Bennettsville Christmas Parade

Saturday, Decmber 12th, 2026



Saturday, December 12, 2026 11:00 am
2025 Theme Information & Guide

Theme "A BVille Christmas"

PLEASE NOTE: "**Most Creative**" winners are heavily based upon originality, overall appearance, quality of workmanship, construction, uniforms or costumes, and holiday spirit for Christmas Parade Float. Our vision is to transform Bville into its very own Whoville, inspired by the whimsical world of Dr. Seuss and the mischievous perspective of the Grinch. Imagine Bville through the Grinch's eyes: a quirky, colorful, over-the-top Christmas town filled with crooked houses, oversized decorations, twisted Christmas trees, cheerful Whos, and plenty of holiday mischief!

General Rules

- No entry may feature a live or life-size Santa Claus.
- All participants (unit members, escorts, staff, etc.) must be in some type of uniform, holiday dress or color coordinated attire.
- Alcoholic beverages and/or controlled substances are forbidden on any float, in any vehicle or on the person of any participant. Participants consuming alcohol/drugs prior to or during the parade will be removed from the line-up, subject to arrest, and will not be allowed to participant in any future parades. No refunds will be given.
- It is unlawful to throw **ANYTHING** from any moving entry, including **CANDY**. This rule must and will be enforced for the safety of small children who might be tempted to run out into the street. Any participant caught throwing anything from their entry will be immediately removed from the parade and disqualified. **Note**: You may have walkers with your float to hand out candy, items, etc. to parade attendees, but **PLEASE DO NOT THROW ANYTHING**.
- No one is allowed on or off moving floats. Staff or escort changes should only be made when the float has come to a complete stop. (Exception: Emergency)
- All units must remain in their assigned position throughout the parade.
- Any and all music **MUST BE** themed and family friendly.

Parade Line-Up

- Entries may begin lining up at 9:00 a.m. No one will be allowed to begin lining up until after streets have been closed at 9:00 a.m. in order to ensure the safety of participants.
- All participants (float riders, escorts, staff, walking units, band members, etc.) with your entry must arrive and be in place before 11:00 a.m.
- No one will be admitted to the area after 10:45 a.m. This will be strictly enforced.

Vehicles

- All tow vehicles must be decorated and incorporated into the individual float theme which should be in accordance with the overall parade theme.

- Parade organizers encourage businesses and organizations to explore sponsoring and/or partnering with civic organizations that may need assistance with their parade entry.
- Flatbed trucks may be used in place of a trailer. The bed of the truck should be decorated according to float decorating specifications (see FLOATS).
- **Pageant winners must be 13 years old or older to ride on top of a vehicle. If they are under 13, they must have an adult riding on top of the car with them.**
- Drivers of motorized vehicles must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license.

Bands, Performing Groups, Walkers & Marching Unit

- All walkers must be in uniform, holiday dress or color coordinated attire. Dress for walkers (staff and/or escorts) escorting floats should coordinate with the individual float theme which should be in accordance with the overall parade theme.
- Walking units not associated with a float must carry a sign/banner with their organization name at the front of their unit.
- No entries, in the performance of drills or other display, shall cause any delay in the parade.
- Performances are limited to 60 seconds. VERY IMPORTANT: Any group whose performance lasts longer than 60 seconds WILL be disqualified.
- Stationary performances are only allowed for the judges. All other performing should be conducted while moving in a forward motion.
- Judges will be located on the corner of the Marlboro County Courthouse.

Floats

- Floats must be a fully decorated trailer, flatbed truck, or other platform on wheels that is self-propelled or pulled by a tow vehicle. All floats MUST be decorated in a Christmas theme.
- Floats must not exceed a height of 14 feet.
- All floats must display a sign/banner with their organization name on BOTH sides of the entry.
- Adult supervision is required for any riders under 13 years of age.

Awards

- A cash prize of $300 and a trophy will be awarded to:
  - Most Creative Float
- Trophies will be awarded in each of the following categories. (Note: 1 winner per category):
  - Commercial Businesses
  - Non-Profit/Religious/Government
  - Education/Schools (floats and vehicles decorated by any school (pre-school – college)
  - Performing Groups (dance groups, cheerleaders, marching bands, etc.)
- **NOTE: Unless otherwise determined by the City of Bennettsville Department of Tourism, Parks & Recreation, you will be scored in the category selected on your application.**
- **Please select only ONE category.**

For additional information: Jaharra.graves@bennettsvillesc.com or Call 843-454-2142

Mail Application & Payment to:
City of Bennettsville
Department of Tourism, Parks & Recreation
PO Box 1036
Bennettsville, SC 29512
Parade Entry Fee: $25.00
***Payable by Cash, Check or Money Order**
or
Hand Deliver Application
Bennettsville Community Center
714 N. Marlboro St.
Bennettsville, SC 29512

In the event of inclement weather, no monies will be refunded

2026 City of Bennettsville Christmas Parade Application

Entry Name: This name should be used on the required signs/banners. It is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to inform all members of your group of your official entry name, number, line-up instructions and rules. You must complete a separate entry form for each group within organization. **Example**: Cheerleaders will need separate entry form from football team and marching band. If separate applications are not completed for each entry, your entry will only be judged one time. **PLEASE COMPLETE EVERY BLANK ON THE APPLICATION (include n/a if necessary).**

Name of Organization/Club/Group _____

Contact Name _____ **Best Contact #**_____

Mailing Address _____**City**_____ **State** ____ **Zip**_____

Email _____

The following information is necessary to allow ample room for entry placement. Please complete the following and add any additional information you feel is important for proper spacing and placement of your entry.

Total Length of Float (include both the float and the vehicle pulling float): _____

Vehicle: Yes or No **If yes,** how many?_____

Walkers: Yes or No **If yes,** how many?_____

Detailed description of your organization and float (including if you will have music).

_____

_____

_____

_____

❑ Commercial Business
❑ Performing Groups(Dance, Cheer, Band)
❑ Non-Profit/Religious/Government
❑ Education/Schools

Important: **The entry form and fee must be completed, signed, paid, and received to TPR dept by December 4th.** If you have questions concerning the rules and guidelines, please call the Tourism, Parks & Recreation office at 843-454-2142 for further clarification. Applications **WILL NOT** be accepted after December 4th. This deadline must be adhered to in order to establish the line-up and inform participants in a timely manner.

Waiver: In consideration of accepting this entry, I, the undersigned, have read and agree to abide by the rules and regulations in the City of Bennettsville 2026 Christmas Parade Guide. Furthermore, I hereby grant full permission to the City of Bennettsville and/or any agents authorized by them to use any photographs, videotapes, motion pictures, recordings, or other record of this event for any legitimate purpose. My signature below indicates that I understand I am personally responsible for my actions before, during and after the parade. I will not hold the City of Bennettsville, the Department of Tourism, Parks & Recreation, or any sponsor/volunteer involved in the parade liable for my participation or actions.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____