Benton City Winterfest
Parade Rules & Registration
December 12, 2026

SAFETY REGULATIONS

- Reckless or dangerous driving will not be tolerated.
- No participant can possess or be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or illegal substances. Smoking is not allowed at any time. Bottled water and soda cans are permitted. No glass containers are allowed.
- If an entrants group plans to distribute candy, prizes or other items, the entrants' group MUST HAVE a walking adult to distribute the candy, prizes or items. **THROWING ITEMS FROM FLOATS IS NOT ALLOWED**. Any group who throws items from parade entry/floats will not be invited to participate in subsequent parades.
- Exhibiting dangerous behavior and/or tricks may also lead to disqualification and expulsion. There must be at least one (1) adult for every five (5) children below the age of sixteen (16) on the float at all times. The adult must be associated with the organization sponsoring the float.
- Each float being pulled must have a spotter in the vehicle that is towing the float, other than the driver, who can view and communicate with the driver if/when a problem arises. If the vehicle has no cab, the spotter must be present beside the float.
- All vehicles in the parade must be able to navigate the entire parade route and make all turns and clearances without difficulty. It is the responsibility of each driver/entrant to ensure that their float clears all obstacles.
- Each applicant shall be responsible for the conduct of each and every participant and agrees to notify each participant of Rules & Regulations.
- The Benton City Chamber of Commerce has the right to deny participation of any entry or person failing to comply with the Rules & Regulations.
- If the entrant includes animals, the entrant is expected to have a waste detail walking immediately behind the entrant with the appropriate shovels and buckets. If an entrant does not have the appropriate clean-up detail, entry in the parade will be denied. Animals must be listed on the entry application. Entrants are expected to maintain control of animal(s) at all times; riders not exhibiting control will be removed from the parade for their own and spectator safety. Entrants are not permitted to allow animal contact with parade spectators. Horses must be bagged or followed by “scoopers” during the parade. The staging area shall be left as clean as it is found, or entrants may be removed from the parade and barred from future participation.
- Unless there is an emergency, participants are not allowed to get on or off of floats or vehicles while the float or vehicle is in motion or during the parade.
- Drivers of any vehicle must have a valid driver’s license and vehicle liability insurance required by the State of Washington.

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- All motorized vehicles in the parade must be operated by an individual at least eighteen (18) years of age.
- Each vehicle must have proof of vehicle liability insurance for float inspectors to see.
- Participants should be aware that an emergency vehicle may need to exit the parade in the event of an emergency.
- All vehicles should be thoroughly inspected for gas, water, oil, etc. prior to the start of the parade.
- Antique vehicles are defined as twenty (20) years or older and must be in good running condition.
- If entrant experiences problems during the parade, please exit the parade route immediately and locate a volunteer for assistance.
- The parade procession should not be blocked or delayed for any reason.
- To reduce gaps, vehicles should be limited to the speed or pace of a slow walk (approximately 5 miles per hour) and remain within two car-lengths of the preceding entry.
- Entrants must maintain steady movement of parade with twenty (20) to thirty (30) feet between each entry. At no time
- Companies or organizations that walk in the parade are encouraged to carry a banner displaying the name of the group or company. Individuals who carry banners must be capable of maintaining the pace with the parade.
- All conduct shall comply with federal, state and local laws, statutes, ordinances, rules, regulations, and policies, and the Benton City Chamber of Commerce has the right to deny participation to any entrant who fails to comply.

LINEUP INSTRUCTIONS

Non-parade vehicles are not allowed in the staging area. Lineup areas may become congested with vehicles, pedestrians (including many young children) and all types of parade entries. Be aware of and yield to pedestrians. Pedestrians need to pay attention to moving vehicles throughout the lineup area. The speed limit in all lineup areas is 5 mph. Parade begins at Kiona-Benton Middle School bus parking lot (Grace Ave). Entrants must continue through the entire parade route.

DO NOT STOP AND RELEASE PARADE PARTICIPANTS until you have exited the parade route and can safely pull over. Parade route begins at Kiona-Benton Middle School (Horses and livestock will begin by the pickleball courts across from the Skate Park) and proceed through downtown Benton City. After the parade, if you are leaving town: Continue through the parade route, past the detour, towards the bridge. If you are returning to the staging area: turn right onto Babs Ave, follow that until Grace Ave, turn right onto Grace Ave. To meet at City Park for the Community Christmas Tree Lighting: Turn left on 7th Street, left on Dale Ave and right into City Park. Park along the top of the park (8th St) or in the Park & Ride on Dale Ave. 2026

PARADE DAY SCHEDULE: 4:00 PM — Check-in begins 4:45 PM — Mandatory driver meeting 5:00 PM — Parade begins

LIGHTED PARADE | ENTRY FORM

Saturday, December 12, 2026 • 5:00 PM

Return completed form to info@bentoncitychamber.org, drop off at 513 9th Street, Benton City, or mail to PO Box 401, Benton City, WA 99320.

Organization / Business _____

Contact Person & Title _____

Mailing Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Will any items be handed out? Yes / No

(A walking adult must distribute items; throwing is prohibited.)

ENTRY TYPE (check all that apply)

- Vehicle — Make: _____ Model: _____
- Equestrian — Number of horses: _____
- Commercial — Number of vehicles: _____
- Float / Other — Specify: _____
- Walking group — Number of walkers: _____

RELEASE OF LIABILITY

I do hereby release, discharge, and hold harmless the Benton City Chamber of Commerce, City of Benton City, Washington State Department of Transportation, Washington State Patrol and officers, agents and employees from all claims, demands and cause of actions from any type of damage, loss or injury, known or unknown, foreseen or unforeseen which may result from participation in the Benton City Lighted Parade that involves State Highways. The Benton City Chamber of Commerce, its agents or representatives reserve the right to refuse entrance or to expel any individual or entity from the Benton City Lighted Parade.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____