Fantasy of Lights Parade Rules & Safety Guidelines

Purpose

The Fantasy of Lights Parade is a family-friendly community event. These rules are intended to protect participants, spectators, volunteers, animals, City staff, emergency personnel, and property while keeping the parade festive, organized, and enjoyable for everyone.

Participation in the parade is a privilege. By submitting an entry form and arriving at the staging area, each entry agrees to follow all parade rules, City requirements, and instructions from authorized officials.

Parade Schedule

Time	Activity
4:00 p.m.	Lineup / Staging Begins
5:00 p.m.	Main Street Closure Begins
5:30 p.m.	Final Lineup & Drop-off / Pre-Parade Safety Check
6:00 p.m.	Parade Begins
7:30 p.m.	Estimated Parade End

General Parade Rules

1. Authority of Parade Officials: All participants must follow the directions of City staff, parade officials, police, fire, EMS, and any authorized safety personnel. The City of Sealy, Sealy Police Department, Sealy Fire Department, and parade officials reserve the right to deny entry, reposition, remove, or disqualify any entry, vehicle, float, driver, rider, walker, animal, or participant before or during the parade if it is determined to be unsafe, noncompliant, disruptive, or not in the best interest of public safety. Decisions made by safety officials are final.

2. One Santa Only: Absolutely no Santas are permitted in any entry. There will be one Santa at the end of the parade arranged by the event coordinator. Any entry with a Santa will not be permitted to continue down the parade route. No exceptions.

3. Weather, Emergency, or Safety Modification/Cancellation: The City of Sealy reserves the right to delay, modify, reroute, suspend, or cancel the parade due to weather, road conditions, emergency response needs, public safety concerns, or any other circumstance that may affect the safety of participants, spectators, staff, volunteers, or the general public. All participants must follow instructions from City staff, police, fire, EMS, and parade officials regarding any delay, route change, emergency action, or cancellation.

4. Lights and Music: Each entry must be lit during the parade. Music must be family-friendly. Obscene language, obscene lyrics, and inappropriate content are prohibited. Each float must be self-contained with generator power or other safe power supply for illumination and music above and beyond state law requirements for moving vehicles.

5. No Throwing Items: Throwing, tossing, dropping, launching, or projecting candy, beads, toys, trinkets, liquids, ice, plastics, paper, confetti, flyers, or any other item from a float, trailer, vehicle, animal, or walking entry is strictly prohibited. Items may only be handed directly to

spectators by designated walkers. Walkers must remain with their entry, may not run toward spectators, and may not encourage children or spectators to enter the parade route. Violations may result in immediate removal and denial of participation in future parades.

6. Entry Leader and Emergency Contact: Each parade entry must designate one adult entry leader who is responsible for the entry and all participants associated with it. The entry leader must provide a working cell phone number on the parade application and be reachable before, during, and immediately after the parade. The entry leader is responsible for communicating all parade rules and safety instructions to the entry's drivers, riders, walkers, parents, minors, volunteers, and other participants.

7. Driver Requirements: All drivers must be at least 18 years old, possess a valid driver's license appropriate for the vehicle being operated, and provide proof of insurance upon request. Drivers must maintain a clear and unobstructed view in all directions and must remain in complete control of the vehicle at all times. Drivers may not use a cell phone, text, throw items, consume alcohol, interact with spectators, or engage in any activity that distracts from safely operating the vehicle.

8. Double-Decker and Elevated Floats Prohibited: Double-decker floats, two-level floats, rooftop riding areas, elevated platforms, or any float design that allows participants to ride above the main deck of the float are prohibited. No participant may ride on top of a vehicle, roof, rail, ladder, platform, or any elevated structure not approved by parade officials. This rule is in place for rider safety, fall prevention, overhead clearance, visibility, and emergency response concerns. No exceptions will be granted. Decorations may extend above the float deck only if securely attached and approved during staging inspection. Participants may not ride, stand, sit, or perform from any elevated level.

9. Height, Width, and Length Requirements: Standard parade floats, trailers, and decorated entries may not exceed 13 feet 6 inches in height, measured from the ground to the highest point of the entry, decoration, prop, signage, rider area, or equipment. Standard parade entries may not exceed 12 feet in width or 55 feet in total length, including the tow vehicle and trailer, unless otherwise permitted by parade officials.

10. Large Specialty Vehicles: Semi-trucks, 18-wheelers, concrete trucks, fire trucks, emergency vehicles, campers, utility vehicles, and other large specialty vehicles are permitted in the parade, provided they can safely maneuver the staging area, parade route, turns, and return route without creating a hazard, blocking emergency access, interfering with spectators, or damaging property. These vehicles must be decorated as appropriate for the parade and must comply with all driver, insurance, safety, and parade pace requirements.

11. Ground Clearance and Secured Materials: Floats and trailers must maintain a minimum 8 inches of ground clearance from the lowest part of the float frame. Nothing may drag on the roadway or interfere with tires, wheels, hitches, safety chains, steering, braking, driver visibility, or emergency equipment. Parade officials, police, fire, or the Fire Marshal may require an entry to modify or remove decorations, equipment, or materials before the parade if the entry creates a safety concern or cannot safely complete the route.

12. Go-Carts, ATVs, and Similar Vehicles: Go-carts, ATVs, four-wheelers, dirt bikes, mini-bikes, side-by-sides, golf carts, motorized scooters, riding lawn mowers, and similar recreational, off-road, or small motorized vehicles may participate only if approved by parade officials, decorated, insured as required, operated by an adult licensed driver age 18 or older, and driven at

a slow parade pace. No person under 18 may operate a motorized vehicle in the parade. Speeding, weaving, stunts, sudden acceleration, burnouts, horseplay, or unsafe operation will result in immediate removal.

13. Float Rider Safety: Riders must remain fully inside the float, trailer, or vehicle at all times while the parade is moving. Riders may not sit, stand, or climb on railings, sideboards, tailgates, ladders, roofs, hoods, fenders, bumpers, trailer edges, or any exterior surface of a vehicle or float. No one may jump on or off a moving float, trailer, or vehicle. Children must remain seated and away from the edge of the float, trailer, or vehicle while the parade is moving and must be supervised by an adult at all times.

14. Minor Supervision: All participants under 18 must be supervised by an adult. Entries carrying or including minors must have at least one adult age 21 or older present with the group at all times. Entries with children under age 13 must have at least one adult age 21 or older for every 10 children. Entries with minors ages 13 to 18 must have at least one adult age 21 or older for every 20 minors. Walking groups with minors must have adult supervisors at the front and rear of the group.

15. Safety Walkers: Parade officials may require safety walkers for any float, trailer, large vehicle, animal entry, go-cart/ATV/similar vehicle group, or entry with children. Floats or vehicles carrying children age 12 and under must have at least one adult safety walker on each side of the float unless waived by parade officials. Safety walkers must be at least 18 years old, remain alert, keep pace with the entry, and help maintain a safe distance between the entry and spectators. Safety walkers may not distribute candy, flyers, beads, or any other items while serving in this role. Their sole responsibility is to monitor safety, remain alert, keep pace with the entry, and help maintain a safe distance between the entry and spectators.

16. Parade Entry Spacing:

17. Parade Pace and Route Control: All entries must maintain a slow, steady parade pace and remain in their assigned position for the entire route. No speeding, weaving, revving engines, sudden acceleration, burnouts, stunts, horseplay, unsafe passing, or unsafe maneuvers are permitted. Participants may not leave the parade route and re-enter unless directed by police or parade officials. Any entry that leaves the route, drives unsafely, or re-enters the route without authorization will be removed and may be prohibited from future parades.

18. Float Rider Drop-Off and Return to Staging: The official parade route ends at the corner of 7th Street and Atchison Street. After the parade ends, floats and vehicles will return to the staging area; however, riders may not remain on floats, trailers, or exterior riding areas while traveling on streets that are not part of the controlled parade route.

19. Parade Stops, Performances, and Showcase Areas: Entries may be required to pause briefly at designated showcase, judging, or announcer areas to allow spectators, judges, and the announcer to view each entry. Any approved stop must be brief, controlled, and limited unless otherwise directed by parade officials.

20. No Leaving After Staging: Once an entry arrives in the staging area, the entry may not leave and return unless directed or approved by parade officials. Leaving the staging area after check-in disrupts the lineup, judging, announcer script, and public safety coordination. Any entry that leaves the staging area without authorization will be removed from the parade.

21. Alcohol, Illegal Substances, and Impairment: No illegal substance use or drinking of alcoholic beverages by participants is allowed before or during the parade. Participants may not be impaired, visibly intoxicated, or under the influence while participating, regardless of whether they are driving, riding, walking, or assisting with an entry. These actions will not be tolerated and may result in immediate removal of the participant or entire entry.

22. Disabled Entry or Emergency: If a float, vehicle, animal entry, or walking group becomes disabled or experiences a safety issue, the driver or entry leader must notify a parade official immediately and follow police or parade official instructions. If possible, the entry should move safely to the right side of the roadway so the parade may continue. A disabled entry may not rejoin the parade unless directed by police or parade officials.

23. Float Construction and Towing Safety: Floats, trailers, decorations, generators, lights, sound equipment, and all other materials must be securely attached and safely constructed. Trailers must have a properly rated hitch, safety chains, working lights as required by law, and tires in safe condition. Parade officials may inspect entries during staging and may deny participation to any entry with unsafe construction, unsecured materials, exposed hazards, or towing concerns.

24. Fire Extinguisher Requirement: Any float, trailer, vehicle, or entry using a generator, fuel-powered equipment, battery system, electrical lighting, or other electrical equipment must have at least one working ABC fire extinguisher readily accessible to an adult participant. The fire extinguisher must be appropriate for the type of equipment being used and must remain accessible during staging and throughout the parade. The Fire Marshal, Fire Department, or a parade official may require additional fire safety measures based on the entry type.

25. Generator and Electrical Safety: Generators, batteries, cords, lights, and electrical equipment must be safely secured and operated according to manufacturer instructions. Cords must not create trip hazards. Fuel must be stored safely and may not be handled while the parade is moving. Open flames, fireworks, pyrotechnics, and explosive devices are prohibited unless specifically approved in writing by the City and Fire Marshal.

26. Animal Entries: All horse entries must have a bun bag/diaper during the parade and must show proof of a negative Coggins Test within the past 12 months prior to the parade. Animal handlers must maintain control of animals at all times. Parade officials may remove any animal entry that appears unsafe, uncontrolled, or unsuitable for the parade environment.

27. Car Groups: Car club or vehicle group entries may include up to four vehicles per parade entry for spacing, lineup, judging, and announcer coordination purposes. Groups with more than four vehicles are welcome to participate but must register the additional vehicles as a separate parade entry.

28. Parade Judging: Judging will be conducted during the parade. Judges will be located at undisclosed locations along the parade route and will evaluate entries as they pass. Winners will be announced on Monday following the parade. Entries must remain in parade order, maintain parade pace, and follow all parade rules to remain eligible for judging.

29. Entry Acceptance: Entries will be included in the parade once the entry form has been submitted and accepted. Submission of an entry form does not prevent parade officials from removing or denying an entry if the entry is unsafe, noncompliant, incomplete, inappropriate, or otherwise not in the best interest of the event.

Staging and Parade End Instructions

18-Wheelers and Emergency Vehicles: Staging for 18-wheelers and emergency vehicles will take place on Tiger Lane. Please enter from Circle Drive before TJ Mills Stadium.

Floats: Floats will enter from Highway 90 on the teacher access road from the back of Sealy Junior High, across from the Sealy Fire Station.

Animal Entries with Trailers: Animal entries with trailers will be staged at the empty lot on the corner of 8th Street and Tiger Lane, across from First Baptist Church and the Sealy Junior High / Sealy ISD Administration Office.

Participant Drop-Offs Before the Parade: Participant drop-offs before the parade must occur only in the designated staging/drop-off areas on 8th Street or Tiger Lane. All riders must be dropped off in the designated staging area no later than 5:30 p.m. Late drop-offs may not be permitted once parade staging is closed and traffic control are underway. Vehicles dropping off riders, walkers, performers, volunteers, or other participants may enter the designated drop-off area only long enough to unload passengers and any approved materials. Vehicles must immediately leave the staging area once drop-off is complete.

Parade End / Return to Staging Area: Float riders may be unloaded along the 600 block of Atchison Street and must move safely away from the roadway to their designated pick-up location. Riders may not remain on floats, trailers, or exterior riding areas while the entry returns to staging by way of Highway 36, Highway 90, or any other roadway not controlled as part of the official parade route. Entries must follow the directions of Sealy Police Department, fire, EMS, City staff, and parade officials at all times.

Participant Acknowledgment for Entry Form

By submitting an entry form, the applicant confirms that they have read, understand, and agree to follow all parade rules and safety instructions. The applicant is responsible for communicating these rules to all drivers, riders, walkers, parents, minors, volunteers, and participants associated with their entry. The applicant accepts responsibility for the conduct and safety of all participants in their entry and agrees to comply with all applicable laws, City requirements, and instructions from public safety officials. Failure to comply may result in removal from the parade and/or denial of future participation.