

2024 Parade Instructions

All parade entries must be decorated in a Holiday Parade theme Out of this World Holidays

All Entries please avoid:

Plain vehicles/trucks/trailers with no decoration, Walkers with no theme, props, or dress
Advertising, flyers, handouts

A Live Santa (The DBA provides the only 'real' Santa in the Parade)

CANDY, FLYERS, HANDOUTS

Giving out candy, flyers, or any kind of handout from the parade route is prohibited.

Under *Billings Municipal Code Sec. 24-505*, "... it is *unlawful* for any persons in a parade to throw, cast, or drop candy, trinkets, or any other articles. A violation of this provision shall result in a one hundred dollar fine for each occurrence." Any and all candy and handouts must happen from the sidewalks behind the crowd. Any parade group handing anything out from the parade route will not be allowed to participate in future parade events.

PARADE STAGING

Please follow these instructions very carefully as they've been designed to prevent vehicle congestion in the staging area:

- **REQUIRED FOR ENTRY:** Please post your **LINE-UP NUMBER** in the front of your parade vehicle. An example of how to do this: Get a piece of typing paper 8.5x11" & either print your number in an **EXTRA-LARGE** font size or, write your number on the paper with a bold marker as large as will fit.
- Refer to the provided map of the Staging Area to see your line-up location.
- Refer to the map's key to identify your specific assigned arrival time and entry location.
- Park your parade entry against the curb in the street parking zones. **Vehicles that are not included in the parade are prohibited from staying in the staging area.**
- Bring a banner or some form of group identification for your entry. This should be done in addition to your parade Line-up number mentioned below.
- Volunteers and DBA staff will safely guide you through the staging area. **Any vehicles or participants NOT following directions given by a DBA staff member or volunteer will be asked to leave the parade.**

At 6:00pm the entire parade route will be closed to thru-traffic and No Parking will be enforced on the route after this.

ALL ENTRIES: Drivers & Walking Group Leaders:

Do not allow a large gap to form between you and the entry ahead of you.

Your entry must stay in pace with the entire parade procession. The Parade is like a train, the cars move together at the same pace. As the parade moves, you must keep close with the group ahead of you; approximately 5 feet between entries. NO STOPPING is permitted during the parade procession

**stopping during the parade will result in forfeiting participation in future parades*

MOTORCYCLE GROUPS

Burn-outs and stopping during the parade procession are strictly prohibited. Motorcycles must help pace the procession.

**Burn-outs during the parade can frighten animals participating in the parade and spectators and will result in forfeiting participation in future parades.*

ANIMAL GROUPS

ALL groups with live animals (domestic or livestock), must have a designated clean-up crew to sweep up any messes in the staging area as well as following behind during the parade to keep the streets clean. This is a "No Trace" parade and it is your responsibility to clean up after your animals. Failure to clean-up your animal's messes will result in forfeiting participation in future parades.

NON-PARADE VEHICLES

Only parade entries are permitted to park in the parade line-up/staging area. Please meet/gather in a designated place **outside** of the staging area and arrive together at your line-up location on foot. Study the parade staging zone ahead of time and identify a place to meet near your staging space. **Vehicles that are not included in the parade are prohibited from staying in the staging area.**

BLOCK CAPTAINS

DBA Staff and volunteers will serve as Block Captains at each intersection of the staging area and will be available to help each float find their place. They can help direct any questions to the appropriate people. Please be kind and courteous as they are volunteering their time to help.

EXIT INFORMATION

SUBJECT TO CHANGE - The parade ends at 3rd Ave N. & N. 32nd Street. After crossing N. 32nd DO NOT SLOW DOWN OR STOP. The parade is still going on behind you and slowing or stopping on 3rd will cause a pile-up of floats and ruin the parade pace. **Keep going past N. 32nd Ave to allow the floats and entries behind you to complete their route.** Exit Points:

- Right on N. 33rd to exit via 4th Ave N.
- Left on N. 34th to exit via 1st Ave N.
- Exit 3rd Ave N. via Division St.

2nd Ave N. WILL NOT REOPEN until after the parade has passed (after 9pm). Please DO NOT re-enter the parade route.

FLOAT JUDGING

Float Judging will take place during the Parade at 2nd & Broadway. Make sure you print and place your line-up number clearly in the front of your entry. **Judging categories include:** Best Float, Best Musical Entry, Best Costumes, Best Interpretation of Parade Theme, Best Performers, Most Original Entry, Best Entry Overall. The winners will be posted on the DBA Facebook Page, listed on the DBA website and shared with the Billings Gazette.