



2016 Chester Kiwanis Christmas Parade Registrant Information "Christmas Movies"

**Sunday, December 11, 2016
2:00 p.m.**

Rte 10 – from the Chester YMCA to Harrowgate Road

Hello all!! It's time for the *2016 Chester Kiwanis Christmas Parade!* All 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. The below information is extremely important to read in its entirety and to pass along to all those participating with your group. These instructions can help alleviate a lot of confusion that can occur if everyone in your group is not aware of how the parade will run.

Staging: The majority of units staged will be located at the **Chester YMCA** (floats, walking groups, bands). Motorized groups (car clubs, tractor club) 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). Fire Trucks will stage in the **Kohl's parking lot** just prior to the road closing. Once the road is closed they will position themselves on Rt 10. An email with the final staging line up and staging location for your group will be sent out a few days prior to the parade.

All units will need to be on-site and **ready to go by 1:30 p.m.** You are welcome to arrive any time **after 11:30 am** Sunday morning. Some units, such as large floats, may take hours to prepare, while walking groups may only need 30 minutes. If you know your unit will take longer to prepare, please come early, giving you and your group plenty of time to stage, while still enjoying the parade experience.

There will be Chester Kiwanis members, wearing bright safety vests, and police on-site to direct your unit and assist you in any way they can. **ANY CURSING OR RUDE GESTURES TO THESE VOLUNTEERS OR POLICE WILL NOT BE TOLERATED AND THAT PERSON AND THE PERSON/CHILD THEY ARE DROPPING OFF WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE! ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS!!!**

The Chester YMCA has graciously agreed to open from the hours of **11:30 a.m. 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, Dance Groups, etc.: Please be sure to have an adult member of your organization on site prior to the children's arrival. Parents will be dropping-off their children and adult supervision will be required. Let parents know what time you will be there and to **not** drop off kids prior to this time. We will have Key Club Members from Thomas Dale High School available at the



YMCA drop-off location, working in pairs, escorting children to the adult in 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 at the YMCA must do so by turning on Parker Lane (the road running adjacent to the YMCA) entering the 1st side entrance into the YMCA parking lot, looping in front of the YMCA and exiting right on Route 10. There is no parking/waiting in this area and there are no left turns allowed out of the YMCA (this is the rule all year, not just for the parade). **Again, if anyone dropping off curses or does anything rude to a volunteer or police officer assisting with drop off, they will NOT be allowed to participate in the parade.** This has happened every year and will not be tolerated any longer.

ABSOLUTELY NO VEHICLE TRAFFIC WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE YMCA FROM THE ROUTE 10 ENTRANCE. NO EXCEPTIONS!

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 and numbers become particularly important when working with multiple, similar groups (Scouts, etc.).

Disbanding: Most of 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 in the library parking lot...THIS IS A CHANGE. **DO NOT** disband prior to this location, do not turn on any side streets and do not stop at the Village Green and block traffic. Disbanding 'mid-stream' causes parade back-ups 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 Key Club will not 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 that will be located at the entrance to Bank of Virginia/Chester Kindercare at the intersection of Route 10 and Winfree Street (left side of the street on the parade route). 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 Band, Best Performing Unit, Best Equestrian Unit, Best Walking Group, and Best Fire/Rescue Unit. The results will be published in the Chester Village News.

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.

Additional Requests/Instructions:

1. ***NO SANTA COSTUMES ALLOWED:*** The real Santa 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. Groups should not stop the parade to perform.
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; however, VDOT may determine the road conditions are too hazardous and cancel the parade.
7. ***ENJOY THE PARADE!*** You're not just a participant on parade day...you are 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 visit 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!

Pam Dvorak, Chairperson
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