

2025 Lathrop Christmas Parade & Tree Lighting

"Christmas in Paradise"

Parade Date: Saturday, December 6, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

Official Entry Application

Application for entry and script must be received by November 17, 2025, by 3:00 p.m.

(Please type or print legibly)

Name of Organization: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Contact Name: _____ Phone # : (____) _____

Email: _____ Website: _____

Alternate Contact: _____ Phone # : (____) _____

Category: ☐ Band/Drum ☐ Equestrian ☐ Float ☐ Drill/Dance ☐ Other: _____

☐ Commercial/Business (\$125 Entry Fee) ☐ Non-Profit/School (\$40 Entry Fee)

**Note: Entries should not contain a political statement, slogan, or reference.*

Number of Members in Unit: _____ Adults: _____ Children: _____ (ages) _____

Does Unit Have Sound: Yes No If yes, describe: _____

Are vehicles requested to accompany this unit? Yes No If yes, describe: _____

**Note: Vehicles will be limited and must be approved.*

☐ I understand each vehicle entry must have two (2) pedestrian spotters walking on either side of the vehicle throughout the parade route.

Description of Unit (please be specific): _____

Description of Costumes or Uniforms (No Santa or Mrs. Claus): _____

Approximate overall length of entry in feet (for staging): _____

Approximate overall height of entry in feet (for overhead clearance): _____

****Note: entries may not exceed 15 feet in height.***

Float Information

(Complete the following information only if entering a float.)

Float Theme Title: _____

Approximate float size: Length: _____ Width: _____ Height: _____

****Note: floats may not exceed 15 feet in height.***

Describe float concept (use separate page to fully describe if needed): _____

**** Please attach your parade announcer's script to this application ****

This is what the announcers will read to the crowd as your entry passes by.

Example (Do not duplicate): "Have a Holly Jolly Christmas; it's the best time of the year. Have a Holly Jolly Christmas and in case you didn't hear (Organization/Business/Non-Profit/School) would like to wish Lathrop a very Merry Christmas."

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In consideration for myself and my minor children being permitted by the City of Lathrop Parks, Recreation & Maintenance Services Department to participate in activities I hereby release and hold harmless to the fullest extent permitted by law the City of Lathrop for any and all injury, disability, death, or loss or damage to person or property, arising from my participation in the above activity, including my use of equipment or facilities, including any such claims which allege negligent acts or omissions to the extent permitted by law; I hereby waive, release and discharge in advance the City from any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my participation in said activity, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the released parties referenced as "City" above. I understand that this activity involves risk and danger of accidents and knowingly assume those risks by my signature below. It is further agreed that this waiver, release and assumption of risk is to be binding on my relatives, heirs and assigns. I agree to indemnify and to hold the City free and harmless from any loss, liability, damage, cost, or expense which they may incur as the result of my death or injury or property damage that I may sustain while participating in said activity. The described activity may be of hazardous, strenuous, and/or physical nature. Participation in the described activity may occasionally result in bodily injury, personal injury, sickness, disease, death or property loss or damage, arising from the coronavirus disease ("COVID-19"), and the severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 ("SARS-CoV-2"). I acknowledge the contagious nature of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases and voluntarily assume the risk that I may be exposed to, or infected by COVID-19 by participating in the above activity, and that such exposure or infection may result in personal injury, illness, permanent disability, and death. Knowing the risk involved, nevertheless, I voluntarily request permission for myself or minor child to participate in the described activity. In the event that said minor requires medical or surgical treatments while under the supervision of said city personnel in connection with the described activity, such supervision may authorize treatment. I will pay all medical, hospital, or other expenses which I or my minor children may incur as a result of such treatment. I attest that I have no known medical conditions, and have not used any form of alcohol or drugs (prescription or non-prescription) that could jeopardize my safety, or the safety of others during this activity. I should not enter and participate in the activity unless I am medically able and properly trained. I agree to abide by all rules, regulations and instructions of the activity, as well as all applicable municipal and state laws and regulations. I expressly permit said minor child to travel by private automobile to activities and events related to the described activity. Activities are not child care as defined by the State of California.

I understand city staff may photograph or videotape me and/or my minor children and the city may use such photographs or videotapes to promote city programs and classes. I expressly allow, and hereby waive any objection to, the City's photographing and/or videotaping of me and/or my minor children when I and/or my minor children are participating in a city recreation program. I understand all photos and videotapes will remain the property of the City of Lathrop. I certify that I have custody or am the legal guardian of said minors. I further understand and consent that I will periodically be receiving communications related to my participation in the activity.

FOR VIRUTAL CLASSES AND PROGRAMS: I also hereby warrant and agree, that the conditions of my environment are safe, free from obstructions, and are suitable for participation in the above-referenced activity. I further understand and agree that any material downloaded, viewed or otherwise obtained through my participation in said activity is done at my own risk and the City is not responsible for any loss, alteration, corruption or other damage to my personal property, including computers, networks and other property used as part of my participation.

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I expressly agree that this waiver is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by the laws of the State of California. I, the undersigned participant, have carefully read this Assumption of the Risk, Waiver and Release of Liability and fully understand its contents. I am aware that this is a release of liability and a binding contract between myself and the City of Lathrop, and I sign it of my own free will. I understand that I am giving up substantial rights, including my right to sue. I acknowledge that I am signing this Waiver and Release freely and voluntarily and intend by my signature to be a complete and unconditional release of all liability to the greatest extent allowed by law. If I am under the age of 18, I understand I MUST have a parent or guardian approve and sign this Waiver and Release on my behalf.

Authorized Representative Signature: _____

Authorized Representative (print): _____ Date: _____

Parade application must be signed.

Please make a copy of this for your records.

**All entry applications are subject to review and approval by the Parks and Recreation
Department**

For entry fee – pay by cash, check, or debit/credit. Make checks payable to “City of Lathrop”.

Return original entry application, announcer’s script, and entry fee to:

City of Lathrop Christmas Parade

450 Spartan Way Lathrop, CA 95330

Phone: (209) 941-7372 Email: dwheale@ci.lathrop.ca.us

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Lathrop Christmas Parade Rules and Guidelines

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION:

- **ENTRIES MUST NOT INCLUDE MR. OR MRS. CLAUS AS PART OF YOUR DISPLAY. THERE IS ONLY ONE SANTA, AT THE CONCLUSION.**
- This parade is a night parade; all entries **MUST** be illuminated (contain lights throughout the entry).
- For entry fee, pay by cash, check, credit, or debit. Make entry checks payable to “City of Lathrop”.
- ALL parade entries **MUST** showcase the Christmas parade theme. Theme is “Christmas in Paradise”
- ALL entries are subject to approval by the City of Lathrop Parks and Recreation Department
- Entries are selected on their entertainment value, uniqueness, size, and appearance.
- The parade entries and participants must be “family friendly” and appropriate to be seen and heard by all ages.
- The parade will not be used as a platform for special interests.
- Music is encouraged to accompany the entry. Music must contain no profanity of any kind.
- A fee of \$125 is required for commercial/business entries. A fee of \$40 for non-profits or schools.
- A commercial business entry cannot be used as a “major” advertisement (business names may be present on entry or banner). Banner must showcase parade theme.
- Items including banners, flags, shirts, hats, and any other item on display that is viewable to the public must be free of any profanity.
- ALL parade entries must remain in designated waiting area until the conclusion of the parade and roads have been opened and deemed safe for vehicle exit. **There will be no early exit from the parade.**

ENTRY APPLICATION FORM:

- Entry applications must be received by November 17, 2025, by 3:00 p.m.
- The entry application form must be completed and signed with the understanding of the general rules and guidelines.
- The parade organizers reserve the right to reject any entry at any time.
- Applicants will receive notification of their acceptance within two (2) weeks of application submission.
- Staging instructions will be emailed approximately one (1) week prior to the parade.
- The rules and guidelines are for the safety and quality of the parade. Failure to abide by these rules and guidelines and those presented with the parade information package, may result in the entry's removal from the parade.

THIS IS A FORWARD MOTION PARADE:

- All entries are required to maintain a continuous forward motion during the parade. Groups may use a total of 30 seconds to perform at the judging station.
- Parade speed is five (5) M.P.H. (miles per hour).

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NO TOSSING ITEMS:

- Nothing can be tossed along the parade route or curbside due to liability policies set forth by the parade insurance company and the City. Handing out of items must not disrupt flow of the parade.

IDENTIFICATION SIGNS:

- Identification banners are encouraged for entries in the parade.
- All signs must be able to be viewed in the night parade.
- Signs must be for identification purposes only.
- Signs must be free of any profanity.

CANCELLATION POLICY:

- Only a significant act of nature will cancel the parade, of which all units would be notified. (Parade will step off rain or shine)
- If, for some unforeseen reason, your unit is not able to participate in the parade after being accepted, you must contact the parade staff prior to the parade date. Refunds will not be provided.
- Entries absent on parade day without proper notification may not receive future invitations.

MARCHING MUSICAL UNITS:

- Musical units are required to perform the entire half mile parade route.
- Unit members are required to be in uniform attire.

FLOATS:

- Floats cannot exceed 50 feet in length (including tow vehicles), 15 feet in height (from the ground) and 10 feet wide.
- All vehicles must be properly insured and drivers must have proper and current driver's license.
- Each vehicle entry must have two (2) pedestrian spotters walking on either side of the vehicle throughout the parade route.

MARCHERS / SPECIALTY UNITS: (Clowns, Color Guards, Drill/Dance/Baton, Scout Groups)

- Units will be considered on their entertainment value or uniqueness.
- Plain clothed marching entries will not be accepted. Uniforms are required.
- Entries requiring vehicles to carry sound systems must notify parade organizers on the application.
- Carts or vehicles accompanying the entry must be decorated and illuminated.
- Each vehicle entry must have two (2) pedestrian spotters walking on either side of the vehicle throughout the parade route.
- Drill / Dance routines must be choreographed for forward motion. **No stopping for performances** (except for 30 seconds at Judging Stand only) and must perform the entire half mile parade route.

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VEHICLES:

- Vehicles considered for entry must be antique or unique.
- Vehicles permitted in the parade will be restricted in numbers, no more than three (3) car clubs. Clubs will be limited to six (6) cars per club.
- No commercial or private vehicles are allowed in the parade without prior written approval by the parade organizers.
- All vehicles must be properly insured and drivers must have proper and current driver's license.
- Entries must follow the flow of the parade at no more than five (5) M.P.H. (miles per hour).
- Each vehicle entry must have two (2) pedestrian spotters walking on either side of the vehicle throughout the parade route.

EQUESTRIANS AND DOGS:

- No more than six (6) horses per entry. No more than three (3) equestrian groups will be accepted in the parade.
- Any animal deemed unsafe in the parade will be removed.
- All animal units must provide their own "clean-up" crew to follow their unit in the parade.
- Equestrian riders should be at least 12 years of age and accompanied by an adult trainer.
- All equestrian entries MUST have trainers walking with every two (2) horses.

SPECIAL GUESTS / DIGNITARIES:

- Guests and Dignitaries are by invitation only.

PARTICIPANT AGE RESTRICTIONS:

- Walking participants must be at least six (6) years of age or older and must be able to complete the entire half mile parade route.
- There must be a least one (1) adult escort for every six (6) children under the age of 13 years old.
- Young children riding on a float must have adult supervision accompanying them.

AWARDS CEREMONY:

- Awards ceremony will take place on 5th Street at the beginning of the Christmas Tree Lighting.
- Awards categories include Band/Drum; Equestrian; Float; Drill/Dance, and Other.
- The parade organizers reserve the right to re-classify entries to ensure equitability of judging.