

2026 CHRISTMAS Parade

8th & Oak St. ~ McRae-Helena ~ Telfair County, GA

Entry Forms can be mailed to or dropped off at Chamber office-
9 East Oak St. McRae-Helena, GA 31055 or emailed to rogers@telfairco.org.

For Chamber Use Only

Decal# _____

Date Entry Received _____

CHRISTMAS PARADE ENTRY FORM

Please note that this years parade will not be judged.

***Candy throwing is NOT allowed. Walkers may hand out candy but CANNOT THROW candy.**

***No Live Santa Claus will be allowed. Live Santa will be featured at the end of the parade on the McRae-Helena Firetruck.**

Entry Form Due: before day of parade

All entries must receive a decal from the Telfair County Chamber of Commerce prior to day of parade.

2026 Theme: Reconnect for the Holidays

Parade Date: Friday, December 4, 2026 Time: 6 p.m.

Name of Entry: _____

Contact Person Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Business Phone #: _____ Cell Number: _____

Email: _____

Sponsoring Business or Organization: _____

Entry Description: ☐ Float ☐ Vehicle ☐ Marching Band ☐ Walking Group

☐ Pageant Winners ☐ Horse(s) ☐ Other _____

Each parade entry should reflect this year's theme: Reconnect for the Holidays

The undersigned agrees that they have read the 2026 parade rules and regulations and agree to abide by them. The undersigned agrees and understands that by disregarding any of the rules and regulations that their entry may be eliminated from the parade. The undersigned understands and agrees to inform all parties involved and participating with this entry, of the parade rules and regulations and that they will abide by the 2026 parade rules and regulations. _____ (initial here)

The undersigned agrees that the Telfair County Chamber of Commerce nor any volunteers and/or employees of the Telfair County Chamber of Commerce will be held liable or responsible for any damages, losses, or injuries to the undersigned's property, any personal injuries, which they and/or their participants, employees and/or volunteers may sustain while engaged in the 2026 Telfair County Christmas Parade to be held on Friday, December 4, 2026. The undersigned understands and agrees to inform all parties involved and participating with this entry. _____ (initial here)

Signature

Date

2026 Telfair County Lighted Christmas Parade

Friday, December 4, 2026

6:00 p.m.

Theme: Reconnect for the Holidays

Hosted by: Telfair County Chamber of Commerce

Parade Route: Eighth & Oak St (Hwy 341) | McRae-Helena, GA 31055

Parade entry forms can be obtained from and must be returned to:

Telfair County Chamber of Commerce

9 East Oak St. | McRae-Helena, GA 31055

Ph: (229) 868-6365

Email: rogers@telfairco.org

Web: www.telfairco.org

Rules & Guidelines

Please note that entries will not be judged this year.

No entry fee is required by ALL participants must complete an entry form, and receive a decal from the Telfair County Chamber of Commerce. All entries must be registered before the day of parade.

***Candy throwing is NOT allowed. Walkers may hand out candy but CANNOT THROW candy.**

***No Live Santa Claus will be allowed. Live Santa will be featured at the end of the parade on the McRae-Helena Firetruck.**

FLOAT RIDERS

Do not drive onto Forsyth St. to unload riders. They must unload from a side street and walk to their float. Only vehicles that are registered to participate in the parade are allowed on Forsyth St.

No persons under the age of 18 can ride on a float in the parade without direct supervision of a responsible adult 18 years of age or older. All riders must stay on the float and/or /vehicle until they have reached a designated drop-off location and the float and vehicle has come to a complete stop. After the parade, it is the responsibility of the parents with children participating in the parade to make necessary arrangements to have children met and picked up at a designated location.

CANDY THROWING

As a safety precaution. NO CANDY THROWING is allowed during the parade. Walkers may hand out candy but cannot throw candy.

PARADE ASSEMBLY & DISBURSEMENT

Participants are responsible for obtaining spaces for decorating and building the floats. Beauty queens and other entrants are responsible for obtaining their own vehicles. Work on all entries should be complete at the time of line-up. No materials will be available for last minute repairs and additions. When working with floats, please dispose of materials properly to prevent litter.

PARADE LINEUP

Must check in with Parade Official located at the intersection of Eastman Ave & 5th St. All entries must enter from the intersection of Eastman Ave & 5th St. Parade entries will line up on Forsyth St. Please see the attached map for entry onto the lineup street. Lineup will be the first to arrive/- first in line. If you have multiple entries they will all have to arrive at the same time to be in the same lineup location.

PARADE DECALS

Window Decals will be given out as you register. Please keep this decal and have it with you on Parade night. Parade entries will not be allowed to advance in the parade if decal is not displayed. Decal will only be given to those who have registered before the day of the parade. Window Decal is to be displayed on the driver's side door window. Decal number does not determine your location in parade lineup.

TIRES

Tires may not rub any part of the frame or float decoration when making turns.

FLOAT DIMENSIONS

Floats must not exceed twenty (20) feet in width and must not be taller than twelve (12) feet overall height. Maximum float length must be no longer than fifty-five (55) feet. All parts of the fully decorated float must clear the ground by a minimum of ten (10) inches, with the exception of the fringe. The flooring must be strong enough to support all riders. A turn radius of forty-five (45) degrees to the right and left is mandatory for all Parade entries.

GO-CARTS, 4-WHEELERS, MOTOR BIKES, HORSES, ETC.

SAFETY IS FIRST PRIORITY!! At all times Riders must be under the supervision of a responsible adult of age 18 years or older. Law Enforcement and Parade Workers will monitor riding status during the parade. Out of concern for safety, riders might be pulled from the parade route if the proper safety measures are not considered by the riders. HELMETS ARE REQUIRED!!!!

SYMMETRY

Floats shall be constructed and decorated so that viewing from either side is equally appealing to the eye.

ELECTRICAL WIRING

Wire AND Lighting devices must have sufficient capability for the use intended for them on the float. Wiring should be properly secured to the float to avoid mechanical damage and injury to float riders and other participants.

PORTABLE GENERATORS

Portable generators used in conjunction with float lighting must be securely mounted on a vehicle or other substantial base. A minimum of twelve (12) inches clearance must separate any part of the generator from light, combustible fabrication or decorating materials.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

At least one five-pound dry chemical or 10-pound carbon dioxide fire extinguisher should be placed within easy reach of the float driver. There should be at least one fire extinguisher near each generator. (Check with the McRae-Helena Fire Department for a listing of fire extinguisher providers.)

FLOAT & VEHICLE DRIVERS

All drivers must be licensed and adequately trained to drive their float. The driver should have perfect visibility of the road ahead. Once the float is in position in the line-up area, the driver must be in attendance at all times and available to move the unit as necessary.

REGISTRATION AND ENTRY FORM

All entries, including horses, (no exception) must have an entry card on file at the Telfair County Chamber of Commerce located at 9 E. Oak St. McRae, GA before the day of the parade.

ILLUMINATION

To maintain the overall effect of the nighttime parade, ALL entries must be thoroughly decorated with lights and follow the "Reconnect for the Holidays" theme. Entries will not be accepted without lighting. Equestrians, clowns, bands, dignitaries, pageant winners, marching units, drill teams and colorful performing groups are excluded from this rule.

PARADE ETIQUETTE

During the parade, individuals and organizations are expected to perform courteously, in good taste and with safety in mind at all times. Parade participant must refrain from using body language, signs and music with profanity or vulgar language or actions.

AUTHORITY

Parade workers have the authority to seek the removal of any person or entries from the parade, when, in their judgment, parade guidelines are being violated.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND SMOKING

No smoking or alcoholic beverages of any kind will be allowed in or on the float or tow vehicle. The consumption of any alcoholic beverage is strictly prohibited and violators will be prosecuted. No advertisements are allowed for alcohol or tobacco usage.

COSTUMED CHARACTERS

Float builders are encouraged to use costumed characters on floats. However, NO LIVE SANTA CLAUS will be allowed. (Santa is featured at the end of the parade on the McRae-Helena Fire Truck.)

INCLEMENT WEATHER

Remember, we cannot control the weather. If weather conditions are considered extreme and unsafe by the Parade Coordinators, the parade may be canceled and rescheduled for the following weekend.