

The Junior League of Greater Lakeland  
with the City of Lakeland  
*Presents*

*“Christmas in Candy Land”*

**Parade Date:** December 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM

**Float Origination Location:** RP Funding Center  
701 W Lime Street, Lakeland FL 33815

**Deadline for Applications:** September 30, 2023

**Participant Meeting (Mandatory):** November 7, 2023  
Lakeland City Hall  
228 S. Massachusetts Ave.  
Lakeland FL 33801

Dear Applicants,

The Junior League of Greater Lakeland and the City of Lakeland are proud to host the **42nd Annual Lakeland Christmas Parade**. Thank you for being so enthusiastic to participate in this important community holiday event.

This year's parade theme is **“Christmas in Candy Land”**. The theme is inspired by how SWEET Lakeland truly is. We sincerely hope you will join us in showing some of Lakeland's sweetest features by decorating your float in the theme: candy, cakes, cookies, or other sweet treats. Of course, in true holiday spirit, we ask you to enhance this sweetness with festive holiday cheer.

For example, you could do the Candy Land course, use swans for game pieces & sweet areas of Lakeland for different lands on your board. Or cupcakes as Christmas trees (or other sweet treats) to make you float extra sweet. We encourage each parade participant to showcase their creativity by decorating their float to exude a Christmas in Candy Land.

Please review the information contained within carefully. We base float acceptance in the parade upon compliance with the provided rules, full application completion, and the unit's quality and contribution to the parade. We will present awards to outstanding participants at the Lakeland City Commission meeting in December.

We look forward to providing our community with another wonderful Christmas Parade. Thank you for your participation!

Yours truly,

**Vicki Russell & Kira Perkins**  
Christmas Parade Co - Chairs  
Junior League of Greater Lakeland

**Barb Cadiz**  
President  
Junior League of Greater Lakeland



# Instructions

## I. APPLICATION

- To be considered, applications must be completed in FULL and submitted before the deadline (September 30, 2023).
- All complete and timely applications receive equal consideration. Placement is not guaranteed. Prior participation in the parade does not guarantee placement in this year's parade.

## II. MEDIA FORM WITH SCRIPT

- **\*\*NEW FOR 2023\*\***  
The Media Form and Script are now included with the application and must be completed in FULL at the time of submission. Applications will not be accepted without a completed script.

## III. PAYMENT

- **\*\*NEW FOR 2023\*\***  
All payments will be processed online using this online application. Payment must be made before the form can be submitted. If you are not ready to pay at this time, you may save your progress and return to your application at a later time.

# Official Rules

## I. ENTRY FEES & PARADE UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

- Regular Float - \$37.00  
*Float that originates from sources other than a professional float company (i.e. 'homemade').*
- Professional Float - \$37.00  
*Float designed and constructed by a professional float company.*
- Marching Band - No Entry Fee  
*Must be a performing group of moderate size. Drill teams may perform in conjunction with marching band units. Observance of 60 ft. spacing is requested to allow for proper camera coverage of units. Units must allow 2 to 3 ft. between unit and curb for police motorcycles.*

- Public Official in Vehicle - No Entry Fee  
*Only cars carrying public celebrities/officials will be accepted.*
- Other - \$37.00  
*Any other type of unit not mentioned will only be allowed with the approval of the Parade Committee.*

## II. WALKERS & ANIMALS

- **Participants Walking:** There may be no more than 10 total walkers per unit. Please note that this limit includes all people and animals (other than horses). Example: 5 dogs and 5 people would be permitted, and would count as 10 walkers.
  - Anyone not on the float must be 12 years of age or older.
  - No strollers or motorized scooters are allowed.
  - Walkers shall be dressed to theme appropriately, including chaperones.
- **Animals:** Animals will be accepted at the discretion of the Parade Committee. Units composed of live animals must be followed by a 'pick-up' person dressed in costume, and must submit proof of liability insurance coverage.
  - Reminder: A maximum of 10 animals / walking participants allowed.
  - Example: 5 dogs and 5 people would be permitted, and would count as 10 walkers.
  - Horses are not included in this total. A total of four (4) horses may accompany a unit.

## III. DECORATION & THEME OF PARADE UNITS

- **\*\*NEW FOR 2023\*\***  
**All units must have a banner showcasing their organization. Banner will proceed each unit and be carried by two walkers. These two walkers will not count toward the overall number of walkers allowed per unit.**
- All units participating in the parade are required to display a Junior League of Greater Lakeland placard sign on each side of their float. These will be given to units at time of check-in. Please SLOW down at the end of the parade route for removal of signage from junior league members.
- Santa is provided by the Parade Committee and **MAY NOT** appear on or with any unit. Any other Santas will be unable to participate in the event.
- No flame, fire, bubbles or snow of any kind is allowed on or with any unit.
- Any music played must be holiday music.
- No more than one golf cart will be permitted per unit. All golf carts that are included in the parade must also be decorated.

- All floats and wheeled units (excluding public official's cars) are to be completely decorated with lights and weatherproof materials that can withstand transportation to and participation in the parade.
- The towing vehicle should be decorated and must be equipped with a tow bar, safety chains, and working break lights.
  - *All headlights on towing vehicles must be turned off or covered.*
  - *No company advertisement on towing vehicle.*
- The organization's name shall be visible on the unit. However, the main purpose is to provide identification, not advertisement.
- The float unit shall be no taller than 15 feet and no wider than 12 feet.
- Safety bars or some stable structure shall be provided for persons standing on the unit.

#### IV. SAFETY & SECURITY

- *No alcohol or smoking* is allowed on or in any parade unit including floats, tow vehicles, cars, or on the premises of RP Funding Center or on the parade route. Anyone caught with alcohol or smoking will be dismissed immediately from participation in the event as well as the float in conjunction with same may be dismissed from participation and/or disqualified from scoring and/or participation in the parade the following year.
- Any person driving a motorized vehicle should have a valid driver's license.
- Units may **NOT STOP** at any time during the parade.
- *Waiver of Liability forms will be required from each parade participant.* Forms will be collected the night of the participants meeting from a parade float representative. Additional forms **MUST** be turned in at the time of check-in.
- *No Unit/Participant may throw or hand out any item (i.e. candy, trinkets, beads, or pamphlets) to the crowd. Failure to comply will result in removal from the parade and confiscation of such items. The police are requested to enforce this rule.*
- All parade participants should be picked up at the end of the parade route. Parents are encouraged to be in the south parking lot of the RP Funding Center waiting for their child's arrival.

#### V. GENERAL INFORMATION

- Only one (1) unit per organization accepted.
- Acceptance and determination of the order/position of units within the parade are the final decision made by the Parade Committee.
- Past parade participation does not guarantee entry into this year's parade.
- Notification of your unit position will be provided at our mandatory participants meeting on November 7, 2023.

- Participants meeting is mandatory. Attendance from someone from your organization. If you are unable to attend mandatory meeting prior approval for your absence must be submitted to Christmas parade committee no later than November 7, 2023.
- If your organization applied and was accepted into the 2022 parade, but your organization did not attend the parade, and did not provide any notice of the same, please note that you will not be considered for the 2023 parade but may apply for participation in 2024.
- Lost & Found will be located at the Registration area.

**ADDITIONAL REMINDERS:**

- **Public Officials and Marching Bands** are exempt from the application fee, but must still submit a completed application.
- All applicants who do not meet the participation requirements or are not selected to participate in the parade will promptly receive a refund of their entry fee.
- **Applicants can expect to know the status of their participation in this year's parade by October 17, 2023.** All communication will be via e-mail.
- Please direct all questions to [christmasparade@jlgf.org](mailto:christmasparade@jlgf.org).