



20th Annual Night of Lights - Sunday, December 6, 2026
Parade of Lights Application - Theme 'Sounds of the Season'
(Your Favorite Christmas Song)

RETURN COMPLETED FORM ON OR BEFORE MONDAY, NOV 30, 2026 at 6:00pm

The 20th Annual Night of Lights will again be Sponsored by the Jasper Merchants Association. The theme of **'Sounds of the Season'** will have decorated parade vehicles turning Main Street in Jasper, Georgia into a celebration not to be missed. The celebration will include **Parade of Lights** making its way from North to South Main. Other events include: A visit and photos with Santa Claus, local choirs, vendors, a special **Lighting of the Tree ceremony** and much, much more. We invite you to join us as Main Street comes alive with the sights and sounds of the holidays.

Night of Lights is designed purely to celebrate the Christmas season as well as the continued growth of Merchants/Businesses in Pickens County. This event is **FREE** to spectators and includes plenty of family friendly fun for all ages. **There is a \$20 entry fee to participate in the parade.**

Trophies awarded to the entrees which place in the following categories:
Best Theme - 1st place, 2nd place, 3rd place, Large Group
See below for Scoring Guidelines

A MANDATORY pre-parade Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 6:00pm located in the Council Chambers at City Hall of Jasper, 200 Burnt Mountain Road. Please make plans to attend this meeting to get your line-up location and time. There are many changes in the parade this year so it is very important to attend this meeting! There will be NO changes or additions made after this meeting or on the day of the parade.

If you have concerns or more information, please contact:

Jasper Merchants Association

email: JasperMerchantsAssociation@gmail.com or Phone: (706) 426-1968



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Name of Organization/Individual: _____
Contact Person: _____
Email: _____ **Phone:** _____
Address: _____
City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip Code:** _____

Please fill out both type of entry and participation so you are placed in the correct lineup area.

Type of Entry - Circle: Truck or Car Only / Truck & Trailer / ATV-Golf Cart / Motorcycle(s) / Vehicle Group
Walkers with Vehicle / Walkers Only / Emergency Responder / Animals ***see rules**
Other (please explain): _____
of Vehicles _____ **approx. # of Walkers** _____ **# of Animals** _____

Type of Participation - Circle:
Band / Drill Team / Antique Vehicles / Business / Political
Community / Public Service / Group / Other: _____

Will your entry have music? YES or NO - We encourage entries to have music!

We are no longer able to do individual announcements for the floats, as the lineup is not in a set order. If you want your company/business name to be seen and your entry to be judged for trophies, please make sure to have it clearly marked on both sides of the vehicle or integrated as part of your float.

Name (please print): _____
By signing your application, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to the rules and waivers of liability below.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Make checks payable to the Jasper Merchants Association
Credit card link available on our website.
Please submit completed form, entry fee, and any required documentation.
Application must be received no later than NOV 30, 2026 to:

Please mail or deliver completed application to Jasper Merchants Association at:
CSR Computers • 586 E Church St, Suite 101 • Jasper, GA 30143
or email: JasperMerchantsAssociation@gmail.com



20th Annual Night of Lights Parade - Sunday, December 6, 2026

Parade Application – Rules and Regulations

**PLEASE READ ALL PARADE RULES AND REGULATIONS
BY SIGNING THE APPLICATION YOU ARE AGREEING TO THESE RULES**

1. The primary focus of the Night of Lights Parade, is to provide a safe, enjoyable, and quality parade on the streets of Downtown Jasper. There is a **\$20.00 fee to participate** in the Parade and must accompany parade paperwork to receive a position in the lineup. **Parade application and waivers must be completed and returned by Nov 30, 2026.**
2. **All Vehicles and Floats must be in place by 4:30 PM; Walkers by 5:00 PM.** You will receive your lineup location at the **Mandatory Meeting on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 6pm.** Your group **MUST** clean up their trash in the staging area. **This INCLUDES cigarette butts.**
3. No livestock (horses, cows, sheep, pigs, etc.) are allowed to walk the parade route per City of Jasper guidelines. DOGS must have a current Rabies Vaccination, and must ride in or on the vehicle. Dogs are required to be under the control of a handler at all times throughout the parade.
4. Driver of any motorized vehicle must have a valid driver's license and be 18 years or older. No skateboards or razor scooters. Drivers must maintain a safe distance from the float or walkers in front of them and be aware of their surroundings at all times.
5. For Safety reasons, there will be **NO BURNOUTS OR RECKLESS ACTIONS/BEHAVIOR ALLOWED WITH ANY VEHICLE.** Individuals and organizations are expected to perform courteously, in good taste, and with safety in mind at all times during the parade. Violators will be banned from all further event participation. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**
6. **For safety reasons, CANDY and OTHER ITEMS MAY NOT BE THROWN FROM VEHICLES OR FLOATS.** Participants may hand out candy, small toys, and other items through each entry's designated walkers only.
7. **No Santa Suits allowed.** Santa and Mrs. Claus will be the last entry in the parade to greet the children. **JMA reserves the right to have the only SANTA.**
8. All parade entries must follow and display the parade theme – Entries **MUST BE DECORATED** or they will not be allowed in the parade. **THE ONLY EXCEPTIONS ARE GRAND MARSHALL CARS and FIRST RESPONDERS!**
9. Political Floats are allowed, but under the condition that they share a positive message regarding the candidate represented. **The Jasper Merchants Associate is a private organization and will not tolerate negative, hate or protest messages of any kind during the parade; it is a family event, not a place to make political statements.** Anyone who violates this rule will be permanently banned from any future participation regardless of the organization they are presently working with.
10. All applications are subject to approval by the JMA Board of Directors. You will be notified if rejected.
11. **By signing your application, you are acknowledging that you have read and agree to these rules and disclaimer below. You must also have a signed Waiver and Release of Liability for each entry (last 4 pages of application).**

Additional Note: No applications will be accepted after December 1, 2026.

Waiver and Release of Liability: Applicant agrees to participate in the Night of Lights Parade at Applicant's own risk and covenants, and not to sue the Jasper Merchants Association (JMA) Board of Directors or Members, or the City of Jasper for any injury or damage suffered by Applicant and/or participants as a result of said participation. Applicant agrees that the JMA and the City of Jasper shall be free from all claims, by reason of any injury to any person, from any cause whatsoever arising from any occurrence in or near the Parade. Applicant shall indemnify and forever hold harmless the JMA and the City of Jasper against any and all such claims. Drivers and Participants that will be walking or riding on any floats must complete and return the Jasper Merchants Association Waiver and Release of Liability.

Any deviation to these rules must be approved by the JMA Board of Directors prior to the parade date



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Scoring Guidelines:

- Parade Theme: 15 possible points and 30% of your total score. Does your float portray the festival theme?
- Originality/Creativity: 10 possible points and 20% of your total score. Is your float unique from all the other floats? How does your float illustrate the festival theme and depict your group's personality?
- Personalization: 10 possible points and 20% of your total score. While conforming to the theme, does your business, club, or organization's message still come through? Can I tell who you are and what you are about through your float?
- Spirit of Christmas: 15 possible points and 20% of your total score. After all, this is a Christmas Parade. Hint – a fireside book reading, children building a snowman, or a living nativity will earn you more points than simply wearing Santa hats. (Please no Santa Clause on your floats. See parade rules.)
- City of Jasper/Pickens County Element: 5 possible points for 10% of your total score. This is our community and our parade. What does this city mean to you? Show us in your float.

Total possible Points: 50

ONE PERSON FROM EACH PARTICIPANT MUST ATTEND A MANDATORY PRE-PARADE MEETING
There may be changes in how/where we lineup and parade route this year.

MANDATORY MEETING: Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 6:00pm located in the Council Chambers at Jasper City Hall, 200 Burnt Mountain Road. **Please make plans to attend this meeting or have a representative do so on your behalf to get your line-up location and time. There may be changes in line up areas for this year.** There will be NO line-up changes made after this meeting or on the day of the parade. All vehicles **MUST BE DECORATED.**

Thank you for your participation in the 2026 Night of Lights Christmas Celebration. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. If you have concerns or more information, please contact:

Jasper Merchants Association • Jasper, Georgia 30143
email: JasperMerchantsAssociation@gmail.com or Phone: (706) 426-1968

WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY

IN CONSIDERATION OF the risk of injury that exists while participating in JASPER MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION'S "Night of Lights" Parade (hereinafter the "Activity"); and

IN CONSIDERATION OF my desire to participate in said Activity and being given the right to participate in same;

I HEREBY, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, assigns, or personal representatives (hereinafter collectively, "Releasor," "I" or "me", which terms shall also include Releasor's parents or guardian if Releasor is under 18 years of age), knowingly and voluntarily enter into this WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY and hereby waive any and all rights, claims or causes of action of any kind arising out of my participation in the Activity; and

I HEREBY release and forever discharge JASPER MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION located at 586 E Church Street, Jasper, Georgia 30143 and CITY OF JASPER GA located at 200 Burnt Mountain Road, Jasper, Georgia 30143, their affiliates, managers, members, agents, attorneys, staff, volunteers, heirs, representatives, predecessors, successors and assigns (collectively "Releasees"), from any physical or psychological injury that I may suffer as a direct result of my participation in the aforementioned Activity.

I AM VOLUNTARILY PARTICIPATING IN THE AFOREMENTIONED ACTIVITY AND I AM PARTICIPATING IN THE ACTIVITY ENTIRELY AT MY OWN RISK. I AM AWARE OF THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH PARTICIPATING IN THIS ACTIVITY, WHICH MAY INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO: PHYSICAL OR PSYCHOLOGICAL INJURY, PAIN, SUFFERING, ILLNESS, DISFIGUREMENT, TEMPORARY OR PERMANENT DISABILITY (INCLUDING PARALYSIS), ECONOMIC OR EMOTIONAL LOSS, AND DEATH. I UNDERSTAND THAT THESE INJURIES OR OUTCOMES MAY ARISE FROM MY OWN OR OTHERS' NEGLIGENCE, CONDITIONS RELATED TO TRAVEL TO AND FROM THE ACTIVITY, OR FROM CONDITIONS AT THE ACTIVITY LOCATION(S). NONETHELESS, I ASSUME ALL RELATED RISKS, BOTH KNOWN AND UNKNOWN TO ME, OF MY PARTICIPATION IN THIS ACTIVITY.

I FURTHER AGREE to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Releasees against any and all claims, suits or actions of any kind whatsoever for liability, damages, compensation or otherwise brought by me or anyone on my behalf, including attorney's fees and any related costs.

I FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE that Releasees are not responsible for errors, omissions, acts or failures to act of any party or entity conducting a specific event or activity on behalf of Releasees. In the event that I should require medical care or treatment, I authorize Jasper Merchants Association

to provide all emergency medical care deemed necessary, including but not limited to, first aid, CPR, the use of AEDs, emergency medical transport, and sharing of medical information with medical personnel. I further agree to assume all costs involved and agree to be financially responsible for any costs incurred as a result of such treatment. I am aware and understand that I should carry my own health insurance.

I FURTHER ACKNOWLEDGE that this Activity may involve a test of a person's physical and mental limits and may carry with it the potential for death, serious injury, and property loss. I agree not to participate in the Activity unless I am medically able and properly trained, and I agree to abide by the decision of the Jasper Merchants Association's official or agent, regarding my approval to participate in the Activity.

I HEREBY ACKNOWLEDGE THAT I HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS "WAIVER AND RELEASE" AND FULLY UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY. I EXPRESSLY AGREE TO RELEASE AND DISCHARGE JASPER MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION, CITY OF JASPER GA AND ALL OF ITS AFFILIATES, MANAGERS, MEMBERS, AGENTS, ATTORNEYS, STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, HEIRS, REPRESENTATIVES, PREDECESSORS, SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, FROM ANY AND ALL CLAIMS OR CAUSES OF ACTION AND I AGREE TO VOLUNTARILY GIVE UP OR WAIVE ANY RIGHT THAT I OTHERWISE HAVE TO BRING A LEGAL ACTION AGAINST JASPER MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION OR CITY OF JASPER GA FOR PERSONAL INJURY OR PROPERTY DAMAGE.

To the extent that statute or case law does not prohibit releases for ordinary negligence, this release is also for such negligence on the part of JASPER MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION AND CITY OF JASPER GA, its agents, and employees.

I agree that this Release shall be governed for all purposes by Georgia law, without regard to any conflict of law principles. This Release supersedes any and all previous oral or written promises or other agreements.

In the event that any damage to equipment or facilities occurs as a result of my or my family's or my agent's willful actions, neglect or recklessness, I acknowledge and agree to be held liable for any and all costs associated with any such actions of neglect or recklessness.

THIS AGREEMENT was entered into at arm's-length, without duress or coercion, and is to be interpreted as an agreement between two parties of equal bargaining strength. The Participant, _____, Jasper Merchants Association, and City of Jasper, GA agree that this is clear and unambiguous as to its terms, and that no other evidence shall be used or admitted to alter or explain the terms of this agreement, but that it will be interpreted based on the language in accordance with the purposes for which it is entered into.

In the event that any provision contained within this Release of Liability shall be deemed to be severable or invalid, or if any term, condition, phrase or portion of this agreement shall be determined to be unlawful or otherwise unenforceable, the remainder of this agreement shall remain in full force and effect. If a court should find that any provision of this agreement to be invalid or unenforceable, but that by limiting said provision it would become valid and enforceable, then said provision shall be deemed to be written, construed and enforced as so limited.

In the event of an emergency, please contact the following person(s) in the order presented:

<u>Emergency Contact</u>	<u>Contact Relationship</u>	<u>Contact Telephone</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

I, THE UNDERSIGNED PARTICIPANT, AFFIRM THAT I AM OF THE AGE OF 18 YEARS OR OLDER, AND THAT I AM FREELY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT. I CERTIFY THAT I HAVE READ THIS AGREEMENT, THAT I FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENT AND THAT THIS RELEASE CANNOT BE MODIFIED ORALLY. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT AND THAT I AM SIGNING IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL.

Participant's Name: _____

Participant's Address: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

PARENT / GUARDIAN WAIVER FOR MINORS

In the event that the participant is under the age of consent (18 years of age), then this release must be signed by a parent or guardian, as follows:

I HEREBY CERTIFY that I am the parent or guardian of _____, named above, and do hereby give my consent without reservation to the foregoing on behalf of this individual.

Parent / Guardian Name: _____

Relationship to Minor: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____