



2011 Chester Kiwanis Christmas Parade Registrant Information

“An Old Fashioned Christmas”

Sunday, December 11, 2011

2:00 p.m.

Rte 10 – from the Chester YMCA to the Chester Village Green

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

Thank you for your entry in the 2011 Chester Kiwanis Christmas Parade. This year's theme is, *“An Old Fashioned Christmas”*. All entries that wish to compete for trophies, should strive to illustrate their group's idea of an 'Old Fashioned Christmas'.

As always, up-to-date parade information can be found at our website: www.chesterkiwanis.org.

Below is a list of important reminders and parade rules for this year's entrants:

Staging: The majority of units staged will be located at the Chester YMCA (floats, walking groups, bands). Motorized groups (car clubs, tractors, fire engines) will stage at the J.T. Morriss & Son funeral home parking lot (across the street from the YMCA). Equestrian groups will stage on Rock Hill Road (the road that runs beside the Post Office and Chick-Fil-A).

All units will need to be on-site and ready to 'go' by 1:30 p.m. You are welcome to arrive at any time beginning Sunday morning. Some units, such as large floats, may take hours, while walking groups may only need 30 minutes. Please make this decision for your group and arrive accordingly. If you know your unit will take longer to prepare, *PLEASE* come early, giving yourself plenty of time to stage, while still enjoying the parade experience.

There will be Chester Kiwanis members, wearing orange safety vests (and other recognizable holiday trimmings), on-site, to direct your unit and assist you in any way they can.

The Chester YMCA has graciously agreed to open from the hours of noon through 3:00 p.m. to allow parade participants use of their restroom facilities. Please take a moment to 'Thank' them.

Scout Groups, Athletic Organizations, etc. – Please be sure to have an *adult member* of your organization on site *prior to the childrens' arrival*. Parents will be “dropping-off” their children and adult supervision will be required. We don't have the Kiwanis man-power to tackle on-site “kid watch” (we're working on increasing our membership and who knows, maybe one day soon, even “kid watch” won't be an issue!). We will, however, have Key Club Members available at the YMCA drop-off, working in pairs and easily recognizable, so parents will feel safe when dropping-off their children.



The Key Club Members will escort the child to their unit, allowing the parent time to park and find a location to enjoy to the parade.

Participant Drop-Off: THIS IS CRUCIAL! - All traffic dropping off parade participants must do so either on Parker Lane (the road running adjacent to the YMCA and containing the side entrance into the YMCA parking lot), or by ENTERING the YMCA lot on Parker Lane, exiting on Route 10, dropping off their child in the 'loop'. TDHS Key Club members will work in teams to escort your child to their unit site and 'adult supervisor', so you can feel safe about the 'dropping off' process and allow yourself time to enjoy the parade. ABSOLUTELY NO VEHICLE TRAFFIC WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE YMCA FROM ROUTE 10!

Cars or vehicles that are not in the parade will not be allowed to park at any parade staging area (THIS INCLUDES THE YMCA PARKING LOT). Space is limited and you will need to make arrangements for drop-off.

Please be sure that all participants with your group are aware of your "group name" and "staging number" as provided. Group names/numbers become particularly important when working with multiple, similar groups (Scouts, etc.).

Disbanding: Most the vehicular units (car clubs, etc) will be directed to continue on Route 10 and will be able to turn left onto Harrowgate Road or continue straight out of the Chester area. All other units will be directed to turn right in to the Chester Village Green on Chester Village Drive and disband at the **back of the Village Green near the library**. **DO NOT** disband prior to this location. Disbanding 'mid-stream' causes parade back-up and also poses a safety risk for the children/participants involved.

TDHS Key Club members will also be available at the disbanding location to help with 'kid control', making sure that safety measures are followed as each child awaits their parent/guardian. The disbanding location can become hectic, and we want to ensure the safety of everyone involved. Again, Key Club members will work in pairs and will be easily recognized. This does not mean that the Key Club will take responsibility for the children participating in the parade – only their safety! Adult members of each participating group are responsible for assuring that their child participants are picked-up by the appropriate adult following the parade.

Parking/Viewing the Parade: Due to heavy congestion at the end of the parade route, it is recommended that people park west of Harrowgate Road, or off some of the side streets that afford easy exit. Thomas Dale High School and the Thomas Dale High School Annex (former Chester Middle School) are good parking locations. The police will close Route 10 approximately 15 minutes (1:45 p.m.) before the parade's scheduled start and it will not reopen until the parade's conclusion.

Judging: There will be judging of units from the judge's stand (the intersection of Route 10 and Chester Road – as in the past). Units will be judged for originality, best use of theme, and crowd appeal, with any score resulting in a tie being decided by the panel of judges following the parade.



Award categories will be: Best Float, Best Vehicle (single or car club), Best Equestrian Unit, Best Marching Unit, Best Band, and Best Fire/EMS Unit. The results will be published in the Chester Village News and other participating media. Trophies will be provided by Belcher's Trophies of Chester.

Equestrian Units: All equestrian units **are required** to provide a "clean-up crew" to follow their unit and to provide "clean-up" of the staging and disbanding area. This is a mandatory requirement as there has been an issue in the past, both on the parade route and the locations where the horses are loaded/unloaded, posing serious community and health issues.

Without their own "clean-up crew", Equestrian units **will not** be allowed to participate.

Refreshments: The Chester Kiwanis Club will sponsor refreshment sales along the parade route. Refreshments will include bottled water, cotton candy, popcorn, etc. All money raised by concessions will help support the Chester Kiwanis Scholarship Foundation, which has provided scholarships in excess of \$25K to local high school and college students in the past five years. Our goal is to not only increase the scholarship amount, but the number of students we are able to assist.

Additional Requests/Instructions:

1. **NO SANTA COSTUMES ALLOWED.** The real Mr. & Mrs. Claus will follow at the end of the parade, and we wish to avoid confusion for the *true believers* among us.
2. **DO NOT THROW CANDY OR OTHER OBJECTS.** Throwing items can result in a dangerous situation as children scramble to pick-up candy while the parade is in motion, not only during the "candy throwing process", but later if a piece is spotted in the middle of the road. Safety of everyone, especially our little ones, is our first priority. Feel free to have walkers that will accompany your unit pass out items "by hand". Walkers **MUST** keep the spectators out of the street and keep up with the unit they are supporting.
3. **KEEP THE PACE.** We ask that all units maintain the "pace" of the parade. You may be asked to either increase/decrease your speed to accomplish this. Walkers that are unable to "keep up" with their unit, should consider riding on the unit to minimize disruption of the procession.
4. **SPECTATORS MUST STAY ON THE SIDEWALK.** Again, safety is our first priority!
5. **MUSIC.** Feel free to add music to your unit. Holiday music is an especially nice touch. Loud or inappropriate music that interferes with other parade participants is **not** acceptable.
6. **WEATHER.** Due to the requirements that must be in place prior to the event (police support, road closure, permits, VDOT approval, etc.), the parade **MUST** continue, "*Rain or Shine*". In the event of inclement weather, the parade will continue with those participants that are able to attend.
7. **ENJOY THE PARADE!** You're not just a participant on parade day . . . you're part of the holiday experience. Let it show!



I want to take this opportunity to “Thank You” for participating in this year’s Chester Kiwanis Christmas Parade. Without the support of everyone in the community, our parade, and the continued work accomplished by the Chester Kiwanis Club would not be possible.

If you enjoy the parade and would like to become part of the Chester Kiwanis Club, feel free to contact me, any Chester Kiwanis member, or through our website for information. Our club loves to support the community in any way we can and supports various activities throughout the year. We always welcome new members that share our philosophy. *Together we can make a difference, one child and one community at a time.*

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Merry Christmas to you and yours!

Angie McDaniel

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