Niceville-Valparaiso Rotary Club Christmas Parade Rules

1. The Parade Route is designed to enable all entrants to complete the entire route. The parade route begins at the intersection of East John Sims Pkwy and Palm Blvd, travels west to Partin Drive N where the Parade will turn right and travel down Partin between the Children's Park and Ruckel Middle School (location of the judging stand) and continue on Partin Drive N, taking a right on Palm Blvd N, ceasing at Marc Smith Blvd.
2. **Assembly time: 8:30 a.m.–Participants need to arrive on time, no earlier, to the assembly area with the parade beginning at 10:00 am. There is a maximum of two vehicles per entry fee.**
3. **NO STOPPING DURING THE PARADE! SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT!** Build your float with safety in mind. Supervise your children carefully.
4. Entrants must observe all applicable rules and regulations and follow instructions from police and parade officials or be barred from the parade. The Rotary Parade Committee reserves the right to accept or decline any entry at its sole and absolute discretion, and includes removal from the parade at any time. Application fees are non-refundable for accepted entries. Each entry must pay the appropriate fee.
5. The Rotary Parade Committee reserves the right to withdraw any unit of which costume or performance does not meet the parade rules and regulations or conform to the standards of reasonable public taste.
6. Alcoholic beverages are forbidden. Participants consuming alcohol prior to or during the parade will be removed from the lineup. All city, county and Florida State statues concerning the consumption of alcoholic beverages will be strictly enforced by the police before, during and after the parade.
7. Drivers of any and all vehicles in the parade areas must possess a valid driver's license, be at least 18 years old, and possess all appropriate vehicle liability insurance.
8. **Livestock, reptiles, wild and domestic animals shall not be in the parade unless special written approval by the Rotary Parade Committee is obtained.** If approval is granted, all animals must have someone to clean up, if necessary, along the parade route.
9. Use of high intensity sound making devices is strongly discouraged. Use of sound of any type must be brought to the attention of the Rotary Parade Committee during the application process so that appropriate spacing of entrants can be made during the parade and the sound produced must be at a compatible sound level. Parade officials have the complete authority in this matter and reserve the right to ask an entrant to reduce the sound level of their float and also to withdraw any unit that does not comply with their instructions. Air canons or other devices that shoot objects are strictly prohibited.
10. Political campaigning is not permitted.
11. The Rotary Parade Committee does not accept the responsibility for travel, food, or lodging expense of any unit.
12. All units are required to close any gap between units with safety in mind when instructed by parade officials.
13. **END OF PARADE PICK-UP TRANSPORTATION**: All participants will exit at the end of the parade route per the instructions of the Niceville Police. **No one** will be allowed to exit before the end of the route.
14. **DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ENTRY forms is the Monday before the parade. Late Fees will apply!**
15. **CANDY AND SOUVENIRS MAY BE "TOSSED" (as opposed to thrown) from parade vehicles to the crowd**. Persons walking the parade route may hand out items, but the flow of the parade must not be interrupted. Candy must be individually wrapped. No items will be distributed in a manner that encourages spectators to enter the roadway (i.e. dispersing items from an automobile.). All participants are asked not to toss candy or any other items until they are on John Sims Parkway as the Rotary Parade Committee strives to discourage audience members from assembly on Palm Boulevard. **SAFETY IS PARAMOUNT**!
16. **A representative from your organization MUST attend a meeting on the MONDAY before the parade at 6:00 p.m. at the Niceville Community Center to get instructions and number for your entry. ENTRY NUMBERS must be displayed on the right side and front windshield in full view of the judges. Entries without displayed numbers will not be judged.**

FLOATS

1. All entries shall be decorated according to the parade theme. All banners should be neatly lettered and legible.
2. NO decorations and or float construction material may protrude from the side of the float. All electrical devices must be properly grounded.
3. All floats must have handholds or standup holds for each rider on the float. Any self-propelled float must have a minimum of two spotters walking along side. If a float is being pulled behind a vehicle, then there must be one spotter per axle of each vehicle. **SPOTTERS MAY NOT TOSS CANDY OR HANDOUT INFORMATION - they are there for safety only! and must be in two-way communication (e.g. two-way radio, or voice contact) with the float driver**. The driver must not have a radio or other sound producing device on in the vehicle other than the two-way radio, must not be on a cell phone for any reason at any time and must have the passenger side window open to hear commands from the spotters.
4. Participants should be costumed according to the parade theme, with **no participant dressed as Santa Claus.** The Rotary Parade Committee will secure Santa Claus for the parade**.**
5. No participants may jump on a float to ride and interfere with any other unit in any way. Float capacity will not be exceeded. No participants will dismount from a float during the parade route. Participants will not have body parts, particularly legs and feet, extending past the sides, front or rear of the float. This is an extreme safety hazard.

BANDS – MARCHING/WALKING UNITS

1. All marching units must maintain forward motion. Routines that cause gaps will not be permitted, except at the judge's station. Only holiday theme music should be played.
2. No unit may stop forward motion to perform except in areas designated by the Rotary Parade Committee. Performance stops should not last more than approximately 90 seconds.

ALL PARTICIANTS TO HAVE A FUN AND WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE

The Rotary Parade Committee wants a fun and memorable time for both participants and audience members with safety being paramount to all other considerations. It is in this spirit that we have formulated these rules and thank you in advance for your understanding and cooperation.