

27th Annual
Kiwanis San Marcos Holiday Parade
Sunday, December 8, 2024

(note, this is the 2nd Saturday of Dec. THIS YEAR ONLY due to Thanksgiving weekend)

The 27th Annual Kiwanis Club of Lake San Marcos Holiday Parade will be held on **Sunday, December 8th** with **step off at 1:00 pm sharp**. Our parade kicks off the holiday season in San Marcos and coordinates with the City of San Marcos Holiday Tree Lighting and Santa's Village at the Civic Center the same weekend. Celebrate the holidays while your group or business parades in front of thousands of San Marcos residents!

We hope to see a lot of friendly faces, both folks joining us again and new to the parade ones too. So please help us spread the word and join us on December 8th for a ton of fun!



PARADE THEME AND ROUTE

This year's theme is **TOYS ON PARADE – Memories of favorite childhood toys**. So, gather your favorite toys and come have fun in the 27th Annual Kiwanis San Marcos Holiday Parade!

Parade entrants will assemble in Parking Lot 9 of Palomar College; step-off will be at Comet Circle and Mission Road. We will then go east on Mission Road to San Marcos Blvd. and the Civic Center – 2 ½ miles of holiday cheer for all ages! A printable parade route map is available on our website.

ENTRY FEES

An entry fee of \$50 for non-profit organizations/community groups, \$25 for single car (non-business) entries, or \$100 for business /corporate entries must be submitted with your entry form to help defray the costs of the parade. **Payment may be made via PayPal (on our website) or via check by mail.** Registration is not considered accepted until payment is received. Everyone involved in presenting the parade is a volunteer and the costs to produce the parade are funded through entry fees, fundraising, and donations. **This is a “rain or shine” event. Entry fees are non-refundable.**



(Need a sponsor? Be sure to stress the publicity your sponsor will receive and include their name in your signs, on your float, etc.)



MANY WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

Please see our entry form for a list of the numerous categories for participants. It may not be possible for you or your organization to enter a float but there are many ways to participate.

Walk or march, glide on skates, pedal a bike, pull a wagon... Don your group/club uniforms, etc., or "dress-up" in holiday theme clothes and join the fun of this shared community holiday spirit.

MANDATORY PRE-PARADE MEETING

All entries are required to send at least one representative to the Pre-Parade meeting on **Thursday, December 5th at 7:00 pm** in the Dining Room at Community Services (3 Civic Center Drive, San Marcos. At this one-hour meeting, you will receive your position in the lineup and all final details for this year's event so that everyone can enjoy a stress-free parade day.



ON PARADE DAY

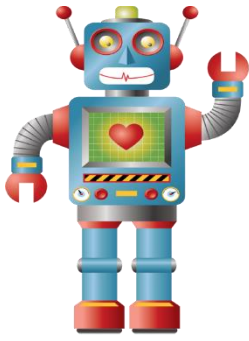
The assembly area at Parking Lot 9 will have signs designating parade positions. Please check in at the sign-in table before going to your position. You may arrive at any time after 8 am but please allow ample time to get set up and in position **before 10:45 if vying for a trophy**. Judging for trophies will occur at 10:45 with awards presented at 12:00

noon. The front of the lineup will leave the assembly area shortly after the awards are presented so that step-off will occur promptly at 1:00pm at the corner of Comet Drive and Mission Road.

ONLY ONE SANTA PER PARADE

Seeing multiple Santas in the same parade may confuse children. The official "Parade Santa" has been named by the parade committee and will be at the end of the parade. **Please use other characters in your entries.**





STRICTLY ENFORCED SAFETY RULES

This community day of fun and holiday spirit must have a focus on safety for participants and spectators as one of its prime goals. Although it may seem to add to the festivities, **the throwing of candy, balloons, or other items/materials from floats, vehicles, or special units is strictly forbidden since it encourages children to run into the street.** This would create dangerous risks to their safety and to the safety of participants riding on floats if the vehicle has to stop

suddenly. You may walk out to the sidelines to hand out your treats but be aware that you may be overwhelmed by spectators eager to receive your free handouts. Your participation in the parade will publicize your group, organization, etc. as thousands will see your entry but the parade is not a platform for easy distribution of information.

Failure to comply with these rules will result in a ban for entry into future parades.

ESQUESTRIAN UNITS

Equestrian units are responsible for keeping their area in the assembly area clean at all times and must provide a “pooper scooper” to clean up after horses in the assembly area and all along the parade route. We will have a reserved area to park your trucks and trailers so be sure to confirm the number of vehicles you will be bringing.



FLOAT ENTRIES



All float entries must be submitted for approval by the Parade Committee on or before November 20, 2024; entries submitted after that date may be rejected by the Parade Committee.

Entries must include a sketch or model of the float design indicating the size, materials to be used in the float construction and other important aspects of the float. If a professional builder will be constructing the float, please indicate the name, address, phone and contact person for the builder.

Float Dimensions: A float entry must be at least 8 feet wide and 16 feet long to be considered a float. Smaller entries may be accepted and included in the special units section. **PLEASE NOTE:** Highway height clearance is 13 feet; street width clearance is 14 feet and maximum float length is 35 feet.

Towing/Chassis/Body: You may build a float over a vehicle (low jeep, tractor, etc.) boxed in as part of the unit. If a towing unit is used, it must be incorporated as part of the float with the necessary skirting of the float continued around the towing vehicle. The towing vehicle must be decorated in the same theme and manner as the main float. Tow bars are required on all floats.



Costumed Characters: Children and adults may be used on floats, but their safety is a primary concern. Entries should explain how people are included on your float and your plans to assure their safety. Costumed characters may walk beside the float but should be an integral part of the overall float theme. The Parade Committee must approve the number of walking characters in advance. Un-costumed guides may accompany the walking characters for safety reasons with prior approval from the Parade Committee.



Music/Singing: Music and singing are often an integral part of floats and other entries. Please include this information on your entry form so the Parade Committee can properly space entries with music and/or singing.



TROPHY AWARDS

All entries will be judged and are eligible for one award only. The trophy awards are:

- SWEEPSTAKES: Best of parade
- GOVERNOR'S: Best float depicting this year's theme
- MAYOR'S: Best non-professionally constructed float
- FOUNDER'S: Most creative use of lights and/or music
- KIWANIS': Best entry submitted by a community group including schools, community service clubs and other non-profit organizations.
- HOLIDAY SPIRIT: Best entry incorporating costumed children and/or animals
- BEST OF SHOW: Best entry by an equestrian unit

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT

Kiwanis Club of Lake San Marcos
Holiday Parade Co-chair Carrie Clevers
Cell 760-803-0480
Or email: sanmarcoskiwanis@cox.net