

THE CITY OF BASTROP'S ANNUAL

# Lighted Christmas Parade



**December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025 | 6pm-8pm**  
**Historic Downtown Bastrop**

Get ready for one of Bastrop's most magical nights of the year! The **Lost Pines Christmas Lighted Parade** returns to **Historic Downtown Bastrop** on **Saturday, December 13**, lighting up Main Street with the sparkle, spirit, and wonder of the holiday season.

If you joined us last year, you already know—it's an unforgettable experience for spectators and participants alike! And if you missed it, now's your chance to be part of a Bastrop tradition that captures the heart and joy of Christmas for all ages.

This year's parade will feature **more than 100 dazzling entries**—from whimsical floats and glowing fire trucks to marching bands, dancing Honey Bears, longhorns, and of course, **a visit from Santa himself!** Each brings to life the sights, sounds, and stories that make this event a highlight of the **Lost Pines Christmas season**.

With festive lights blazing and music filling the air, it's a night of pure holiday magic in Historic Downtown Bastrop. Whether you're watching from the sidewalk or rolling down Main Street, we're saving a spot just for you in this beloved Bastrop holiday tradition.



## What's New for the 2025 Parade

Each year we look for ways to make the Lost Pines Christmas Lighted Parade even more enjoyable and efficient for participants and spectators alike. Here's an important update for this year's event:

- **New Registration Process:** This year, there will be no pre-registration. All registration will take place electronically at the lineup area on parade day. When you arrive, you will be assigned a spot in the lineup and then asked to complete a quick online registration form. This streamlined process will help get everyone lined up quickly and efficiently.
- **Updated Registration Locations:** Parade entry registration and lineup will **begin at 3:00 PM** at the Bastrop High School parking lot entrance off Hawthorne Street (see Lineup Map).
  - Horse entries will register separately at Fayette Street (west) and Cedar Street, as designated on the Lineup Map.
  - Marching bands and dance teams will be staged in the areas designated on the Lineup Map.
- **Staging Locations:** The Bastrop Convention Center is designated as a staging area for the parade (see Lineup Map). The designated route from the Convention Center is not recommended for large trailers as there are narrow roads and sharp turns. Floats can also be prepared and decorated at the lineup area once you have checked in and completed registration.
- **Lineup and Arrival:** All entries will be lined up in order of arrival. Groups are recommended to arrive together to maintain placement. **Lineup spots will not be saved for late arrivals, so punctuality is important.**
- **Participant Drop-Offs and Shuttles:** Participants may be dropped off at the registration location and shuttled to their float as City golf carts become available. All participants under 18 being shuttled must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.



## Parade Rules & Regulations

To ensure a safe, enjoyable, and memorable experience for all participants and spectators, all entries must adhere to the following rules:

1. **No Throwing of Items:** Absolutely no items—including gum, candy, flyers, or any other objects—may be thrown from floats or vehicles under any circumstances. Items may be handed out by participants walking alongside the parade route, but they must remain at least six feet away from the float or vehicle for safety. There are no exceptions to this rule. *Please note that young children or individuals with health concerns may not be able to walk the full parade route, so plan accordingly.*
2. **No Santas:** Only one “Official Santa” will appear in the parade, provided by the City of Bastrop. Parade participants are not permitted to dress as Santa, though Santa hats may be worn. Please ensure that your float or vehicle does not include a live Santa. Decorative Santa items—such as blow-ups, wooden cut-outs, or other non-living figures—are allowed.
3. **Use of Electronic Devices:** Float drivers and anyone operating a vehicle of any kind—including cars, trucks, golf carts, UTVs, mini-bikes, tractors, or any motorized equipment—may not use electronic devices during the parade. This includes cell phones, tablets, headphones, or any device that may distract from safe operation. All operators must remain fully attentive to ensure the safety of participants and spectators.
4. **Registration and Check-In:** All parade entries must check in at the designated registration location as shown on the Lineup Map. Once an entry has been assigned its place in the lineup, participants are required to complete the online registration form before the parade begins.
5. **Parade Start Time:** The parade will begin promptly at dark, around 6:00 PM, rain or shine.
6. **Alcohol Prohibition:** Consumption of alcoholic beverages by drivers or any participants before or during the parade is strictly prohibited.
7. **Vehicle Operation:** A licensed driver must operate all vehicles, trucks, golf carts, ATVs/UTVs or other large motorized equipment. Small motorized vehicles, such as mini-bikes, small tractors, and go-carts, must be operated by persons age twelve or older.
8. **Parade Safety and Control:** All entries are expected to exercise caution during the parade. Drivers must maintain complete control of their float and participants at all times and avoid excessive acceleration.
9. **Float and Rider Conduct:** Riders must remain seated and may not hang over the sides of floats or vehicles. Participants may not get on or off floats during the parade and may only exit at the designated disassembly area—not on city streets.
10. **Maximum Entry Height:** The maximum height for any float, vehicle, or other parade entry is twelve feet.



11. **Vehicle Restrictions:** Due to parade pacing and sharp turns along the route, 18-wheelers and tractor-trailers are not permitted.
12. **Lighting Requirement:** All parade entries must be decorated with Christmas-themed lights. The more lights, the better!
13. **Horse Participation:** All horses in the parade must have a current negative Coggins Test submitted to the parade committee along with the parade entry. Out-of-date forms will not be accepted. Horses must either be diapered or have walkers behind them to clean up after them.
14. **Walking Groups and Dance Troupes:** Dance troupes and walking groups may not stop to perform or solicit funds during the parade. It is crucial that all participants keep moving along the route.
15. **Disassembly Points:** At the conclusion of the parade at the intersection of Water Street and Emile Street, all floats must continue moving eastbound on Emile Street. Floats should proceed to a designated disassembly point, such as Fireman's Park, City Hall, or the Convention Center. Floats **must not** disassemble near the end of the parade route, as doing so could bring the parade to a halt. Maintaining movement to the designated disassembly areas is essential for safety and the smooth flow of the parade.
16. **Compliance:** Participants who disregard these rules may not be allowed to participate.



## Parade Judging Information

The Annual Lost Pines Christmas Lighted Parade is a judged event, and this year winners will be selected in the following categories:

- **Overall Best Lost Pines Christmas Entry** – 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place
- **Best Pedestrian Group**  
*\*All marching or walking groups are eligible, including bikes and horses.*
- **Best Car Group**
- **Best Emergency Vehicle Decoration**  
*\*All vehicles affiliated with law enforcement, fire departments, EMS, etc., are eligible.*
- **Most Beautiful Float**
- **Most Original Entry**
- **Best Marching Band**
- **Best Group – 15 or more participants**
- **Best Cyclist – 1-4 wheels**
- **Reason for the Season**

Judging occurs along the parade route, so it is important that your Parade Registration Form is completed fully, including email address, phone number, and a brief description for the announcers. Winners will be presented certificates at a future City Council meeting.

When you line up, you will be given an **entry number** and instructions on where to display it. **No entry numbers will be issued after 5:45 PM**, so you must be “parade ready” prior to that time. Make sure your entry number is on the correct side and clearly visible to the judges. Proper placement of your number is the **only way judges can select award-winning entries**, so be sure it is prominently displayed as instructed during check-in and lineup.







