2026 PENSACOLA CHRISTMAS PARADE GUIDELINES

P.O. Box 12064, Pensacola, FL 32503 | lew@coxpensacolachristmasparade.org | www.coxpensacolachristmasparade.org

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2026 at 5:15 PM

The following guidelines apply for organizations desiring to participate in the 2026 Pensacola Christmas Parade scheduled for December 12, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. in downtown Pensacola.

FLOATS: Floats shall be decorated using a holiday theme. Since this is a night parade, appropriate lighting is expected. One adult shall be designated for each axle of vehicle as a spotter. Each spotter is responsible for ensuring safety of the float participants, and to ensure throws are tossed appropriately to spectators. Spotters are to remain alongside the vehicle near the wheels to prevent spectators and/or participants from being struck. All spotters must be 18 years of age and must be sober for the entirety of the parade.

PLACEMENT: The parade committee decides placement of entries. Priority is not given to past participants, or for early applications. This a holiday themed parade and floats shall be decorated accordingly.

THROWS: Throws are strongly encouraged from floats. However, they must be thrown underhanded, in a friendly manner. Any person observed improperly throwing items will be immediately removed from the parade procession. Throws must weigh 2 ounces or less, and be without sharp edges. Soft stuffed animals are the exception to weight. Campaign throws or brochures are NOT permitted. No loose paper confetti are allowed by order of the City of Pensacola. CANDY is NOT considered a safe throw item and are NOT permitted. To review City ordinance, go to www.ci.pensacola.fl.us (ordinance #19-90 1, 3-22-90). Vehicles/drivers must complete the vehicle application and submit to the parade committee.

IMPORTANT NOTES FROM THE PENSACOLA POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. You MAY NOT begin to throw until your float has completely crossed the threshold onto Garden Street from Spring Street. You MAY NOT throw AT ALL on Spring Street. Once the rear of your float crosses onto Garden Street, then you may begin to throw. Do not throw on Spring Street, even if there are patrons present. This is 100% based on the safety of the parade attendees and participants.
2. You MAY NOT continue to throw once your float exits the parade route and turns onto Main Street. DO NOT throw anything on Main Street.
3. All walkers are to either (a) get on the float at the end of the parade route, prior to turning onto Main Street, or (b) exit the parade route at Zaragoza Street, prior to the float turning onto Main Street. NO WALKERS ON MAIN STREET ONCE THE FLOAT TURNS.
4. I have read the above Pensacola Police Department notes and acknowledge that if my entry does not follow them, we will forfeit entry to the parade and possible future parades.

MARCHING: Marching units are defined as a group with all participants marching to cadence in formation, i.e., bands, military units, flag corps, drill teams, etc. Marching units are encouraged to perform for spectators during the course of the parade for a maximum of 30 seconds.

NO LOUD MUSIC – to interfere with other musical units, bands or other floats during the line up on Spring Street or during the parade.

ARRIVAL TIMES – There are new arrival times, You will receive an email with your line up number and arrival time. Please pass this info to your drivers. **Arrive at your designated time – not earlier.** This will make line up easier.

MUST HAVES: Your completed Pensacola Christmas Parade application must be submitted by November 19, 2026. It must include:

- Your *Parade Application* form with signed indemnification and hold harmless agreement, and photography release
- *Vehicle Application* form
- Signed *Parade Guidelines*
- Copy of driver's license for each driver
- Parade entry fee (check made payable to Pensacola Christmas Parade)
- Proof of vehicle insurance and policy information

We strongly encourage you to keep a copy of all submitted materials for your records. Applicants will be notified regarding their acceptance and parade position by December 8, 2026. Your organization must carry liability insurance for its own protection. If you have questions, please contact lew@coxpensacolachristmasparade.org.

Mail this application to: Pensacola Christmas Projects, Inc.
P. O. Box 12064
Pensacola, FL 32503

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Printed Name: _____