

35th Annual Christmas on the River Lighted Parade



Dear Friends:

On behalf of Mayor Tom Page and the Chester Parks and Recreation Committee, I would like to invite you and/or your business/organization to be a part of our Annual Christmas on the River Lighted Parade.

I have seen the Spirit of Christmas, first hand, in the smiles on the faces and the excitement in the eyes of the children lining the street waiting on the lights to come by.

Oh, I have seen them jumping with excitement and waving their hands. I have heard the excitement in their voices and I have seen the sparkle in their eyes as Santa rolls by waving. Each little boy and girl feel like he is waving just to them!

You can feel it. As the parade makes its way down the route you see folks huddled around a fire, children playing and roasting marshmallows, old friends chatting, new friends in the making, folks bundled in warm clothing, and little ones tucked inside the warmth of a car.

For a little while time seems to stop and take you to a nostalgic place. A place where you remember the wonder of Christmas when you were a child. Where the stress of the day doesn't matter. Where you get to see Christmas through the eyes of a child. Where you can experience the feeling of Christmas. You feel the joy of a small town Christmas Celebration.

We want to fill the streets with a parade of lights for our kids. Our parade has no theme and there is no entry fee. It is dark so you don't need to have an elaborate float. Just lights on a moving vehicle or person, a tractor, a car, a truck, a bike! If you have an entry in another parade we would love to have you share it in ours.

The Lighted Parade will be held Saturday, December 2nd at 5:30 p.m. and will start at the High School and make its way to Chester Car Wash on Church Street. Lineup begins at 4 p.m. and participants must enter off of State Street onto Hoppe Drive to line-up.

Prizes are awarded for First, Second and Third Place.

Attached is a registration form and more information for parade entries. Please give me a call at 618-826-1430 if you are interested in participating in this year's parade. I have also included some information about the parade

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Patti Carter

Patti Carter
City of Chester, Recreation Director
1330 Swanwick Street
Chester, IL 62233
618-826-1430
chesterrecreation@chesterill.com
www.chesterill.com

CITY OF CHESTER'S 35TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS ON THE RIVER CELEBRATION



PARADE INFORMATION, RULES AND GUIDELINES 2023

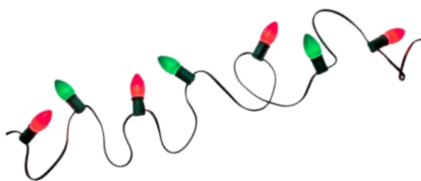
The parade will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2023 at 5:30 PM. The parade will line-up in front of the Chester High School. Participants should turn onto Hoppe Drive from State Street to line-up and may begin doing so at 4 PM (not before). All entries must be in place by 5:15 PM. The parade will step off at 5:30 PM, move southwest on Swanwick Street. It will turn left on West Stacey Street and immediately right onto State Street. It will continue on State Street ending at Church Street, (Chester Car Wash) where parade participants will turn right Church Street and left onto Swanwick Street. Swanwick will be closed at Church Street.

Failure to follow rules / regulations will be grounds for removal from this parade.

Staff will be onsite to direct and assist you the day of the event.

NO PARADE ENTRIES MAY HAVE A MEMBER DRESSED AS SANTA OR MRS. CLAUS.

1. All Entries will be assigned a number for line-up.
2. All Parade entries shall maintain a distance of no closer than 20 feet to the entry in front of them.
3. All floats and participants are required to continue moving throughout the parade route. NO STOPPING will be allowed unless the parade is stopped as a unit. No entry shall be allowed to stop to allow photos, to "perform" or to drop off parade participants.
4. DO NOT stop your vehicle or group unless instructed to do so by a member of the Parade Committee or by the Chester Police/Fire Department personnel.
5. You must keep the same pace and distance as the entry in front of you. (Gaps in the parade could lead to vehicles pulling into the line of parade marchers)
6. All drivers of any motorized vehicle must be 18 years of age or older, must have a valid driver's license, and must have in their possession, the day of the parade, proof of insurance for the vehicle they are driving.
7. All vehicles must remain in the traffic lanes of the roadway.
8. Trailers are required to have functional tail lights. Trailers must have sides high enough that children (if riding) cannot fall over sides. Trailers must be securely attached to the towing vehicle.
9. Children under the age of 12 are not allowed to ride on floats unless accompanied by an adult.
10. At no time shall anyone be seated on the sides or tailgate of a pickup or have arms or legs hanging over the side.
11. All motorized vehicles (3-wheelers, 4-wheelers, golf carts, motorcycles, mopeds, lawn mowers, tractors, dune buggies, jeeps, miniature cars, bicycles, etc.) must be operated by an adult, licensed driver, and MUST be lighted!!
12. Walkers are required to have some form of Holiday lighting.
13. If distributing candy or trinkets: it must be thrown or tossed to the curb and away from the path of vehicles or walkers may pass from one hand to another.
14. Holiday music is permitted on parade entries and MUST be "child" appropriate.
15. Remember, this is a lighted Christmas parade, all entries must be adorned with lights.



2023 LIGHTED CHRISTMAS PARADE
 RETURN THIS FORM TO CITY HALL, 1330 SWANWICK STREET, CHESTER, IL 62233 OR
 EMAIL TO CHESTERRECREATION@CHESTERRECREATION.COM.
 FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 618-826-1430.

COTR 2023 PARADE ENTRY FORM

NAME OF ORGANIZATION/GROUP/BUSINESS ENTERING PARADE			
CONTACT PERSON NAME			
CONTACT EMAIL ADDRESS			
CONTACT PERSON ADDRESS			
CITY		STATE	ZIP
PHONE			

CATEGORY	
<input type="checkbox"/> MARCHING GROUP	<input type="checkbox"/> MARCHING BAND
<input type="checkbox"/> AUTOMOBILE	<input type="checkbox"/> WALKING GROUP
<input type="checkbox"/> TRUCK/TRAILER	<input type="checkbox"/> MOTORCYCLE
<input type="checkbox"/> TRACTOR	<input type="checkbox"/> FLOAT
<input type="checkbox"/> ATV/SIDE BY SIDE/GOLF CART	<input type="checkbox"/> BICYCLE
<input type="checkbox"/> HORSES (MUST CLEAN UP WASTE)	<input type="checkbox"/> ANIMALS (MUST CLEAN UP WASTE) ANIMALS MUST BE LEASHED
<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER: EXPLAIN)	

SPECIFIC DETAILS OF ENTRY (EXAMPLE: 1 TRUCK PULLING 12' TRAILER OR 3 MOTORCYCLES AND A GOLF CART)

WILL YOU HAVE MUSIC?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
WILL YOU BE DISTRIBUTING CANDY?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
WILL YOU BE DISTRIBUTING ANYTHING ELSE?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO
IF YES, WHAT?	

ALL UNITS MUST DISPLAY THE NAME OF THE ORGANIZATION. NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES WITHOUT DECORATIONS AND ADVERTISEMENT. NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES MAY BE CONSUMED DURING THE PARADE. NO ABUSIVE OR FOUL LANGUAGE WILL BE TOLERATED. THE CITY OF CHESTER PARK AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REFUSE UNITS THAT ARE INAPPROPRIATE OR ARE NOT DECORATED TO PARTICIPATE.

I HAVE READ AND AGREE TO ABIDE BY THE RULES AND REGULATIONS.

CONTACT PERSON SIGNATURE		DATE	
PRINTED NAME			

ALL ENTRIES WILL BE ASSIGNED A NUMBER FOR LINE UP

ENTRY NUMBER _____

FOR INFORMATION 618.826.1430 OR CHESTERRECREATION@CHESTERILL.COM

