

2025 Festival of Lights Parade

Dear Friends,

We're pleased to announce that the Town of York Parks & Recreation Department, along with numerous community partners and your support, will be coordinating the Festival of Lights Parade again this year! All entries will be judged between 3:00pm and 4:00pm. Categories for this year's event will be: Best Children's Float, Best Antique Car, Best Use of Lights, Best Theme, Best Community Organization Float and Best Business Float. The Festival of Lights holiday parade is held to celebrate the season, and we would very much like your organization or club to participate in this celebration.

The parade will consist of marching bands, floats, antique cars, public service organizations, business establishments and much more.

Due to safety regulations, we are unable to allow parade participants to throw objects, including candy, flyers, or favors if you are on a float. Only walkers may hand out candy, flyers or favors to parade viewers on the edges of the route. Please read the safety guidelines attached to avoid disappointment the day of the parade.

The date of this event is Saturday, December 6th, 2025, at 4:30 pm. As this parade is in the evening, we ask all participants to have their cars, floats etc., illuminated in the spirit of the holidays. Enclosed you will find a copy of the parade route, as well as an entry form, and parade safety guidelines for your review.

Should you wish to enter please fill out the attached form, along with a brief narrative for your entry and return it to the York Parks and Recreation Department, **no later than Friday, November 28th**.

Many other events sponsored by the community such as: Polar Express, the lighting of the village square, and a Winter Community Concert featuring the Seacoast Wind Ensemble, will be a part of this celebration.

We hope to make this parade and evening a special time for the entire community of York. Please join us!

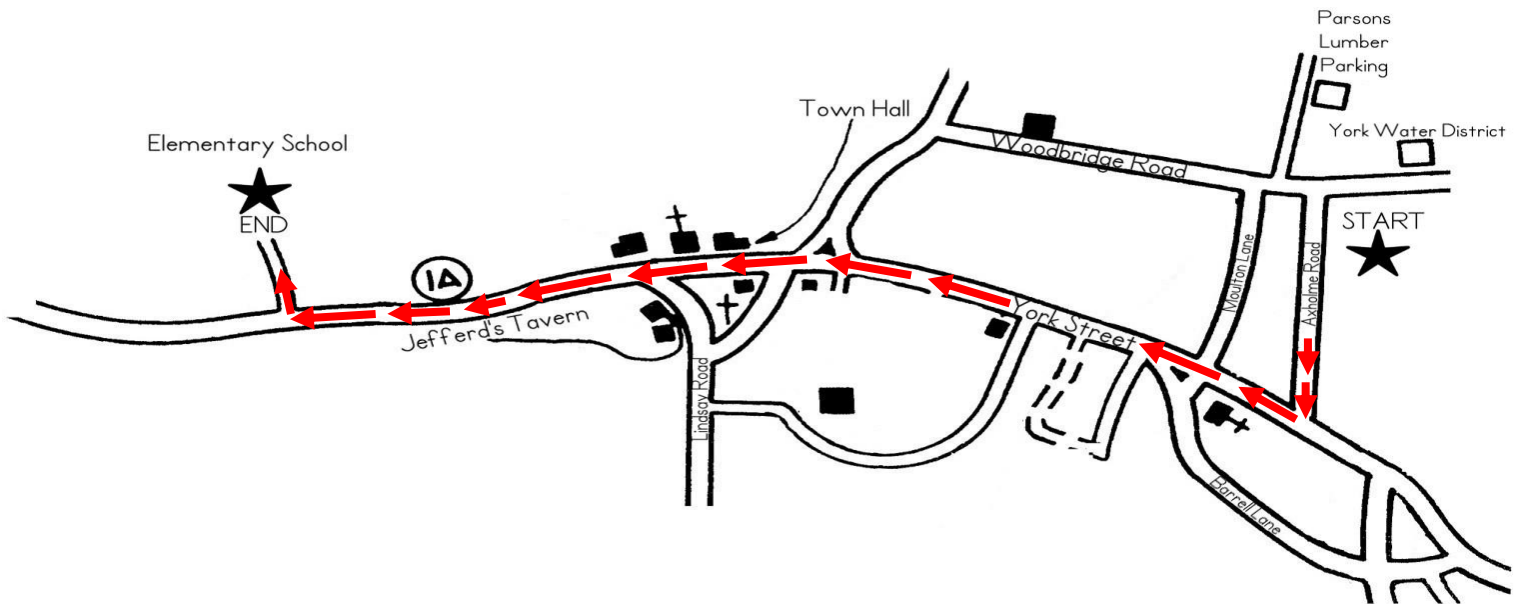
We look forward to receiving your entry and we greatly appreciate your support.

Sincerely,



Nick Darby
York Parks & Recreation
Coordinator of Events & Enrichment

YORK VILLAGE



Date: Saturday, December 6th, 2025

Line-up/Judging: 3:00 p.m. - **Judging is from 3:00pm-4:00pm only. – Floats lining up after 3:45pm will not be judged.**

Parade Starts: 4:30 p.m.

Where: Starts at Foster's Clambake on Axholme Road
Parade Route is 0.8 miles long. Parade ends at Village Elementary School.

- ✓ **Parade entries only** will be allowed to enter Axholme Road and should do so via Woodbridge Road.
- ✓ All Parents need to utilize the Parsons Lumber parking lot next to the CMP building on Woodbridge Road and walk your child in.
- ✓ Awards will be given for Best Children's Float, Best Antique Car, Best Use of Lights, Best Theme, Best Community Organization Float and Best Business Float.
- ✓ The York High School Band, Fire Trucks and Ambulances will line up on Moulton Lane.

Please read Parade Safety Guidelines attached to your entry form carefully to avoid disappointment on the day of the parade.

Please fill out the attached entry form and return it to the address listed below or email to Nick Darby at ndarby@yorkmaine.org by **Friday, November 28th**, to be included in the parade.

Festival of Lights Parade Entry Form

Organization Name: _____

Contact Person: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Circle the Type of Entry:

Walking unit

Band

Float

Vehicle (No Float)

Antique Vehicle

Narration Information: This script is for the M.C. who will announce your float or organization as you pass by in the Village. Please include general information about the organization as well as information regarding titles, fundraisers, fun facts etc. Please keep in mind a maximum of 2-3 sentences will be said about an entry. **Please...no Santa's are allowed on your float, as Parks & Recreation brings Santa to the parade and of course there is only one Santa! 😊**

Due to safety regulations, we are unable to allow parade participants to throw objects, including candy, flyers, or favors if you are on a float. Only walkers may hand out candy, flyers or favors to parade viewers on the edges of the route.

Please sign and return this form by November 28, 2024 to:

ATTN: Nick Darby

York Parks and Recreation Department

200 US Route-1

York, ME 03909

Or

Email signed form to Nick at ndarby@yorkmaine.org

For information call: 363-1040 or Fax: 351-2967

I have read and accepted the terms set forth in the parade safety guidelines and in signing this entry, I for myself, my heirs, executors and administrators, release the manager of the parade all sponsors and promoters, the Town of York, for all liability in case of death or injury received during participation in this parade.

PLEASE SIGN HERE:

Signature (parent signature if under 18)

Town of York, Maine

Parade Safety Guidelines

1. **No objects, including candy, flyers, or favors, MAY BE THROWN FROM A FLOAT AT ANY TIME.** Items may only be distributed (*handed to people*) by walkers along the parade route or in the staging area. Items may be **handed out** along the parade route during the parade providing the distributor approaches parade attendees along the edges of the parade route.
2. No children under the age of 12 will be allowed on a float unless an adult is present on the float. There must be one adult for each 5 (five) children on the float
3. Float organizers are not permitted to allow float riders on vehicle roofs or on roof racks. All riders must be always positioned on a flat surface.
4. Each float must have sturdy supports, handholds, belt restraints, side railings or other means to prevent falls from the float. No one on the float will be allowed to stand unless there are adequate handholds available for use. Safety for all float riders is the responsibility of each float sponsor or organizer.
5. There shall be no performances from a moving float unless the performers are seated or there are side rails on the float that will prevent someone from falling off the float.
6. No squirt guns or other spraying devices may be used by parade participants during the parade.
7. Parade participants shall not leave, and return to, a float during the parade.
8. All float drivers must be at least 21 years old and possess a valid motor vehicle operator's license.
9. Float drivers must always have clear 180-degree forward vision and must have an unobstructed view of the float. If an unobstructed view to the rear is not possible, a spotter must walk alongside the operator to monitor activity on the float.
10. The top of all floats shall have a maximum height of 15 feet from the ground, including float riders, and must be capable of clearing all obstacles.
11. All motorized floats must have a working and fully serviced dry chemical fire extinguisher. All fire extinguishers must be readily available to the driver/operator.
12. No smoking, consumption of alcohol or use of prohibited drugs is allowed at any time during the parade.
13. If a generator is used on any float, the generator shall be securely mounted on the vehicle with no less than 12 inches of clearance separating the generator from any combustible material. If a generator is mounted in a confined space, no float rider shall be positioned inside the same space.
14. Any electric wiring used for lighting or any other purpose on the float, shall be grounded, secured, and guarded to prevent shock or fire.
15. Any parade participant riding a unicycle, bicycle, motorized two- or three-wheel vehicle, skateboard or on in-lines skates must always wear a helmet.
16. Every organization sponsoring a parade shall identify a safety coordinator who shall be always present during the parade. Unless previously approved by the Town of York, the safety coordinator shall also not be the person responsible for overall parade organization. For each parade event the Town of York shall identify at least one individual who shall be the Town's representative at the event and who shall have final authority to disqualify any parade participant or entry and otherwise enforce these safety guidelines. The organization's safety coordinator shall be responsible to, and under the authority of, the Town's designated representative.

The ultimate responsibility for safety lies with each individual parade entry. Entries must comply with all the above rules and implement relevant government regulations, safety codes and manufacturer's recommendations and similar standards necessary to safely operate floats and equipment.

Parade organizers and their staff have the authority to remove any entry where safety measures are, in the parade coordinators or staff member's opinion, inadequate. The Town of York reserves the right to disqualify any parade entry for failure to abide by safety guidelines.

If you have any questions, please contact York Parks & Recreation prior to the day of the parade, by calling the office at 363-1040 or emailing Nick Darby at ndarby@yorkmaine.org