**024 Christmas Parade Rules**

**We want the Christmas Parade to be a fun experience for all attendees and participants. To make sure everyone is safe and in preparation for the Christmas Parade, we just have a few rules that must be followed!**

**Please note that we have made some changes to the rules for 2024. Also, this year we will start the parade with the entries and floats lined up on Woodrow Street. This will help us avoid congestion at the end of the parade route.**

**Please read completely and thoroughly.** Chamber Staff, Volunteers, and the Fuquay-Varina Police Department have the authority to remove any participant that does not adhere to the following regulations:

Arrival

1. All entries must arrive for lineup at their assigned time between 1:30-3:30
2. All entries must **enter staging on Woodrow Street at Main Street** (next to Front Porch Realty) and check in with a parade volunteer *or you will not be recognized*. Check in will be located at the intersection of Woodrow St. and Faucette St. Failure to check in may result in your group not being announced at the main stage.
3. **No Drop-off Vehicles will be allowed to enter staging**. Only vehicles used in the parade program will be allowed into the Staging Area. Once in staging, vehicles will not be able to exit staging except in cases of emergency.If you have someone in your party arrive late, they will need to walk in from any barricade along the Staging Area.
4. Participants can be dropped off at their designated drop off location. Group Leaders are responsible for getting participants from drop off locations to their staging location.
5. Respect the instructions and directions of the Parade Volunteers. Their purpose is to ensure safety and organization in the Staging Area.
6. **PLEASE NOTE**: Main St will close at **3:45pm**, and several other roads will be closed at **1:30pm**. Please plan accordingly.

Group Leader

1. Participants must have a leader designated to check in with parade coordinators.
2. Group leaders are responsible for all vehicle, equipment, and individuals participating in their entry **\*\*all vehicles must be street legal and in proper working order\*\***

Entry Restrictions

1. Entries will not display rude, vulgar, obscene, or questionable markings, signs, or music.
2. **No** **entry** may have individuals dressed as **Santa Claus**. The Official Fuquay-Varina Christmas Parade Santa can be the only Santa Claus.
3. Live animals are not allowed in the parade.
4. Entries must comply with town rules and regulations; this includes, but is not limited to, height and weight requirements for vehicles traveling in Downtown Fuquay-Varina. If you believe your entry may be too tall, wide, or heavy, please contact the Chamber at 919-552-4947 to get pre-approval.
5. Motorcycles must abide by the laws of the State of North Carolina; including, but not limited to, wearing adequate helmets.
6. Pre-decorated floats have weight limitations; therefore, entries may be asked to reduce the number of people on their floats. Floats can have up to 12 riders. Float drivers have the authority to ask participants to reduce weight on the float or to pull a float out of the parade if riders do not cooperate with weight limits.
7. Once the parade starts, entries must keep moving at a steady pace to prevent large gaps. **Participants should keep no more than two (2) car lengths between entries.**
8. No revving or racing of motors will be permitted during the parade route or line-up. Quick starts and stops will not be allowed. Vehicles must ride single-file. Any vehicles operating in a careless manner will be removed from the parade route and reported to the Fuquay-Varina Police Department.
9. **No candy or other items may be thrown from floats or vehicles**. Candy may be **handed out** by parade participants directly to parade attendees if they’re able to do so safely, **while keeping pace**.
10. **No political messaging or signs** are allowed.
11. **Music: no amplified sound or offensive music is allowed.** Kid-friendly music is suggested.
12. **There are to be no more than 20 participants per parade entry.** (Dance groups and Marching Bands excluded). If you plan to have more than 25 participants, you will need to secure and pay for a second entry in the parade.

Departure

1. The Parade will begin at the intersection of Academy Street and S. Fuquay Avenue (at the corner by the Law Office of John Adcock) and will end at the corner of Main Street and Woodrow Street (at the corner by Front Porch Realty).
2. All entires will need to re-enter the Staging Area at Woodrow St. and exit on Church St. at Ennis St.  **No entries will be allowed to exit along Faucette St. onto Ennis St.**
3. Parade entries **cannot** unload or exit the parade route before the end of the parade.
4. Parade entries that require unloading will turn on to Woodrow Street at the end of the parade route. Unloading will only be permitted near Fuquay-Varina Baptist Church on Woodrow Street.

Miscellaneous

1. Parade participants are advised of the raised crosswalk in front of Town Hall on Main Street. Barricades will be erected to direct the parade flow around the raised crosswalk.
2. All participants must sign a liability waiver prior to November 29, 2024. **Any entry not turning in a liability waiver will not be allowed to participate in the parade.**

Cancelation and Refund Policy

1. The parade will be held, rain or shine, unless there is a state of emergency called, and/or municipal restrictions put in place which would prevent it from proceeding.
2. In the event of a cancellation, the 2024 Fuquay-Varina Christmas Parade will NOT be rescheduled for this year.
3. Because there are required expenditures that will not be refundable, even in the event of a cancellation, we must maintain a “no refund” policy for sponsors & parade entries.

The safety and security of Marcher, Participants, and Guests is important to a successful event! We look forward to seeing you on December 8th, 2024, to celebrate the holidays and our wonderful town of Fuquay-Varina!