THE CITY OF ROCKMART PRESENTS

# 2026 Rockmart Christmas Parade

## Tuesday, December 1st, 2026

## 6:00pm

**Dear Parade Enthusiasts,**

Thank you for your interest in the annual Rockmart Christmas Parade set for **Tuesday, December 1st, 2026, at 6:00pm, and NO rain date.** This year's theme is "What Christmas means to me". The fee to participate is $25.00. All application fees will be donated to the Rockmart Police Department's "Christmas is for Kids' program. The parade route is listed below in the Official Parade Rules section of this document.

All participants are encouraged to reflect on the parade theme with decorations and lights. Churches, schools, clubs, non-profit organizations, military veterans, military active duty, dignitaries, walkers, animals, bicycles, big trucks, classic/antique cars, businesses, law enforcement, and more are invited to participate.

Something for everyone! **Spectators**, when deciding where to gather to watch the parade, please consider the **Historic Downtown Rockmart** area. Businesses will be open late for your dining and shopping pleasure! Immediately following the parade, Rockmart Fire Department will stop with Santa Claus at the Rockmart History Museum, 133 S. Marble St. to light the ROCKMART CHRISTMAS TREE and meet with kids of all ages.

**Float Competition:** Prizes available this year are $500 for first place, $300 for second place, and $150 for third place in TWO categories- (category #1-Churches) and (category #2-Schools, Clubs, Non-Profits). To participate in the float competition, see official Parade rules below for complete details.

**Commercial Businesses** are invited to participate, and are encouraged to do so with decorated, illuminated floats. One Commercial float winner will be announced; however, no prize money is available for businesses, but what a better way to advertise with NO FEE? Over 5,000 spectators are expected! (See Official Parade Rules below for additional details).

Planning to include a group of people with your entry? Please assemble offsite and carpool to the staging area at Hilburn field Parking Lot. All vehicles **NOT** in the parade will be **STRICTLY PROHIBITED** from parking or standing in the drop-off area, and **no parking** will be allowed in the Hilburn Field staging area. **Walking Groups** will be given special instructions for drop-off and staging areas (please refer to the Official Parade Rules).

The City of Rockmart, The Parade Committee, & The Rockmart Police Department request your patience and help to divert unnecessary congestion downtown after the parade. Please make prior arrangements to meet in a designated area **away from the parade end** to dismount or disband.

To be a part of this Rockmart Christmas Parade Tradition, a valid email address is required to apply, and ALL participants MUST submit an application. Applications are available at the city offices, Rockmart Cultural Arts Center, Rockmart Recreation Department, and on our website at www.rockmart-ga.gov

Applications must be submitted no later than Friday November 20th, 2026, at 4:00pm.

Thanks again for your interest, and we look forward to seeing you at the 2026 Rockmart Christmas Parade!

# 2026 ROCKMART CHRISTMAS PARADE

## OFFICIAL PARADE RULES

- All applications must be submitted to the Parade Committee by FRIDAY NOVEMBER 20TH AT 4:00PM.
- All entries must be approved by the Parade Committee.
- All entries must be decorated and are encouraged to reflect a Holiday theme, or the parade theme with decorations and lights.
- All applicants and drivers must read all the rules and sign the HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT. (Drivers must submit a VALID Driver's License).
- **NO LIVE IMPERSONATION OF SANTA CLAUS WILL BE PERMITTED.** Santa Claus will be at the end of the parade with the Rockmart Fire Department, they will stop at the Rockmart History Museum, 133 S. Marble Street, in downtown Rockmart to light the Christmas Tree and meet with kids of all ages.
- **To participate in the FLOAT competition**, the parade theme, "What Christmas means to me" must be incorporated into the design and construction of the float. ILLUMINATED floats are HIGHLY recommended.
- **FLOATS in the competition will be judged on Use of Theme, Artistic Design, Overall Appeal, ILLUMINATION, and Adherence to Parade Rules. Up to 10 points for each category is allowed. But 5 points will be deducted for not following the theme and for each violation of rules.**
- Floats cannot be taller than 13' or they will be disqualified.
- ILLUMINATE! Please use LIGHTS on your float. DO NOT BURN CANDLES OR HAVE ANY OTHER OPEN FLAME.
- **All participants can hand out Flyers or Goodie Bags. Throwing candy or any other kind of material is STRICTLY PROHIBITED and will justify immediate removal from the Parade.**
- DO NOT THROW OR SHOOT CONFETTI OR ANY OTHER OBJECTS! Violators will be suspended from future Parades.
- ALL riders should be sitting inside the back of truck or trailer or have a secure handle or prop to grasp.
- ALL tailgates on trucks should be firmly latched in the upright position.
- Do NOT allow riders to hang over the side of your truck or trailer. We recommend an adult ride with or walk along side if children are participating.
- Do NOT Exit the floats if it is in motion.
- Do NOT allow riders on the floats to leave the float. To help divert congestion downtown after the parade, please make prior arrangements to meet in a designated area **away from the parade end** to dismount.
- WALKERS/DANCERS ETC. must keep pace with the parade.
- NO Provocative or offensive language, music, dancing or gestures will be permitted.
- RECKLESS/ERRATIC DRIVING IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED!
- All Motorcycles must be Trailered. Bicyclists are welcome, under the age of 18 must wear helmets.
- All ATVs, UTVs, or off-road vehicles are limited to 3 per group and must be cleaned and decorated for the parade. VIOLATORS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED IN THE PARADE.
- ALL ANIMALS MUST HAVE A CLEAN UP DETAIL FOLLOWING BEHIND THEM.
- HORSES will not be allowed in the parade unless they are wearing a "diaper" or have a cleanup detail following behind them.
- NO VEHICLES dropping off participants are allowed in parking or standing in the float staging area. To drop off parade participants, please follow the direction of the parade staff. Do so quickly, then immediately move on.
- If multiple floats/ vehicles/ walkers/ etc. need to be together, please let the Parade Staff know with the Application and they must arrive at the same time. We cannot guarantee you will be together otherwise.
- LONG TRAILERS need to be at the staging area and in place by 4:00pm.

- BANDS will need to park behind the Rockmart Cultural Arts Center (away from the road) and will need to use the bottom gate to enter Hilburn Football Field to set up. Bathrooms and gates will be open. If parents are dropping off, please have them pull down the side road and exit through the field to Fairview Road. BANDS: please be there by 5:00pm to help lower congestion.
- WALKERS/DANCERS please use the side road (between gym and football field) for drop off and exit accordingly to the direction of the parade staff. Utilize the side gates to enter around Hilburn football field. Bands only will be on the Football field. Please arrive no later than 5:30pm.
- FLOATS will need to be in the staging area (Parking lot across from Hilburn field) no later than 5:00pm on the day of the parade.
- All other parade participants MUST be at the staging area no later than 5:45pm.
- ALL EMERGENCY VEHICLES PARTICIPATING IN THE PARADE PLEASE LINE UP ON COLLEGE ST. In case you must leave in the event of an emergency. The Firetruck transporting Santa will be in the staging area. All must be lined up no later than 5:45pm.
- Everyone in your group must be ready to go by 5:50pm. We will have staging areas labeled.
- All vehicles/ floats/ UTVs etc.. will receive tags that must be visible.
- Floats competing in the Float Contest will receive a separate tag that must be visible for the judges.
- All Tags will be available for pick up at the Rockmart Recreation Department Monday 11/30/26 and Tuesday 12/01/26 from 9am-3:00pm. You must have your tags picked up by 3:00pm on the parade date or you will not be allowed in the parade. **ANY PARTICIPANTS WITHOUT TAGS ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE PARADE EXCEPT FOR WALKERS AND BANDS.**
- **VIOLATION OF ANY OF THE ABOVE RULES CAN BE GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS PARADE AND FUTURE PARADES.**

**If you have any questions, please email rtaylor@rockmart-ga.gov**

Rockmart Recreation Department: Phone: 770-684-2705

Monday-Friday 9:00am-4:00pm

Web: www.rockmart-ga.gov