

2025 Christmas Parade Rules and Regulations

NOTE: This is a rain or shine event and will not be rescheduled!

The staging area for the parade is the parking lot of McNair Field (180 McNair Drive), other various parking lots along West Main Street, and on West Trade Street.

Parade begins at McNair Field parking lot, turns East on East Main Street and travels along East Main Street to where it ends at First United Methodist Church, 341 East Main Street.

To enter the staging area at McNair Field, turn off West Main Street onto Vance Street (Dollar General) proceed on Vance Street, turn right onto Memorial Drive into Cool Springs Cemetery (a volunteer will be there to check you in) and proceed into the McNair Field parking lot (volunteers will assist you in lining up). **This is the ONLY entry into McNair Field parking lot.** Lineup begins at 12:30pm. **There is no public parking in the staging area. There is also no public parking at the following businesses: Peak Performance Vault, Wells Fargo, First Citizens, Fifth Third. These parking lots are also staging areas.**

Porta-potties for parade participants are at McNair Field and on West Main Street at Peak Performance Vault. The restrooms at POPS, 153 Park Square, will also be available.

The parade begins sharply at 3:00 PM from McNair Field parking lot. **Everyone should be in their place by 2:30PM.**

For high school bands, select school groups, and select dance groups, lineup is in the bank parking lots on East Main Street. Honor Guard and Boy Scouts lineup in front of Cool Springs Administration Building. Horses will lineup in the parking lot off Vance Street behind Cool Springs Gym. Car Clubs line up in the parking lot of Cool Springs Administration Building. Floats involving 18-wheelers and trailers will line up on Trade Street.

Parade volunteers will assist you with lineup. Parade volunteers are authorized to enforce the rules of the parade. They have the right to pull entries that do not comply with the rules and regulations.

Each entry is strongly encouraged to have signage stating the name of their organization on their vehicle/float and to decorate their vehicle and/or float with winter or Christmas decorations. All vehicles and floats must be decorated before entering the staging area at McNair Field. There is no parking allowed at McNair Field. We need the entire parking area for the parade lineup.

We encourage people to carpool. **Rented, commercial floats do not return to McNair Field. Make sure to have someone pick up riders at First United Methodist Church, 341 East Main Street.**

NOTE: There will be no on-street parking on the eastbound side of Main Street from Church Street to Powell Street.

People who are walking back up Main Street after finishing parade are asked to move about on the sidewalk or in the area of the westbound Main Street.

Rules

- Throwing items (candy, flyers, etc.) from any parade entry is strictly prohibited. Also, items cannot be given out from a vehicle. A person may walk close to the crowd and distribute the item.
- The use of poppers (small pyrotechnical devices that explode on impact making a small “pop” noise) is prohibited.
- The use of projectile devices is prohibited. Any device, including rubber bands, that will project an object through the air with sufficient force as to be painful to any individual who might be struck.
- Snakes are prohibited. You cannot walk with or ride with a snake in the parade.
- All animals must be leashed and under the control of their handler.
- Sirens are to be blown only in the event of an emergency.
- NO PERSON OR ANNIMATION DRESSED AS SANTA WILL BE PERMITTED IN THE PARADE. There is only one Santa Claus in the parade. Santa is sponsored by the Forest City Merchants Association and is on the last float at the end of the parade.