Trailer
- ☐ Tractor / Agricultural Entry
- ☐ Other: _____
- ☐ Church / Religious Organization
- ☐ Civic / Community Organization
- ☐ Marching Band / Musical Group
- ☐ Youth Sports Organization
- ☐ Classic / Antique Vehicles
- ☐ Walking Group
- ☐

Motorized Entry: _____ Number **of Motorized Units:** _____ (Maximum 3)
Approximate Entry Length: _____ feet

Walking Group: _____ Estimated **Number of Participants:** _____
Number of Participants Under 18: _____

Will the entry include music or amplified sound?
☐ Yes ☐ No



SECTION 2: OFFICIAL PARADE RULES & PARTICIPATION POLICIES

1. Compliance with Parade Officials - All participating individuals and organizations must follow established parade regulations and comply with instructions from law enforcement, designated security personnel, and authorized City of Westminster representatives. Each entry must designate an adult representative responsible for communicating parade instructions to everyone associated with the entry.

2. Supervision of Children - Children participating in the parade must remain under appropriate adult supervision throughout the event, including arrival, check-in, staging, parade participation, unloading, and departure. Organizations involving minors must provide sufficient adult chaperones to maintain the safety and accountability of their participants.

3. Parade Theme and Decorations - There is no official parade theme. Participants are encouraged to embrace the spirit of the Christmas season by creating festive, imaginative, and fun-friendly displays that celebrate the joy and traditions of the holidays.

4. Identification of Entries - Organizations may display a banner or sign identifying their business, school, church, civic organization, or group. Signs and banners must be securely attached and must not obstruct driver visibility or interfere with safe vehicle operation.

5. Float Participation and Performances - Individuals riding on floats or motorized entries must remain in their designated positions while the parade is moving. Participants may not exit floats or vehicles along the parade route to conduct performances. **Violations may result in removal from the parade or restrictions on future participation. Prohibited, No Low Boy trailers, floats, and/or vehicles.**

6. Walking Groups and Performances - Walking groups may conduct brief performances at appropriate locations along the parade route. Groups must promptly resume forward movement to maintain appropriate spacing and avoid delays.

7. Equestrian and Animal Entries - Prohibited, for the safety of all parade participants, spectators, and the public, animals of any kind, including horses, are strictly prohibited from participating in the City of Westminster Christmas Parade.

8. Candy and Promotional Giveaways - Please be considerate and exercise caution when distributing candy, toys, or promotional items from moving vehicles, floats, or other parade entries.

9. Fun-Friendly Participation - All entries must be appropriate for a community celebration attended by children and families. Obscene, sexually suggestive, threatening, or otherwise inappropriate displays are prohibited. Alcoholic beverages and unlawful substances are prohibited during staging and parade participation.

Parade officials will apply these requirements consistently and in accordance with applicable law.

10. Vehicle Operators and Insurance - All drivers operating motorized vehicles in the parade must:

- Be at least 18 years old.
- Hold a valid driver's license appropriate for the vehicle.
- Maintain legally required motor vehicle liability insurance.
- Operate their vehicles responsibly and comply with parade instructions.

Parade organizers may require proof of insurance or driver eligibility.

11. Santa Claus Participation - To preserve the traditional Christmas parade finale and prevent confusion among young spectators, only the City's officially designated Santa Claus may appear in a Santa Claus costume. Additional Santa Claus impersonators or costumes are not permitted without prior City authorization.



12. Parade Lineup and Arrival - All entries must report to their assigned staging locations at the designated lineup time. Participants must check in with parade personnel upon arrival and follow instructions regarding assigned positions.

Parade Line Up Location: Old **Dollar Tree Parking, 907 E Main S**
Lineup Begins: 4:00 pm / 4:30 pm

13. Late Arrivals - Please be considerate and knowledgeable of time. To ensure the safety of all participants, maintain an organized lineup, and allow the parade to begin promptly, exceptionally late arrivals will not be allowed to participate.

14. Same Day Arrivals - No Same Day Entry will not be permitted to participate in the City of Westminster Christmas Parade.

The City of Westminster appreciates everyone's cooperation and punctuality in helping ensure a safe, organized, and enjoyable Christmas Parade.

15. Official Parade Route and Dismissal - All entries must follow the route approved by the City of Westminster and comply with instructions from parade officials.

Parade Starting Location: Old Dollar Tree Parking, 907 E Main St, at 6:00 pm
Parade Ending Location: 76 Supply Hardware, 103 E King St
Designated Participant Pickup Area: 76 Hardware parking lot
Participants may not stop, unload, or dismiss children in unauthorized locations.
Parents and guardians must follow the City's designated pickup procedures. The parade route will be as follows: **Parade Line Up - Old Dollar Tree parking lot. Start at the Methodist Church, head west onto Hwy 123, right onto Main Street St, End at 76 Supply Hardware parking lot.**

16. Parade Movement and Spacing - All entries must maintain safe distances and proceed at the pace established by parade officials. Unauthorized stops, unsafe driving, sudden acceleration, or activities that interfere with the procession are prohibited.

17. Weather and Event Updates - The City of Westminster reserves the right to delay, modify, postpone, or cancel the parade when weather or other circumstances create safety concerns.

Official announcements will be communicated through City-approved information channels.
City Website: www.westminstersc.org
Participants should monitor official City communications for updates before arriving.

18. Final Authority and Enforcement - The City of Westminster and its designated parade officials have authority over lineup assignments, staging, parade movement, and enforcement of event safety requirements.

Parade officials may deny participation or remove an entry when necessary to enforce established requirements and protect public safety.

Emergency Contact Information: for accidents, medical emergencies, lost children, or other safety concerns.

Police, Fire & Medical Emergencies - 911

Westminster Police Department (Non-Emergency)
(864) 647-3222

Westminster Fire Department (Non-Emergency)
(864) 647-3206



SECTION 3: PARTICIPANT LIABILITY WAIVER AND RELEASE

IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING. THIS DOCUMENT MAY AFFECT YOUR LEGAL RIGHTS.

In consideration of being permitted to participate in the City of Westminster Christmas Parade, I acknowledge and agree with the following:

1. Understanding of Risks - I recognize that participation in a public parade involves potential hazards, including motor vehicle movement, pedestrian traffic, floats, trailers, equipment, animals, uneven surfaces, weather conditions, and crowds. **I voluntarily accept the ordinary risks associated with my participation.**

2. Release of Liability - To the fullest extent permitted by South Carolina law, I release the City of Westminster, its elected officials, employees, agents, and authorized event volunteers from claims arising from my participation in the parade, including claims based on ordinary negligence, except where such a release is prohibited by law. **This provision does not release liability that cannot lawfully be waived.**

3. Participant Responsibilities - I agree to comply with all parade rules and safety instructions and to take reasonable precautions to protect myself and others. As an authorized organization representative, I agree to communicate applicable requirements to participants associated with my entry.

4. Vehicles, Equipment, and Property - I understand that I am responsible for ensuring that vehicles and equipment used by my entry are operated safely and meet applicable legal requirements. Personal property brought to the parade remains the responsibility of its owner, except as otherwise required by law.

5. Emergency Medical Assistance - If I become injured or require emergency medical assistance, I authorize appropriate emergency care when I am unable to provide consent, and such treatment is otherwise legally permitted. I understand that I may be responsible for medical expenses incurred.

6. Photography and Publicity - I authorize the City of Westminster to photograph or record my participation and use those images in lawful City communications and promotional materials without compensation. Separate parental or legal guardian authorization may be required for identifiable minors.

7. Voluntary Agreement - I acknowledge that I have read and understand this waiver and voluntarily agree to its terms. I understand that signing this document may affect certain legal rights.

Hold Harmless Clause

Permittee / organization hereby shall assume all risks, incident to or in connection with permitted activity and shall be solely responsible for damage for injury of whatever kind or nature, to person or property, directly or indirectly arising out of or in connection with the permitted activity or the conduct of permittee's operation. Permittee /organization hereby expressly agrees to defend and save the City of Westminster harmless from any penalties for violation of law, ordinance or regulation affecting its activity and from any and all crimes, suits, losses, damages or injuries directly or indirectly arising out of or in connection with the permitted activity of conduct of its operation or resulting from the negligence or intentional acts or omissions or its officers, agents, volunteers, sponsors, and employees.

Participant / Authorized Name: _____

Organization: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



SECTION 4: PARENTAL / LEGAL GUARDIAN CONSENT

A separate consent form should be completed for each minor participant.

Minor Participant Name:

_____

Parent / Legal Guardian Name:

_____

Emergency Contact Number:

_____

I authorize the minor identified above to participate in the City of Westminster Christmas Parade.

I acknowledge that parade activities involve potential risks and agree to ensure that my child follows applicable safety requirements.

I authorize emergency medical assistance when necessary and permitted by law.

I understand that signing this consent does not automatically waive the minor's independent legal rights.

Parental / Legal Guardian (Printed Name): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

SECTION 5: APPLICATION CERTIFICATION

By signing below, I certify that the information provided in this application is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

I confirm that I am authorized to submit this application on behalf of the participating organization or group.

I acknowledge receipt of the parade rules and agree to communicate all relevant requirements to drivers, chaperones, and participants associated with the entry.

I understand that failure to comply with parade requirements may result in removal from the parade or denial of future participation.

Authorized Representative (Printed Name): _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____



SECTION 6: FOR CITY USE ONLY

Organization / Business / Group Name: _____

Date Application Received: _____

Entry Number: _____

Assigned Lineup Section: _____

Staging Location: _____

Entry Classification: _____

Number of Motorized Units: _____

Insurance Verification:

Verified
Pending
Not Applicable

Application Status:

Approved
Pending
Denied

Reviewed By: _____

Date: _____

Additional Notes:

CITY OF WESTMINSTER, SOUTH CAROLINA
100 E. Windsor Street
Westminster, SC 29693

Celebrating the 2026 Christmas Parade through community, tradition, and holiday spirit.

Thank you for helping make the City of Westminster Christmas Parade a safe and memorable community celebration!

City of
Westminster
SOUTH CAROLINA

Small Town. Big Opportunities.

Christmas PARADE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4TH

PARADE – 6:00 PM

WESTMINSTER TREE LIGHTING
7:00 PM
(After the Parade)

Sign Up to Participate in the Christmas Parade!

rgrubbs@westminstersc.org

For Questions, Call
864-482-1412

www.westminstersc.org