



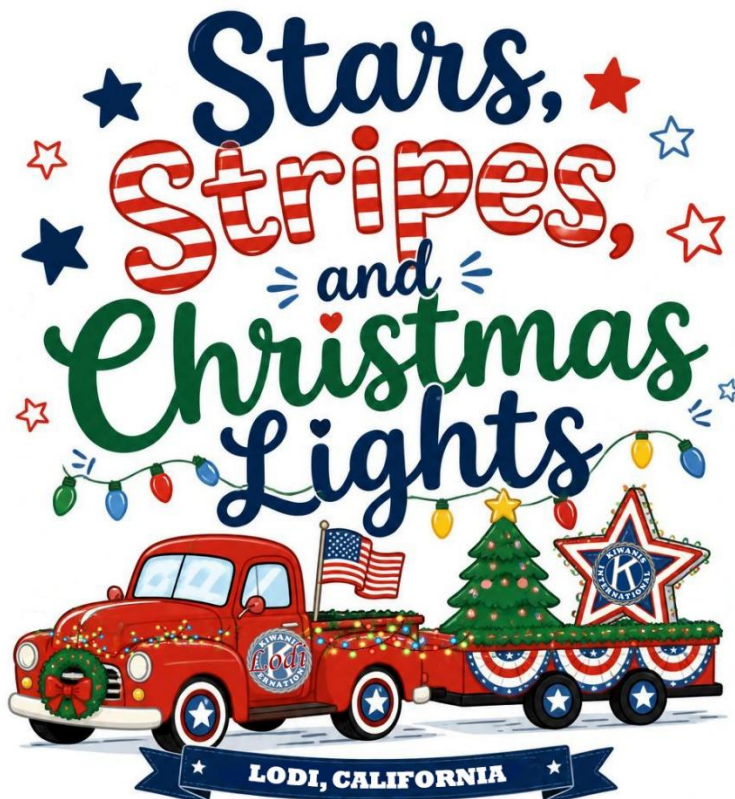
Kiwanis Club of Greater Lodi Foundation

2026 Parade of Lights Rules

Thursday December 3rd, 2026

THEME

Stars, Stripes & Christmas Lights



MISSION STATEMENT

To provide a safe, enjoyable and quality Christmas Light Parade for individuals, couples, families and participants within the Greater Lodi Area.

The Contingents Representative is Accountable for and Responsible to Disseminate This Information and Must Read It Carefully

The Kiwanis Club of Greater Lodi and The Kiwanis Club of Greater Lodi Foundation (hereinafter referred to as “Kiwanis”) hopes that the observance of these simple rules will allow both spectators and participants to have a *safe* and *illuminating* experience.

First and foremost, The Parade of Lights is a safe, enjoyable and quality Christmas Light Parade, specifically planned for the enjoyment of our community. It is a family event, appealing to children of all ages as well as individuals and couples. The Parade of Lights is not a platform for political or social statements. We encourage all to gather for The Parade of Lights as we kick-off the holiday season.

Kiwanis reserves the right to remove any contingent which is failing to conform or adhere to these rules at any time. Any contingent refusing to follow instructions of the police, fire, emergency medical, or Kiwanis Parade Officials, may also be removed. The Kiwanis Parade of Lights Manager must approve all contingents.

APPLICATION

1. Applications will be available **July 24, 2026**, at [LODI PARADE OF LIGHTS](#) and can be filed online only.
Deadline for Parade entries is Wednesday **November 4th, 2026, at 5:00 PM.**
2. Due to the volume of applications received, please understand that it is possible that not all applicants will be selected to participate in the Parade. Comments from past Parades have indicated that the Parade has been too long and therefore we will be limiting the Parade to two (2) hours, which is equal to approximately 80 entries.
3. These rules are made as part of the Application.

In addition to Vehicle Insurance, contingents may be required to have liability insurance. A [Certificate of Liability Insurance](#) when required **must** be forwarded directly from your Agent/Broker to us and must be confirmed received no later than November 5th in order for your contingent to participate in the Parade. Certificate of Insurance should be emailed to insurance@lodiparade.com Both Kiwanis Club of Greater Lodi and Kiwanis Club of Greater Lodi Foundation must be listed as additional insured.

4. Payment in full is required to be received on/before November 4th, 2026. Exceptions will be made for Groups that are paid for through Lodi Unified School District. You will see Request an Exception during Registration and you will receive an Invoice and should begin your internal requisition process immediately.

ACCEPTANCE

Applications are considered approved unless our review process determines otherwise. Kiwanis will notify you by email or phone should your application be denied into the Parade. A final list of accepted entries may also be listed on the Kiwanis website at www.lodiparade.com. Acceptance of the application and commensurate placement in the Parade will depend on the availability of space for each category. Availability will be determined by, and is subject to, the sole discretion of the Kiwanis Parade of Lights Staff.

MANDATORY PARADE MEETING

A representative and vehicle operator for each accepted contingent is required to attend a mandatory pre-parade meeting. Attendance is required. We will be discussing participation requirements and will be answering questions. The pre-parade meeting will be held Wednesday, **November 18, 2026**, 6:15 PM at the One Eighty Teen Center, 17 W. Lockeford Street, Lodi, CA 95240.

CATEGORIES, JUDGING & AWARDS

Business and Professional entries and Individual/Family/Non-Profit entries will be Judged separately as follows.

There will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place certificate for each of the categories below:

1. Floats/Vehicles
2. Non-Vehicles (marching, walking, cheering, dancing)
3. Animal Entries
4. Unique Entries
5. Dignitaries/Honorary Entries~ will not be judged or receive awards.

Each category will be judged as follows:

F- Flair, Appearance & Crowd Appeal (1-5)

L- Lights (1-5)

O- Originality & Creativity (1-5)

A- Attitude (1-5)

T- Theme (1-5)

There are no extra points for Christmas Music.

WITHDRAWAL

If you must withdraw, please notify the Parade of Lights Manager immediately via email at parademanager@lodiparade.com

There will be no refunds after **November 4, 2026**. Once you cancel, you may not join the event regardless of whether or not a refund has been issued. The Parade of Lights will go on rain or shine.

ENTRY SIZE

An entry (whether an individual or a group), unit, float, vehicle, band, animal, etcetera, may be referred to as a contingent whether walking, pulled, motorized, or powered in any manner or fashion.

1. Walking/Marching contingents (except bands) are limited to a maximum of one hundred (100) people, including total number of riding or walking float participants.
2. Floats are limited to a maximum of two (2) units per entry.
3. Vehicles (cars, pick-ups, etc.) are limited to a maximum of four (4) units per entry.
4. Motorcycle entries are limited to six (6) units per entry.
5. Exceptions may be made for specialized teams only with the advanced approval of the Parade of Lights Manager.

EVENT FEES

1. Commercial / Professional Business and Governmental Agencies - \$350.00. This is any entity that provides Goods or Services.
2. Individual / Family Non-Business - \$250.00. This is for a Family Entry. There is no Commercial or Professional representation or signage allowed with this type of entry.
3. Non-Profit Entity - \$250.00. This is for any School, Church, Civic Organization and/or any non-governmental entity that has been granted 501 C3 status by the IRS.

4. Early Registration Discount of \$50 Ends September 30, 2026

EVENT/PARADE SAFETY

1. Your contingent must listen to and comply with all directions given by the Kiwanis Parade Staff and Compliance Officers, their representatives and law enforcement personnel.
2. items (a) through (e) are never allowed:
 - a) No handouts of any kind are allowed. No leaflets. No Candy. No Trinkets. NO NOTHING!
 - b) Do not throw any items from a Parade Contingent into the crowd or onto the street.

- c) Never get on or off of or in or out of your entry once the Parade has started.
 - d) No one is allowed to be under the influence of alcohol or any mind- or mood-altering substance while participating in the Parade.
 - e) No firearms (except as authorized under the law) or any type of explosives are allowed.
3. A warning will be given to your contingent should you be found to be in violation of items (a, b or c). If compliance is not immediate, the contingent will be removed from the Parade without a refund. Any parade participant(s) found to be in violation of item (d) or (e), will be required to leave the Parade immediately, and may also subject the entire contingent to leave the Parade immediately and without refund. Participants in violations of item (d) or (e) will be reported to on-site law enforcement personnel.
 4. In the event of a repeated violation of any of the above-listed prohibitions and/or if in the opinion of the Parade Officials that any contingent in the Parade constitutes a safety hazard to any individual(s), including but not limited to the General Public, Parade Contingent(s), Parade Volunteers, Parade Staff, any human person or animal, then the contingent will/may be removed from the Parade without a refund.
 5. There will be no smoking or alcoholic beverages allowed in, on, or about the Parade Contingent at any time before, during or after the Parade. Safety comes first!

PRE-STAGING AREA INSPECTIONS

1. While in the pre-staging area on Stockton Street, all entries will be inspected for compliance to the Parade rules. You are not permitted to work on your float in Pre-Staging. One driver must be present at all times while your entry is in the Pre-Staging area. NO EXCEPTIONS. PRE-STAGING IS ONLY FOR SAFETY INSPECTION AND TO OBTAIN YOUR NUMBER AND PLACE IN LINE
2. A copy of these rules and regulations must be always in the possession of the contingent during the pre-staging inspection, the staging area on Sacramento St and during the Parade.

3. A fully charged, certified dry chemical fire extinguisher is required with each float/vehicle with a minimum gross weight of four (4) pounds and must be an ABC Rating Classification 1-A;10-B:C.
4. If you feel that you need a special exemption you must send an email to parademanager@lodiparade.com and state your reason. You must include your cell phone number so that the Parade Manager can contact you.

STAGING

1. There are (2) two main staging areas. First is a pre-staging area for floats and vehicles located at the North parking lot of the Lodi Grape Bowl and East parking lot of the Softball Complex, both are located on North Stockton Street. The second is the primary staging area located on Sacramento Street between Lockeford Street and Turner Road.
2. Floats and vehicles are required to be at the pre-staging area no later than 3:30 pm. When Sacramento Street is clear of vehicular traffic at approximately 4:05 pm the float/vehicle will be given an entrance pass/number and will later be directed to move to the primary staging area in pre-assigned order. You must stay in that order unless Parade Staff re-directs you.
3. *If you do not make it on time to the pre-staging area and have not obtained a pass/number for placement directly in the primary staging area, the float/vehicle may not be allowed in the Parade. If you are not in the prestaging area in time to leave in the proper numerical order, you may or may not be allowed to participate out of order, and if you are allowed your entry will forfeit judging.*
4. The route taken from the pre-staging area to the primary staging area will be North on Stockton Street to West on Turner Road to South on Sacramento Street. The float(s)/vehicle(s) will pull forward as directed by Parade Staff. All contingents must have their pre-staging pass/number to enter the staging area. Absolutely **NO RIDERS** on floats between pre-staging and staging. No exceptions. Violations will cause you to forfeit and you will be denied entry into the Parade.

5. The first forty (40) entries will line up southbound on the East side of Sacramento Street and the second forty (40) entries will line up southbound on the West side of Sacramento Street as directed to do so.
6. Space in the primary staging area will be assigned for certain special entries, walking or animal entries that have been exempted from the Pre-Staging requirements.
7. Please try to carpool to the event as parking is very limited.
8. If the contingent is a large group, please inform all participants ahead of time of the contingent's assigned placement in the primary staging area. Only the float(s)/vehicle(s) entered in the parade may be inside the pre-staging and primary staging area. Participants must walk into the primary staging area utilizing the sidewalk. Participants waiting for their float(s)/vehicle(s) must wait on the sidewalks to avoid injuries and allow floats/vehicles to enter the primary staging area safely. All participants must wait until the float/vehicle has come to and is at a complete stop and the driver directs them to board and/or dismount the float/vehicle.
9. Once the float/vehicle has come to a full stop and only if it is safe, participants riding on the float/vehicle may board. Once the float/vehicle is directed to start forward to the parade route, participants may not board or dismount until the float/vehicle has come to a complete stop. After the float/vehicle has finished the parade and has returned to the staging area participants may dismount only after the float/vehicle has come to a complete stop.
10. **Vehicles that are dropping off participants may not enter either the pre-staging or primary staging areas. There is only one official designated drop-off location at Louie Ave and Sacramento Street, South of Turner Road.**
11. Prior to November 30th, a final map will be made available of the float/vehicle line-up and staging areas (pre-staging and primary staging). The participant entry line-up is designed for safety and best viewing. **For this reason, your position is final.** The staging and route maps can be downloaded from the Parade website at www.lodiparade.com.
12. After the Parade, walking or riding participants may be picked-up only at the official drop off location and never in the staging area. Safety is paramount and for that reason walking or riding participants leaving the staging area

(roadway) at the end of the Parade, must proceed directly to the sidewalk to exit the area.

FLOAT AND VEHICLE REQUIREMENTS

1. All drivers must possess a valid driver's license. All floats/vehicles must be insured and registered for the day of the Parade. Floats/vehicles must be in good physical as well as operational condition.
2. There must be at least two responsible adults (in addition to the driver) on a float/vehicle where there are children riding.
3. No person(s) will be allowed to get on or off a float/vehicle once it has started in the Parade. No dangling of legs over edges of the float/vehicle at any time.
4. All floats/vehicles must be within the maximum specifications:
 - Maximum trailer length is forty-five (45) feet.
 - Maximum width is eight and one-half (8½) feet.
 - Maximum height is fourteen (14) feet six (6) inches.
 - Any deviances from these maximum heights, width and lengths would have to be approved through the Parade of Lights Manager and the City of Lodi Public Works Department
 - Street Clearance: Nothing attached to the float/vehicle can be lower than the lowest part of the float/vehicle's wheel/rim.
5. Two (2) Contingent Monitors are required for every float/vehicle unit with or without riders. These Contingent Monitors will walk beside the float/vehicle trailer so that each contingent monitor will have a clear view of all wheels. It is strongly suggested for safety, but not mandatory, that the wearing of yellow/green or orange traffic safety vests by the Contingent Monitors be worn.

The Contingent Monitors must have instantaneous two-way radio communication with the driver. This does not include cell phones.
6. Flatbed or Semi-trailers used as floats or people carriers must have both sides and the rear bumper area covered with decorative skirting at least down to the axle height for the entire length of the trailers.

7. Riders in a pick-up truck with railings must be seated within the bed of the truck and cannot be sitting on the truck railing.
8. Riders may never stand in the pick-up truck bed during the Parade.
9. Flatbed trucks or trailers with rider(s) must have a minimum thirty-six inch (36") secure safety railings capable of adequately retaining the weight of the rider(s) and must be on the front, back and sides of the riding platform. Riders are not allowed to ride on or lean against the safety railing.
10. Flatbed trucks or trailers where safety railings are not used, riders must be secured to a stanchion capable of adequately retaining the weight of the rider(s) the entire time the Float/vehicle is moving and at all times during the Parade.
11. Noncompliance or violation of any of these safety rules may disqualify the contingent from entering or continuing the Parade Route.
12. Violation of safety rules will disqualify the contingent from any awards.
13. Violation of safety rules may disqualify the contingent from future entry to the Lodi Parade of Lights.
14. Riders on motorized vehicles of any kind must be seated and only in seats designed for riders.

FLOAT COMPLIANCE ADVISORS

be sure that your Float is compliant with design requirements we are providing you a consultation service with a Parade Official. The purpose is to help you To understand the requirements so that you can design and build the Safety Requirements into your entries. If your entry does not meet the Safety Requirements when you arrive at Pre-Staging and you did not utilize this service, you must either make your entry compliant or you will not be allowed into the Parade. Contact Ken at compliance@lodiparade.com Don't wait until the last day.

WALKING/MARCHING CONTINGENTS

Walking participants must be at least 8 years of age to walk in the Parade & must carry Lights on their person. Younger children may participate provided that they are being pulled in a wagon or cart. Each walking/marching contingent will need to recruit volunteers willing to walk the Parade route with the contingent and act as monitors. These Monitors will be walking along side of the contingent between the contingent and the crowd. The following will assist you in figuring out how many monitors you will need for your contingent:

- 76-100 persons walking/marching = 8 Walking Monitors
- 51-75 persons walking/marching = 6 Walking Monitors
- 26-50 persons walking/marching = 4 Walking Monitors
- 2-25 persons walking/marching = 2 Walking Monitors

ANIMAL ENTRIES

1. All animal entries must have a person or persons walking behind the animal contingent for immediate clean-up of urine or feces.
2. All animal entries will be under the direct care and control of a human handler using some type of reins, leash, harness, or otherwise tethered in a safe manner.

All animals must be both people friendly and crowd experienced. They are never allowed on or inside a float and must be walking on the street only. They must behave safely for all concerned.

PARADE ROUTE

The official start of the Parade will step off from the Southern end of Sacramento St. turning on to Westbound Lockeford Street, continuing Westbound to Church St., turning Southbound onto Church St., continuing Southbound on Church St. to Lodi Ave. turning Eastbound onto Lodi Ave., continuing Eastbound on Lodi Ave. turning Northbound onto School St. ***The Judge's Station will be at the intersection of School and Oak Streets.*** The Parade will then continue Northbound on School St. to Locust St. turning Eastbound on to Locust St., thereby ending the official parade route. All contingents will then turn Northbound onto Sacramento St. and proceed to Lockeford St. where they will be guided across Lockeford St and onto Sacramento

St. All Parade contingents will then precede Northbound moving as far North as possible towards Turner Rd. **At the end of the Parade please pull as far forward into the primary staging area as possible or as directed by Parade Staff towards Turner Road. The float/vehicle is not to stop and participants are not to dismount from the float/vehicle until parked in the designated staging area for dismounting. Once unloaded and cleared by Parade Staff, the float/vehicle may leave the staging area.**

PERFORMANCE MANEUVERS

Any in-route performances must be pre-approved by the Parade of Lights Manager prior to the Parade.

It is preferred that your contingent choreograph performances, maneuvers, formation, or other exhibitions (hereafter referred to as a “performance”) to maintain a forward movement. However, if you would like to conduct a stationary performance in addition to the maximum forty-five (45) second performance in front of the Judges booth, you may include such a request during the Application/Registration process. Describe your desired performance maneuvers for approval. The description must include an approximate length of time and location for each performance. Failure to submit an accurate description of planned performances or any attempt to insert a non-disclosed performance during the Parade could result in removal from the Parade and/or denial of future participation in the Lodi Parade of Lights. Additionally, if the approved performance is causing a delay in the Parade pace the contingent may be instructed to continue forward by Parade Staff, at which time the contingent must comply.

SOUND/LIGHTS

1. Entries may use sound amplification for musical purposes, but not for addressing the audience, and absolutely no speeches, or campaigning of any kind on any subject. Music/sound/public address amplification systems must be no louder than 90 decibels.
2. Music is encouraged, but not mandatory. However, judges will take Christmas music into consideration when judging entries.
3. Only Christmas music is allowed to be played.

4. Music yes! There is to be absolutely **NO HORNS** of any type, no sirens, no screeching noises, no tires breaking traction, no loud exhaust pipes, etc. Violations may exclude you from future parades.
5. All entries shall have Christmas style lights.
 - a) Floats/Vehicles – 1,000 light minimum to be eligible for judging.
 - b) Non-vehicles – each entry/participant must have lights.
 - c) Animal Entries/Unique Entries – each participant and/or entry must have lights.
 - d) Make sure your generators and/or batteries are working properly.
If your lights stop working you may be asked to leave the Parade.
 - e) NO STROBE LIGHTS

PARADE PROCESSION

1. A numbered placard will be provided to you at Pre-Staging. This number must be carried or otherwise made present and visible at the front of your Contingent and if in or on a vehicle, it must be on the driver side lower corner of the windshield.
2. Gaps in the Parade between contingents can disrupt the steady flow of the procession. This year we will be continuing to implement a plan to minimize gaps and to improve the flow of the Parade. The success of this plan depends on the cooperation of all participating contingents.
 - a. Along the Parade route there will be several Gap Monitors who may provide instructions to the contingent to continue as paced, slow down or even stop and then resume at a safe pace.
 - b. Contingent Monitors will be responsible for helping to get the contingent to comply with the Gap Monitors directions. At no point should the contingent be asked to assume a pace that is faster than what is safe for the contingent's participants, the general public or for other participants in the Parade. However, if the contingent for whatever reason is and continues to move too slowly, you may be asked to leave the Parade.
 - c. Failure to comply with the Gap Monitors' instructions may result in the contingent being asked to leave the Parade and/or not being allowed to participate in future years.

3. If there is more than a 50-foot gap between entries, there may be deduction of points during judging.
4. During the Parade, please drive all vehicles in as straight a line as possible down the middle of the roadway. Irresponsible or irregular driving from side to side will not be tolerated and violators will be escorted out of the Parade and not allowed to return.

GENERAL RULES

1. All Parade entries are to follow the Parade Theme: "Stars, Stripes & Christmas Lights".
2. No "Live" Santa anywhere in your contingent. If you violate this rule, you will not be allowed to return. There is only one live Santa and he will be at the end of the Parade.
3. You are required to be respectful. Individuals and Organizations are expected to act courteously and in good taste at all times during the Parade. Remember, this is a Family Oriented Parade with young eyes and ears.
4. It is the responsibility of parents with children participating in the Parade to make necessary arrangements to have children met and picked-up at the Parade off-loading site.
5. Entries may identify sponsor(s) and/or the builder of your float/vehicle/entry by name only. This is a family focused event. There will be no additional displays such as political advertising messages. No Anti-Governmental messages. No other advertising, promotion or support of a political candidate or cause of any nature will be allowed.
6. Any interpretation or dispute resolution of or regarding these Parade Rules and the application or enforcement thereof shall rest solely in the Kiwanis Club of Greater Lodi Board of Directors and any such decision shall be final.
7. The applicant/entry (whether an individual or a group), unit, float, vehicle, band, animal, etcetera, will/may be referred to as a contingent(s).

8. In order for everyone to have a safe and enjoyable Parade, any contingent, singularly or collectively, hereby agrees by simple participation to obey any and all rules as described herein. Failure of any one person within a contingent to do so may cause all or any part of your contingent to be eliminated from this and/or future Parades. The contingent's representative is responsible for disseminating this information to all persons involved in with the contingent, especially those that will drive vehicles in the Parade and/or those traveling to/or from the pre-staging areas to the staging area.

Finally, thanks to all of you who have prepared entries for this year's Parade of Lights. We hope to continue to make this an annual event and do appreciate the help you provide by complying with these rules. Doing so will make it possible for us to have a fun and safe Parade for everyone. Let's all make it a safe and fun family night and a wonderful start to the Christmas Season!

*By clicking the **SUBMIT** button, you are agreeing to all of the Parade Rules and agreeing to be responsible for the actions of all persons associated with the Parade Contingent.*

Mail Entry Fee with **Name of Entry** to

Kiwanis Club of Greater Lodi Foundation
PO BOX 761
Lodi, CA 95241