

Guerneville Parade of Lights

PARADE GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPANTS

Volunteer parade monitors will be posted along the parade route to ensure the safety of parade participants and guests, and to keep spacing between floats consistent.

Please review the following guidelines with your group:

1. Parade Participant Entry Forms will be due by the end of the day, December 3rd, 2025.
2. The parade will begin leaving the staging area at 6:50 p.m. on Saturday, December 6th, for a 7:00 p.m. start.
3. Parade check-in begins at 5:00 p.m. and ends at 6:30p.m. All vehicles/individuals must check in at the staging area at the corner of 4th and Church.
 - a. Cars, motorcycles, golf carts, individuals, etc. - Staging will take place on 4th Street in the west bound lane at St. Hubert's Hall. Each float's location in the parking area will be numbered and marked off corresponding to the number assigned to you. This is where you will position your float and do any final assembly or staging. This will allow for a smooth exit from the staging area onto Mill Street.
 - b. Floats will begin leaving the staging area around 6:50 p.m. heading up Mill Street then turning right onto Main Street. The route will then continue down Main Street and then turn left onto Armstrong Woods Road, and then left again onto 4th finishing the route.
 - c. Vehicles that do not need to be de-staged or disassembled will be free to leave. They will still leave the parade route down Armstrong, then turn left onto 4th.
3. **Entry Participants:**
 - a. **For use of Peanuts/Snoopy:** Please adhere to the following rules or you will **NOT** be able to participate in the parade. The floats will all be check the day of the event to make sure these guidelines are met:

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- i. Please keep to the themes and spirit of the comic strip or A Charlie Brown Christmas.
 - ii. Do not show the characters with alcohol, drugs, weapons, engage in violence or say or do anything that would not be considered appropriate for all ages.
 - iii. Do not mix the characters with characters from other brands. For example, Snoopy shouldn't be with Mickey Mouse.
- b. **Vehicles**: must be free of mechanical problems and in good working order. Any mechanical breakdowns will be the sole responsibility of the vehicle owner. Parade officials reserve the right to inspect each vehicle and at its sole discretion remove vehicle/float from parade if deemed not fit, or unsafe. Floats must be less than 13'6" in height and must comply with parade entry guidelines.
- c. **Drivers**: Drivers must carry a valid California driver's license and be in control of their vehicles. If adequate sight-lines are not available, the entrant must provide Safety Personnel who have adequate communications with the driver in order to insure the safety of both entry participants and spectators. The entrant is responsible to see that the driver and any required safety personnel, have adequate skills, experience and training to perform their duties. During the parade, the driver must maintain 20'–30' (2-3 car lengths) from the preceding unit.
- d. **Riders**: Caution should be taken to ensure the safety of all riders. No jumping on and off of moving vehicles is allowed. Vehicles must be at a full stop.
- e. **Participants/Out-walkers**: Care must be taken by all participants not to draw spectators from the viewing area into ANY PORTION of the street assigned to the parade route. No performance or activity shall be permitted which results in the drawing of spectators onto the parade route. This is a community event for all ages. Costumes, decorations, and other participation in the parade must be appropriate for all ages

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and non-political.

- f. **Music**: Amplifiers may be used to project music only and only at a reasonable volume so as not to interfere with other parade participants.
- g. **Waivers**: All participants must turn in a signed waiver. If under 18, this must be signed by a parent/legal guardian. We will have extra waivers at the check-in desk.
- h. **Animals**: Must be listed on the parade application. All animals must have updated vaccinations, be in good medical health and be able to cope with crowds and other animals. The parade organizers are NOT responsible for cleaning up after animals. You must provide someone to clean up immediately, if necessary, after the animal. Violators of this rule will be removed from the parade.

5. **Safety First**:

- a. Participants and performances must keep pace with those in front of them. There is no joining or exiting the parade once it begins, unless there is an emergency. No stopping, unless traffic dictates. Loading and unloading of people into vehicles may only take place at the beginning or end of the parade route.
- b. All props must be safe and not pose a risk to our participants or the parade spectators. All decorative materials should be flame retardant. The use of open flames on any entry is **PROHIBITED** unless special permission is granted by the event organizers.
- c. No alcohol or glassware is allowed in the parade. Bottled water and cans of soda are permitted. No alcoholic beverages or alcohol-impaired drivers will be permitted within the parade.
- d. No fireworks, explosives or other pyrotechnics.
- e. Continuous blowing of loud horns or sirens is prohibited unless it is a fire truck or emergency vehicle participating in the parade.
- f. Any person riding a bicycle, wearing rollerblades, using a skateboard or other wheeled apparatus, must wear a helmet. No exceptions.

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- g. Floats must at all times keep forward movement and not stop unless it is required to keep a safe distance from the float ahead.
 - h. No one may step on or off a float or any motorized unit until it is at a **COMPLETE** stop.
 - i. All floats are required to have a fire extinguisher on board.
6. **Candy and other promotional materials:** In an effort to keep our streets clean, it is preferred that candy and other materials are not thrown from any vehicles, but instead handed out by walkers.
- a. It is preferred that candy is handed out by walkers; NO throwing from the vehicle, please take caution to ensure it is tossed into the crowd or onto the sidewalk, keeping the streets free of debris. Store bought, wrapped candy only.
 - b. Promotional materials and other types of swag (stuff we all get): If passing out any promotional materials or swag, it needs to be handed out by walkers. No political literature is to be handed out.
7. Anyone that violates any part of above rules and regulations will first be given a verbal or written warning and, upon a second such violation, may be asked not to return to the parade. The event organizers have the right to remove any parade unit from the line-up at their sole discretion for a violation of any applicable rule or law.

Please consider a tax deductible gift to support the Russian River Chamber of Commerce to continue to bring these types of events to our community.

Thank you for your continued support!