CUT BANK
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

PARADE OF LIGHTS

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION & SAFETY GUIDE

Celebrate the magic of the holiday season with the Cut Bank Chamber of Commerce Parade of Lights! Local businesses, organizations, nonprofits, families, and individuals are invited to join us for a festive evening celebrating the spirit of Christmas in our community.

LINEUP BEGINS	**4:45 PM**
PARADE STARTS	**5:30 PM SHARP**
FLOAT PHOTO DEADLINE	**Email a photo of your entry to cutbankchamber@gmail.com before 5:00 PM on December 5th**
Lineup Time & Location	Lineup begins at 4:45 PM at Glacier Motors. Please arrive ready to line up. The Parade Marshall will help coordinate placement.
Parade Start	The parade begins at 5:30 PM sharp. Entries should be in position before the start.
Required Entry Photo	Email a photo of your float or parade entry to cutbankchamber@gmail.com before 5:00 PM on parade day. This is to ensure a well lit photograph is available for peoples choice voting at the end of the parade.

1. PARADE INFORMATION

Registration Opens	November 1
Registration Deadline	December 4
Parade Route	Begins at Glacier Motors Inc., travels down Main Street, and ends at the Civic Center.
People's Choice Voting	At the Civic Center at the conclusion of the parade.
Registration Requirement	All entries must register by December 4 and select a judging category.

2. PARADE CATEGORIES & PRIZES

First-place winners in each category will receive a $50 cash prize.

CATEGORY	ELIGIBLE ENTRIES / PRIZE
Business	Local businesses and commercial establishments — First Place: $50 cash.
Organization / Nonprofit	Nonprofit organizations, clubs, schools, churches, community groups, and other organizations — First Place: $50 cash.
Individual	Individuals, families, and personal entries — First Place: $50 cash.

People's Choice Award — $50 Cash

- All parade entries, regardless of category, are eligible.
- Voting will take place at the Civic Center following the parade.
- Spectators may vote for their favorite entry. Voting instructions and ballot collection details will be provided at the Civic Center.
- People's Choice is separate from the category awards. An entry may win both a category prize and People's Choice.

3. FLOAT JUDGING CRITERIA

- **Holiday Lights & Illumination:** Creative and effective use of Christmas lights; how well the entry shines along the parade route.
- **Creativity & Originality:** Unique ideas, imaginative decorations, and memorable details.
- **Christmas Spirit & Theme:** How well the entry captures the magic and spirit of Christmas.

- **Overall Appearance:** Visual impact, presentation, and attention to detail; how well the elements work together.
- **Effort & Attention to Detail:** The time, effort, planning, and hard work put into creating and decorating the entry, including the thoughtfulness of details and overall preparation.
- **Community Spirit:** Enthusiasm, participation, and positive representation of the Cut Bank community.

Judges will use these criteria to select a first-place winner in each category.

4. PARADE SAFETY RULES

The safety of participants, spectators, and volunteers is our top priority. All parade entries must follow these rules.

Vehicles & Drivers

- All motorized entries must have a designated, licensed driver capable of safely operating the vehicle.
- Drivers must remain alert, travel at a slow and controlled speed, maintain safe spacing, and be prepared to stop.
- Reckless driving, sudden acceleration, burnouts, and other unsafe maneuvers are prohibited.
- Drivers must not use cell phones or other distracting devices while the vehicle is moving.
- Drivers must not be impaired by alcohol, drugs, or any substance that affects safe operation.
- Vehicles must be in safe operating condition, and decorations must be securely attached.

Floats & Decorations

- Floats and decorations must be securely constructed so items do not fall or become detached.
- Christmas lights and electrical equipment must be safely installed and suitable for the conditions in which they are used.
- Generators, extension cords, and electrical components must be secured and positioned to prevent fire, electrical, or tripping hazards.
- Open flames, fireworks, and other hazardous pyrotechnics are prohibited.
- Decorations must not obstruct the driver's visibility, interfere with vehicle controls, or create hazards.
- Entries must have adequate lighting and visibility for nighttime conditions.

Participants & Spectators

- Participants must stay with their assigned entry and follow instructions from parade officials and law enforcement.
- Children must be supervised by a responsible adult at all times.
- Participants must not jump on or off moving vehicles or floats.
- Do not throw candy, gifts, or other objects into the crowd or roadway. Items may only be distributed hand to hand.
- No one may run between moving vehicles unless well-lit/illuminated.
- Follow applicable traffic laws and any additional instructions from law enforcement or parade organizers.

Route & Conduct

- Follow the designated route from Glacier Motors Inc. down Main Street to the Civic Center.
- Maintain your assigned position and spacing unless directed otherwise by parade officials.
- Do not stop unexpectedly along the route or block intersections unless instructed by parade personnel.
- Keep the parade route clean; do not leave trash, decorations, or other materials behind.
- Entries that create unsafe conditions or refuse to follow safety instructions may be removed at the discretion of parade organizers or law enforcement.

5. PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

By registering for the Parade of Lights, participants agree to:

- Follow all parade safety rules and instructions from parade officials.

- Ensure their vehicle, float, decorations, and equipment are safe and secure.
- Provide appropriate adult supervision for participating children.
- Treat other participants, volunteers, spectators, and officials with courtesy and respect.
- Help maintain a safe, welcoming, and festive environment for the community.

The Cut Bank Chamber of Commerce reserves the right to address safety concerns and remove entries that do not comply with parade requirements.

6. BEFORE PARADE DAY

- Complete registration by December 4 and select the correct category.
- Review lineup and arrival instructions provided by parade organizers.
- Test all Christmas lights and electrical equipment.
- Secure decorations and confirm that driver visibility is not obstructed.
- Review the safety rules with everyone participating in your entry.

LET YOUR LIGHTS SHINE, BRING YOUR CHRISTMAS SPIRIT, AND HELP US CELEBRATE!

Cut Bank Chamber of Commerce

Celebrating Community. Supporting Local. Spreading Holiday Cheer.

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PARADE OF LIGHTS

PARADE ENTRY REGISTRATION FORM

Registration opens November 1 and closes December 4. Please complete this form and submit it by the registration deadline.

LINEUP BEGINS	**4:45 PM**
PARADE STARTS	**5:30 PM SHARP**
PHOTO DEADLINE	**Email a photo of your float/entry to cutbankchamber@gmail.com before 5:00 PM on parade day.**

1. CONTACT INFORMATION

Business / Organization / Individual Name: _____

Primary Contact Person: _____

Phone Number: _____ Email: _____

Mailing Address (optional): _____

2. ENTRY INFORMATION

Select ONE category:

☐ Business

☐ Organization / Nonprofit

☐ Individual / Family

Type of Entry (check one):

☐ Float / Trailer ☐ Decorated Vehicle ☐ Walking Group ☐ Other: _____

Brief Description / Theme of Entry:

_____

_____

Number of Participants: _____ Number of Children Participating (if any): _____

Will your entry have lights or electrical equipment? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Will anyone ride on the float or trailer? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, briefly describe: _____

_____

3. REQUIRED PHOTO SUBMISSION – PEOPLES CHOICE

A photo of your float or parade entry must be emailed to cutbankchamber@gmail.com **before 5:00 PM on parade day** to be entered for the people choice category**.**

Please include the business, organization, or contact name in the email subject line so we can match the photo to your registration.

Photo submitted: ☐ Yes ☐ Not yet

4. PARADE DAY DETAILS

- Lineup begins at 4:45 PM. Please arrive in time to line up and follow any instructions from parade volunteers.
- The parade begins at 5:30 PM sharp.
- Route: Starts at Glacier Motors Inc., travels down Main Street, and ends at the Civic Center.
- People's Choice voting will take place at the Civic Center at the conclusion of the parade.

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5. AWARDS

First-place category prizes: $50 cash each for Business, Organization/Nonprofit, and Individual. A separate $50 People's Choice Award will be selected by spectator voting at the Civic Center. An entry may win both a category prize and People's Choice.

6. SAFETY ACKNOWLEDGMENT

By signing below, I confirm that the information provided is accurate, I have reviewed the Parade of Lights Participant Information & Safety Guide, and I agree that everyone participating with my entry will follow the safety rules and instructions from parade officials and law enforcement. I understand that entries creating unsafe conditions or failing to follow instructions may be removed from the parade.

Signature of Responsible Contact: _____ Date: _____

Printed Name: _____