



THE MARIETTA Ugly Holiday Sweater PARADE RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Marietta **Ugly Holiday Sweater Parade** is part of the **Christmas Tree Lighting**, which is held annually. This traditional, old fashioned day of family fun is centered on the Christmas Tree Lighting celebration, and includes choir performances, a meet and greet with Santa Claus, and the annual lighting of the tree. The .4-mile parade begins at the City Hall parking deck and ends on East Park Square.

Any individual, organization, group, business, or other entity that desires to participate in the parade must submit an application. All forms must be completed in their entirety and received by prior to the deadline. An applicant is accepted into the parade upon submission of all forms. All applicants will be notified no later than November 18, 2025.

Upon acceptance, all entries must agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the City of Marietta Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department. Staff will be stationed along the route to review and enforce said rules. Immediate action will be taken to correct any rule violations. Corrective action may include dismissal from the parade.

Parade entries may not deviate from the approved application. The Special Events Coordinator or his/her designee has the authority to enforce said rules and to remove any entry from the parade in violation of the rules.

Parade application deadline: November 17, 2025, 5:00 p.m.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. All parade entries must observe parade rules and regulations, and local, state, and federal laws.
2. **Family-friendly Christmas/Holiday-themed sweaters/costumes are required for every participant.** (Costumes with likenesses to Santa Claus are NOT permitted.)
3. Sweaters/costumes that do not meet Rule #2 or are inappropriate or offensive are not permitted (this may include, but is not limited to, offensive jokes, racial slurs, images depicting physical assaults, threats, intimidation, ridicule or mockery, insults or put-downs, offensive objects or pictures). The Special Events Coordinator or his/her designee has the authority to remove any entry from the parade for inappropriate or offensive sweaters/costumes.
4. A total number of nine (9) motorized vehicles will be accepted as part of the parade (this total is based on date/time that applications are received *and* approved). Only one (1) vehicle per entry will be permitted.
5. All cars must be convertibles (unless antique or classic). **No closed cars, vans, buses, pickup trucks, or T-tops.** Pickup trucks are only allowed if they are used as the tow vehicle for a float. Tractors are allowed as both a vehicle and a tow vehicle. Two-wheel vehicles (i.e., motorcycles) and mini-4-wheel-vehicles are allowed.

6. All two-wheel/mini-4-wheel-vehicles may perform figure 8's, wedge, or serpentine movements.
7. Vehicles and floats (pulled by vehicle and hand) must be decorated with a Christmas/holiday theme to be accepted as part of the parade. **All lights, inflatables, displays, etc. must be battery powered. No gas generators are allowed to power displays.**
8. All other participants in the parade that are not riding in a vehicle/on a float, must be walking or pulling wagon floats.
9. Floats are allowed and if pulled by a vehicle (float and vehicle must be decorated with a Christmas/holiday theme to be accepted as part of the parade), the float and tow unit are considered one (1) vehicle. If a pickup truck is used, riders are not permitted in the bed of the truck, nor can a pickup truck be used as a float. A flatbed truck may be used as a float if the trailer is fully skirted.
10. Floats pulled by a vehicle are not to exceed thirteen (13) feet in height or sixteen (16) feet in width, with a maximum length is fifty (50) feet. Floats pulled by a vehicle must be skirted to cover the wheel and underside of the trailer/vehicle.
11. Floats not pulled by a vehicle are to be pulled by hand only and are confined to a wagon.
12. All floats should be constructed so they will be able to make all turns along the parade route without impairing the forward movement of the parade.
- 13. Amplified sound/music is NOT allowed.**
14. Participants may not jump on or off a float while it is in motion.
15. Drivers of all vehicles in the parade must have a valid driver's license and be at least 18 years of age.
16. Christmas/holiday-themed banners and hand-held signs are allowed as part of the parade. Hand-made banners and signs are preferred but not required.
- 17. ABSOLUTELY NO materials may be handed out or thrown along the parade route. Distribution of gifts, merchandise, literature, or other items is prohibited.**
18. Possession of alcoholic beverages or illegal substances is strictly forbidden. The police will be notified of suspected violations. Offenders will be removed from the parade and are subject to arrest and prosecution.
19. Continuous forward movement ONLY is required of all entries. No stopping is allowed. Entries must not interfere with the parade flow or any other parade entry.
20. Entries must maintain a distance not to exceed 15 feet between each parade entry and remain five feet from the curb or the crowd, whichever is closer to the centerline of the street.
21. Motorized vehicles will exit the parade route via East Park Square to Lawrence Street and return to out to normal traffic.

22. All accepted entrants must sign and return the City of Marietta Release and Indemnity as part of the parade application.
23. All forms must be filled out completely, signed, and received by the parade committee by 5:00 p.m., November 17, 2025. No application will be accepted after the deadline.
24. All units must arrive at the staging area at the designated time. Each qualified entry will receive (via letter) a map of the staging area, parade number and the arrival time.