

RULES AND GUIDELINES

1. **No one** will throw any candy or artifact into the crowd. **No one** will be allowed to leave or enter a vehicle once the parade starts. **THESE ARE SAFETY ISSUES.**
2. All entries must have some type of Christmas decorations or Christmas theme. All portions of your entry to include vehicles and/or floats must have decorations adorned on all of them. **This is a requirement to entry.** Please do not use anything that can be interpreted as Santa. Santa will arrive and be at the end of the parade. The Merchants of Columbia County will have final say as to whether or not a group meets the parade criteria and **may pull** any group from the parade if actions are not done in the Christmas Spirit.
3. **If your entry is being judged, you will need to mark the section of the application accordingly, provide a contact number and your group will be notified upon completion of judging if you are a winner. Upon notification you will be directed back to the judge's stand for presentation.**
4. **If you are a commercial entry (any entry other than church, school, or other non-profit), there will be a \$50 entry fee which will be submitted with your application. Applications will not be accepted without the entry fee.**
5. When your entry reaches the end of the parade route, please do not return back using Belair Road. Use an alternate route. All entries requiring participants to be picked up will be disbanded at Evans High School and directed towards this destination.
6. Please do not stop your group at the TV cameras; this can cause gaps in the parade or cause a back up on the route. We are on a time limit regarding road closings. Keep the parade close at 50' between entries.
7. All decisions by the judges will be in good faith and will be final.
8. All entries are subject to acceptance and approval by the Merchants Association of Columbia County Parade Committee.
9. The Merchants Association will not be responsible or liable for any lost or stolen objects or for any accidents that may occur.
10. All horse and animal entries must have someone to pick up the animal droppings. **THIS IS A MUST OR YOU WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE PARADE.** You must have the proper tools. **NO RAKES, NO ROLLER BLADES, SKATES, ETC.** Shovels, brooms and wheel barrows are the only items allowed. Failure to comply with this could jeopardize participation in this parade and future parades. All horse entries will be allowed to destage at Savannah River Federal Credit Union at Cox and Belair Roads. All animals must be kept under control at all times.
11. All entries will control their noise levels. **Revvng of engines, loud horns, swerving of vehicles** will not be tolerated and violators will be pulled from the Parade.
12. No distribution of flyers with political views, etc. is allowed at the parade.
13. If additional decorations are done at the assembly area, you must clean up the area used.
14. Remember that this is a Christmas Parade and not a line of advertisements or endorsements. **Please comply.**