

2011 Parade of Lights

The Chamber of Commerce's Festival of Lights Committee is sponsoring the 16th Annual Parade of Lights which will be held Thursday, December 1st, 2011. The parade will begin at 7:00 p.m. This year's Parade of Lights theme is "It's a Wonderful Life".

ABSOLUTELY NO BEER, LIQUOR, OR TOBACCO WILL BE ALLOWED BY VENDORS OR ENTRANTS.

- A Grand Marshal and Color Guard shall be present at every parade.
- *Please note the City Ordinance regarding Safety Regulations for Parade Participants and Observers.**

Recognition will be given Chamber CA\$H cards that redeemable at Chamber Member Business in 4 categories. The categories are: Best Over All Entry (\$100), Best Use of Music (\$50), Best Use of Theme (\$50), and Best Use of Lighting (\$50).

REGULATIONS

1. There is no entry fee, but entries must be registered (with the Chamber office), and must execute a Parade of Lights Liability Release form (available at the Chamber office).
2. All entries are to contain lighting; i.e. Christmas lights, spotlights etc.
3. Floats shall be constructed to withstand weather.
4. No live Santas shall ride on entries (the Festival of Lights Committee will make arrangements for Santa to make an appearance during the parade.)
5. No entry may be taller than 14 feet.

***6. City of Brookings Ordinance No. 28-00**

Section 34-351. Safety Regulations for Parade Participants and Observers

The following regulations shall apply to all parades:

- a. It shall be unlawful for any parade participant to throw, toss, or distribute candy, toys or other objects from a float or vehicle in a parade to observers or others during a parade.
- b. Candy, toys or other objects *may* be handed or gently tossed by parade participants to parade observers provided the parade participant distributing candy, toys, or other objects stays within five feet of the curb.
- c. It shall be unlawful for any parade observer to impede or interfere with the progress of any parade or marching band or to cause a parade participant to stop a parade vehicle during a parade.
- d. It shall be unlawful for any parade observer to throw or toss any object toward a parade participant during a parade.

Recommendations

1. All entries should be lit for evening viewing, using white and/or colored lights. A minimum of 50 lights per foot length of entry is recommended. An example would be that a six-foot entry would require a minimum of 300 lights. Individuals or organizations may participate as "trees" or "angels" or "elves", etc.- using battery operated lights. The lighted displays are the most important parts of these entries. Lighted trees and branches are especially effective. Spotlights may be used.
2. Generators can be used to power all lights on entries. Make certain the generator is large enough to provide adequate power. All entrants using generators should attempt to muffle generator noise so it doesn't drown out the music, i.e., a three-sided box over the generator, etc. Also, be certain your generator has a full tank of gasoline. NO EXTRA CONTAINERS OF FUEL WILL BE PERMITTED ON parade entries.
3. The sponsor's name can be displayed on the sides or back of the entry. Holiday wishes such as, "Happy Holidays from. . ." are appropriate.
4. EVERY entry SHOULD HAVE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER riding on the entry or in the cab of the tow-vehicle.
5. Make certain all objects on the floats are secured FIRMLY.
6. Prepare for Poor Weather. All parade participants should dress warmly. Consider bringing hot chocolate, coffee, etc.
7. Provide for the safety and comfort of any horses that are ridden or pulling entries. If you plan to have other animals (dogs, etc.) in the parade, be certain they will be able to withstand the weather.

Driving in the Dark

When you pull your entry to the staging area, YOU MUST DRIVE WITH YOUR VEHICLE LIGHTS ON and it is recommended that the entries be lit up as well. During the parade, vehicles will NOT use their headlights AND THE entries MUST BE FULLY LIT. After the parade is over, tow vehicles should exit the parade route and parking lots WITH THEIR HEADLIGHTS ON and, again, it would be helpful to have the entries lit up for safety.

Other Things You Need to Know

1. Entries MUST be in place and lit by 6:30 p.m. and will be judged between 6:30 and 6:55 p.m. **Entries will be lined up on a first-come, first-serve basis.**
2. Each year the Chamber of Commerce will solicit evaluations and advice from spectators, vendors, and participants. One of the few complaints in other parades is that the music is not loud enough to be heard by the crowd. Be sure your sound system is powerful enough to produce a high level of volume.

Further information may be available from the Chamber office. Please direct any questions or interest you have to the Chamber office at 692-6125. (If you are not sure about an entry, please call and ask.)