

2026 DOWNTOWN MACON CHRISTMAS PARADE



The Downtown Macon Christmas Parade will be held on **Sunday, December 6, 2026, at 4pm**. We hope you will consider participating in this holiday tradition that annually attracts hundreds to downtown Macon. This year's theme is ***"Macon it a Winter Wonderland."*** All parade participants are asked to incorporate this theme into the presentation of their unit. All units will be judged in their specific category.

A representative of your organization must attend one of the following mandatory Christmas Parade Guideline virtual zoom meetings on:
Wednesday, October 21, 2026, at 5:00 pm or Thursday, October 29, 2026, at 12:00 noon
or
Monday, November 2, 2026, at 5:00 pm.

The deadline for entries (completed applications and fees) is Tuesday, November 24, 2026, 4:00 p.m. Parade packets will be emailed with specific information pertaining to check-in and the line-up. Your line-up number and staging area will be issued once you have checked in on the day of the parade. **Check-in will begin as early as 1:00pm** and you must check-in at the registration table prior to gathering and lining up in your space. Each group must have their line-up number to proceed once the parade begins. Your group will be removed from the line-up if you do not display your assigned number. **All groups must be in place no later than 3pm** to proceed with the start of the parade. Groups that are not in place by 3pm may not be able to participate and will not receive a refund. The coordinator of your unit will be expected to ensure parade guidelines are adhered to. **ANY CHANGES WILL COME FROM THE PARADE COORDINATOR(s) MS. LESA OR MS. WANZINA.**

We look forward to Macon It a Winter Wonderland Christmas Parade 2026. If you have any questions, please contact Lesa or Wanzina at maconchristmasparade2026@maconbibb.us or 478-751-7190.

Recap

Date of Parade:	**Sunday, December 6, 2026**
Time Parade Begins:	**4:00 pm**
Check-in location:	**Terminal Station (corner of Cherry St and Poplar St)**
Check-in begins:	**1:00 pm**
Must be in assigned space by:	**3:00 pm**
Entry fee per unit/group:	**$150.00 (includes self-made float entry or 10 or less vehicles)**

Rental fees for professional floats are in addition to the entry fee:
Professional float - For-Profit organizations/businesses: $650
Professional float Non-profit organizations: $550

Please note: Only the float is for rent. You must provide your own towing vehicle with tow. The float must be returned to the pick-up site and the unit is responsible for returning it the way it was received. The parade unit assumes full liability for any damage caused by the parade unit leasing the float.

2026 DOWNTOWN MACON CHRISTMAS PARADE APPLICATION

"Macon It A Winter Wonderland"

Please complete the application and sign all places applicable
Return the completed application with appropriate fee to:
Macon-Bibb County
c/o The Urban Development Authority
688 Walnut Street, Suite 101, Macon, GA 31201

Entry fee for ALL units - **$150**

Professional floats are available for rent at an additional cost (tow vehicle not provided)
$650: For-profit Professional Christmas Parade Float Rental
$550: Non-profit Professional Christmas Parade Float Rental

All checks are to be made payable to the **Urban Development Authority**
Please reference **Macon Christmas Parade** on the memo line

Type of entry:_____Professional Float
_____Band
_____Marching/Walking Unit
_____Vehicle_____Number of Vehicles*
**Limit of 10 vehicles per registration*
(Units exceeding this limit will be an additional unit or NOT allowed)

_____Self-made Float
_____Horses/Canine
_____Dignitary
_____King/Queen

Please refer to the guidelines on the following page(s) that corresponds with your entry type

Name of Entry/Organization:_____
_____For Profit _____Non-profit

Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City:_____State:_____Zip:_____ Phone: _____

E-mail:_____

Below please provide a brief description of the entry to be used for media purposes (please write 6-10 sentences for the parade announcer):

_____
_____
_____

_____
_____
_____

_____
_____
_____

_____
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_____

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_____

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_____

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read, understand and agree to follow the guidelines of the Downtown Macon Christmas Parade as described below:

_____ _____

Signature of Person in Charge of Parade Unit Date

_____

Printed Name of Person in Charge of Parade Unit

_____

Parade Unit Name

PLEASE READ THE CLAUSE BELOW IN ITS ENTIRETY BEFORE SIGNING

SIGNING ACKNOWLEDGES THAT YOU HAVE READ AND WILL COMPLY AS WRITTEN

Hold Harmless Clause:

Downtown Macon Christmas Parade Entrant shall assume all risks incident to or in connection with the permitted activity and shall be solely responsible for damages or injury, of whatever kind or nature, to persons or property, directly or indirectly arising out of or in connection with the Downtown Macon Christmas Parade or the conduct of entrant's operation. The entrant hereby expressly agrees to defend and save The Urban Development Authority/Macon-Bibb Consolidated Government (UDA/MBCG), governing body, harmless from any penalties for violation of law, ordinance, or regulation affecting its activity and from any and all claims, suits, losses, damages, injuries, costs and expenses, including, without limitation, reasonable attorney fees, and other litigation expenses, directly or indirectly arising out of or in connection with the Downtown Macon Christmas Parade or conduct of its operation or resulting from the negligence or intentional acts or omissions of entrant or its officers, agents and employees.

If the entrant agrees to operate a vehicle in connection with the Downtown Macon Christmas Parade, he/she shall be validly licensed to drive such vehicle and be responsible for complying with all laws that apply as a driver of a vehicle.

Entrant also agrees to obey the guidelines put forth by the Downtown Macon Christmas Parade, including (but not limited to) abstaining from throwing candy and other items from parade units and the consumption of alcohol during the lineup, on a parade unit, or along the parade route.

Photography, video recording, and audio recording will occur at this event. By attending, you consent to photography, audio recording, video recording, and their release, publication, exhibition, or reproduction for any purpose(s) that UDA/MBCG deems fit. You release UDA/MBCG and each and all persons involved from any liability connected. By entering the event premises, you waive all rights you may have to any claims for payment or royalties in connection with any use of these materials. You also waive any right to inspect or approve any photo, video recording, or audio recording taken by UDA/MBCG or the person(s) or entity designated to do so by UDA/MBCG.

_____ _____

Signature of Person in Charge of Parade Unit Date

_____ _____

Printed Name of Person in Charge of Parade Unit Phone Number

_____

Name of Parade Unit

Do Not Write Below this line: (For office use only)

Entry Fee:_____ Float Fee:_____ *Additional Fee:_____ Total Due:_____

Credentials checked: _____

Unit/Block#_____ Pymttype:_____ Rec'd:_____

2026 DOWNTOWN MACON CHRISTMAS PARADE GUIDELINES

Please read these guidelines carefully before submitting your parade application and paying the entry fee
by signing, you acknowledge that you understand and agree to adhere as written
Keep a copy of these guidelines for your reference

1) The parade entry fee is $150.

2) All fees (cash, checks, money orders) must be paid by the deadline **of Tuesday, November 24, 2026**. Parade units will not be allowed to participate if their fee has not been paid by the deadline. *There will be a $45 fee for returned checks.*

3) Professional floats may be rented from Kip Dingler. There is an additional fee for float rental. You must select the design desired based on availability. All floats are rented on a first come, first served basis. Payments are due at the time of selection in order to reserve the float of your choice.

4) Self-made floats are allowed and encouraged. However, mock drawings are required for approval by the Parade Committee at the time of application submission.

   - If your unit, on parade day, is different or differs greatly from the previously submitted drawing and/or explanation, or if your unit refuses to adhere to the guidelines of the Parade Committee, your unit will be dismissed from the parade even if already in the assembly area. No refund of fees will be given should your entry be dismissed because of non-compliance.

5) You are responsible for providing a vehicle for your dignitaries and royalty.

6) Signage for all entries should be professionally printed and/or in good taste, acceptable to the Parade Committee and at the discretion of any block captain.

7) You are requested to **NOT** be dressed or have anyone in your unit dressed as Santa Claus.

8) **NO** candy, samples, political materials, or other promotional materials of any kind are to be **thrown or tossed from** a float, car, or specialty unit along the parade route. This is a direct violation of the rules and regulations, and your group will be removed from the parade at any point if they do not abide by this rule. However, members of the group, who are walking near the crowd may **hand out** items along the route.

9) The line-up is NOT arranged on a first-come, first-served basis. It is at the discretion of the Committee and according to safety guidelines.

10) **MUSIC:** Please indicate in your application if your entry includes playing amplified music so we can determine the best location for you to avoid disturbing yours or other entries. All music must be holiday themed and appropriate for children. You will be removed from the line-up if you play music that is disruptive/disrespectful and not appropriate for the occasion. The Committee determines what is and is not acceptable.

11) Individuals and organizations participating in the parade are expected to perform courteously, in good taste, and with safety in mind at all times during the assembly, execution, and procession of the parade, including not playing loud music or revving engines during the lineup period and during the parade.

12) Drivers of all vehicles in the parade and those entering the parade line-up area must have a valid driver's license, proof of current insurance as required by state law, and be at least 18 years old. Proof of validity may be requested and must be presented at check-in if requested.

13) Tow vehicles are encouraged to be decorated to accent and complement the unit.

14) The consumption of any alcoholic beverage by any participant is **strictly prohibited**. The police will strictly enforce all City, County, and State statutes concerning the consumption of alcoholic beverages before, during, and after the parade. If this policy is broken, the unit will be pulled and towed from the parade, the operator is subject to arrest, and the unit will not be asked back by the Christmas Parade Committee. Refunds will not be issued if your unit is removed from the parade route due to any issues concerning intoxication and/or the possession of alcohol.

15) Marching Bands will be allowed 55 seconds to stop and perform at the media zone, located at the intersection of Third Street and Cherry Street. If your unit is not a Marching Band, continue moving with the flow of the procession throughout the entire parade route.

16) The parade is expected to proceed regardless of the weather, rain or shine. We request that you make provisions for inclement weather, because refunds of any kind (registration, float rental, and additional fees) will not be issued because of parade delay or cancellation due to inclement weather.

17) Each parade unit will be provided with a line-up number during check- in that must be displayed by the unit. Each unit must be in its assigned space by 3pm. Units that are not in place by 3pm will not be allowed to participate and will not receive a refund.

- Road closures and detours will be strictly enforced by the Sheriff's Department. Please refer to your line-up packet to find out in advance where you should enter the parade route. You will not be permitted to just drive along Fifth Street to locate yourspot.

18) Horse/Equine Units - Coggins Requirement – Georgia law requires that all horses that come together for public display (i.e. parade) must have a current negative Coggins Test. (GA Administrative Code: 40-13-3-.06) *Proof of Negative Coggins Testing must be provided before parade day. However, a* test is not required for suckling foals accompanying a negative dam. All horses must have diapers. You are also responsible for cleaning up any hay or bedding in the staging area.

19) Canine Units - Rabies Vaccination Requirement – State law requires that any and all canines must have a current certification of rabies vaccination. *Proof of rabies vaccination must be provided on request.* Macon-Bibb County Ordinance – All dogs in a public place must be effectively restrained by chain or leash not exceeding eight (8) feet in length, and any person having the custody or control of any dog shall have the responsibility for cleaning up any feces of the animal and disposing of such feces in a sanitary manner.

20) Car/Motorcycle Club - All vehicle entrants are encouraged to be decorated for Christmas. If music is any part of your showcase, it must be Christmas-themed music. This applies during the parade route and even while in the staging area. There is a strict **10 vehicle limit** per registration. If your club would like to enter more than 10 vehicles, that will be considered an additional entry, and a separate entry fee will be due and collected prior to approval of either unit to proceed.

21) The parade will be broadcast, recorded, and re-broadcasted at later times during the Christmas season. The description you provide will be used in a script provided to the announcer(s) for use during the broadcast of the parade.

22) All questions should be directed to Lesa, Brittanie, or Wanzina via email: maconchristmasparade2026@maconbibb.us or via phone at 478-751-7190.