



PARADE OF LIGHTS

Downtown Lights – Illuminated Nights • December 2 • 5:30 p.m.

FAQ

- 1. Do I have to have lights on my entry?**
Yes. Your float or vehicle must be decorated with lights. Once the parade begins only parking lights are permitted on the motorized vehicles. Do not use your headlights. You may cover your headlights for the duration of the parade. For advice on lighting your float, consult with auto supply stores or automotive specialists.
- 2. What's considered a float?**
A float is defined as a flatbed unit as part of, or pulled by, a truck or car. Maximum height is 13 feet.
- 3. Do I have to have a float?**
No. You can have an antique car, horse and buggy, collector, decorated or other type of vehicle or even a group walking the route. However, entries and walking participants must be lighted in some way. Remember, it will be dark so the more lights you have the more visible your entry will be.
- 4. Can I have a Santa on my float?**
No. Your entry must not contain a Santa. The parade committee already has the "Official Santa" who will be in the parade and will also be available afterward for the children.
- 5. Can I have music on my float?**
Yes, please do! This year the theme is "Downtown Lights – Illuminated Nights" and your float should reflect that theme as close as possible. The music may be live or taped, but must not interfere with floats, marching bands, or other entries in front or behind your float.
- 6. Can I throw candy?**
No. You may not throw candy from your float. For safety reasons, we do not want children dashing into the street to pick up candy. However, we encourage parade participants to distribute candy or premiums to spectators. This may be done by theme-dressed personnel (remember, no Santas) walking along the parade route between float/vehicle and spectators.
- 7. I want to be judged. What do I have to do? What are the prizes?**
If you indicated on your entry form that you want to be judged, be sure to have your float ready before the initial judging at 5:00 pm. Judging is from 5:00 – 5:30 pm. The top three entries will receive a distinctive plaque for "Light of the Parade," "Best Use of Theme," and "Judges Favorite."
- 8. What happens if the weather is "bad"?**
The parade will only be canceled or rescheduled in the event of National Weather Service issued "Weather Emergency." Otherwise, plan and dress appropriately for the weather. And plan to have fun!
- 9. What time do I have to be in line for the parade on Saturday, Dec. 2?**

4:00 – 5:00 pm	Arrival for entrants (enter staging area from Washington Street)
5:00 – 5:30 pm	Judging / Inspection
5:30 pm	Parade starts
6:30 – 6:45 pm	Approximate start of the Tree Lighting Ceremony
- 10. Where does the parade end? Where can we park our support vehicles?**
With the Tree Lighting Ceremony in front of One Main in downtown Champaign, the route brings the entire parade back to the staging area. School busses can remain in the parking lot or the support vehicle parking lot. Champaign Police Department officers will direct traffic to adjacent parking lots. After the parade we encourage all entries to remain lighted in the parking lot for as long as possible for visitors to the Tree Lighting Ceremony to come see the floats up close.
- 11. What else is going on? What time is that event? Where is that event?**

8:00 am – 2:00 am	Downtown Champaign – Gift shops, cafes, clubs, restaurants open late for holiday shopping and entertainment. Hours vary, but most will have specials throughout the day.
1:00 pm	Movie – "It's A Wonderful Life" at The Virginia Theatre (\$5 Admission)
3:30 pm	Movie – "Prancer" at The Virginia Theatre (FREE)
4:45 pm	Entertainment by The Girls Next Door and Edison Middle School Jazz Band – One Main Plaza
5:30 pm	Parade of Lights begins in front of The News-Gazette (FREE)
5:30 pm	Hot Air Balloon Glow – West Side Park (FREE) weather permitting
6:30 pm	Tree Lighting Ceremony – One Main Plaza, Downtown Champaign (Free)
7:00 pm	Movie – "It's A Wonderful Life" at The Virginia Theatre (\$5 Admission)
- 12. Are volunteers or donations needed? Who do I call in case of an emergency?**
Yes, volunteers are appreciated to help with decorating downtown, the hot chocolate hut, and various other things. Please contact Katie Flint, Volunteer Coordinator, at the Champaign Park District at 398-2571 or volunteer@cparkdistrict.com. Yes, donations are also welcome to support this free community event. Please contact Amy Eckert at 351-5453 for sponsorship opportunities, in-kind donations, or other donations. Other questions? Call Cara L. Day at 351-5642.

Emergency Contacts:

Volunteers – Katie Flint 398-2572

Director of Parade Staging – Ken Horn 863-2047

Parking / Safety Issues – Scott Friedlein 202-5236 or 911 for injury or serious problem

Parade Coordinator – Cara L. Day 351-5642 or 419-0574

Sponsors – Amy Eckert 373-7453