Parade Entrants

What is the timing for the parade?
The parade will begin promptly at 7 p.m., and it usually finishes at about 8:30 p.m.

Staging for the parade begins at 5 p.m. Parade entries and participants need to be in line no later than 6:15 p.m.

Staging
is at the Bay City Library (1100 7th Street). Lion’s Club Members and Parks Crew will be on hand to direct you to your staging location. A map will be posted to show where your entry will line up.
A map of the road closures for the staging location will be posted.

Road Closures & Staging Area
Beginning at 5 p.m., the right eastbound lane of Hwy 35 beginning at Sims Street will be closed for the parade set up. Fire, Police and large vehicles will set up in this lane. Avenue A from Hwy 35 to 6th Street will be closed off for drop off exit only. 6th Street from Avenue A to Moore Avenue will be closed except for parade entry vehicles. All vehicles going south on 6th Street will have to turn left onto Avenue A and all vehicles going north on Avenue A will have to turn right onto 6th Street.

NO personal vehicles will be allowed into the staging area.

Please let your participants know this.

Where can Parade Participants Park?
Parking at the Library is limited to the parking areas in front of and to the east of the Library.

NO PARKING (except entry vehicles) will be allowed in the staging area.
If you can, please carpool groups of participants and drop them off in the drop off zone to the east of the Library.

Where can Parade Participants be Dropped Off at?
This year there will be a drop off zone to the east of the Library. Parents can drop participants off and walk to their entry area. We will have Lion’s Club Members and Parks Crew members on hand to direct them to their entry.
**What should I do with my parade number?**

We will e-mail the parade numbers a few days prior to the parade to the main point of contact.

**PLEASE** share that number with everyone in your entry.

Also, print out the parade number we send and tape it to the **LEFT FRONT** of your float or the **DRIVERS SIDE** windshield. This will greatly speed up the arrival process.

**Parade Start Time**

The **HomeTown Christmas Parade** begins promptly at 7 p.m.

**Judging**

Judging will be on the south side of the courthouse. Please be prepared to start your performance as soon as you reach the judging area. You will have 45 seconds for your performance. If you need us to play your music, it needs to be to us no later than Thursday, November 30th at 5 p.m. It can be sent as an mp3 with the song.

**Parade End/Parent Pick Up**

The parade ends at the Bay City Police Department parking area. Please be prepared to walk and perform until the end.

Parent pick up will be at the Bay City Police Department Parking Lot.

**What do I need to know about parade safety?**

Drive slowly and watch carefully for children who may dart into the street. Appropriate items should **ONLY** be handed to spectators from walkers and golfcarts.

Adult supervision for younger children in the parade is required.

**What can I hand out to parade spectators?**

Candy is allowed and may only be handed from walkers and golf carts but not from elevated floats or boats. Other appropriate items, such as fans, flowers, and gift certificates, are permitted, as well. No political or “issue” propaganda may be used prior or during the parade. Some items are not appropriate to toss into crowds as they may cause injury.

Please select your handouts appropriately.

**Will there be refreshments?**

Refreshments will **NOT** be available at the staging grounds. Please bring water or snacks for your participants.

**Will there be toilets available during staging?**

Portable toilets will be available only at the staging area.
**What happens at the conclusion of the parade?**

The official end of the parade is at the Bay City Police Department, 2201 Avenue H.

All parade drivers must continue to the intersection of 6th Street and Avenue I and turn right on Avenue I to offload your participants.

**How do I know if I won an award?**

Winners will be announced on the Bay City Parks and Recreation’s Facebook page on Saturday, December 2nd. Winners will also be contacted via e-mail and will be posted on the city website’s.

The parade award ceremony will be at 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6th at the USO Building located at 2105 Avenue M. Any awards not picked up on Wednesday will be able to be picked up after Wednesday at the Parks and Recreation Office (1209 10th Street) Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 12 noon and 1 – 5 p.m.

**What happens in the event of bad weather?**

In the event of light rain, the parade will start on time.

If it is raining heavily close to the 7 p.m. start time, organizers may delay the parade start by up to 30 minutes.

The parade will be cancelled in the event of heavy rain, thunder or lightning.

**Parade Rules**

- Candy and promotions may be handed out.
- Add as many lights as you can to your entry!
- Be respectful of others.
- Time limit for judged performances – 45 seconds
- Entries may not include a character dressed as Santa Claus
- HAVE FUN and take lots of photos!
  - Tag us - #HomeTownChristmasBC
- Tag us on Facebook to show off your parade entry - @BCPAR

Please see the Parks and Recreation’s Facebook page and website for the only source of current and accurate information about the HomeTown Christmas Lighted Parade.
Parade Spectators

What do parade spectators need to know?

For safety, parents should remain vigilant in keeping their children off the parade route streets.

The parade begins at 7 p.m. sharp.

Entries travel east on Hwy. 35 beginning at Avenue B to Hwy. 60 and turn left, it then travels to 6th Street and turns left and ends at Avenue I. At the corners of Hwy. 35 and Hwy. 60 and Hwy. 60 and 6th Street spectators need to leave ample room for the large parade entries to turn. Please do not stand in the street in those areas.

Viewers are encouraged to arrive early.

If you would like to be a parade participant, please complete the Parade Entry Form.

How do I get more information about the parade?
Please email parks-rec@cityofbaycity.org

Will there be a viewing location reserved for disabled spectators?
Limited handicap parking is available at the Courthouse. Please display your handicap license or tag. Disabled persons can proceed to the seating area next to the judging area.

Will there be refreshments sold?
There will be a Food Truck area on Avenue G between 6th and Hwy. 35. If you would like to be a food vendor at the parade, please contact the Parks and Recreation office by Thursday, November 30th at 5 p.m.

Food vendors will be responsible for all trash in their area.

Can I sell light wands, toys, etc., during the Lighted Parade?
Only vendors that have obtained a vendors permit from the Bay City Parks and Recreation office will be allowed to sell any items during the parade.

All vendors will be responsible for any trash from their items sold along the parade route.

Any vendor without a permit will be asked to leave the parade route by the Bay City Police Department.

Will there be toilets available during staging?
Portable toilets will be available only at the corner of 6th Street and Avenue G.