

2026 FANTASY OF LIGHTS PARADE ENTRY APPLICATION

All entries must be reviewed and approved by the parade committee prior to participation in the parade. If you have questions, please contact at the Howell Area Chamber of Commerce at 517.546.3920 or email lcurnalia@howell.org

All entries will be notified prior to November 12th regarding acceptance. If accepted, a representative from your group must attend the float entry meeting to be held at the Howell Area Chamber of Commerce (123 E. Washington St., Howell) on November 16th at 6 pm.

Name of Organization/Business: _____

Contact Person: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip code: _____

Contact person's telephone daytime: _____ Evening: _____

Fax number _____ E-mail address _____

The 2026 Fantasy of Lights Parade theme is: Let It Glow!

Please check ONE category

Note: NO "WALKING" entries are allowed in the parade except marching bands and color guard

_____ Equestrian/Horse unit _____ Float _____ Marching Band

_____ Fire Unit _____ Color Guard/Veterans Unit _____ Musical Group

_____ Animal (type) _____

Will your entry have music? _____ Yes _____ No

Please provide a description of your use of theme. How will it be constructed, decorated and what will it look like?

What types of music, sound effects, animation and how lights will be used etc.? You may include a drawing of the float.

Pulling Vehicle Type & Length _____

Entry Height _____ (max height is 13 ft. from the ground) Width _____ (maximum width is 8.6 feet)

Entry Length _____ (max length is 55 ft..)

Approximately how many lights will be used on your entry? (Minimum recommendation - 5,000 lights) _____

Has your organization/business been in the parade before? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, how many years? _____

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. ALL entries must have lights on them (**including approved walking entries**).
2. **You may not have a Santa on your entry - we have invited the "real" Santa! No additional Santa allowed!**
3. There will be no more than 60 entries. Entries will be evaluated for acceptance based on theme use, entertainment value and use of lights (clear and colored).
4. A maximum of three dog entries will be accepted into the parade. If you have a vehicle accompany your dogs, it **MUST** have lights on it and have the animals on board.
5. No unit will be admitted into the parade that has not been pre-approved. Entries will **NOT** be accepted or considered after November 12th.
6. The Fantasy of Lights committee reserves the right to reject any entry that is not in good taste, inappropriate, or not in the best interest of the parade.
7. Entries depicting a political organization, candidate or controversial issue will not be considered.
8. Maximum height for entries is **13 feet** from the ground. Maximum width is **8.6 feet**. Maximum length is **55 ft.**
9. All units are required to always maintain forward motion. No maneuvers are allowed that slows the forward movement of the parade. This includes color guards, animal entries and cheer/pom teams. **NO DRILLS!**
10. All entries **should** be properly identified with signs or banners with the organization's name so the spectators know who you are – however there may **NOT** be any banners hanging in the front of the vehicle. This is not a commercial parade –please no sales messages – a holiday message is suggested.
11. Drivers of motorized vehicles must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid driver's license. The chamber must receive a copy of the driver's license one week prior to parade day. Participants are required to have auto and general liability insurance covering bodily injury and property damage.
12. Sirens and Horns - **Please refrain from using them.** They frighten young children and animals and compete with musical units and are not in keeping with the parade holiday ambience.
13. Only **one** powered vehicle will be permitted for each entry.
14. **A maximum of 20 walkers is permitted to walk with your entry.** The walkers must be able to keep up with the pace and length of the parade. We do not allow "walking only" units other than marching bands (including cheer/pom), three dog entries and the color guard.
15. Equestrian and animal units must provide their own accompanying clean-up personnel and equipment. Please make sure the horses have the proper shoes. If you have a vehicle, carriage etc. it **MUST** have lights on it to go through the parade.
16. All parade participants are required to conduct themselves in such a manner as not to infringe on the rights of those people living in and along the staging areas and parade route. **NO solicitation is allowed during event.**

SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

1. **No objects including candy, flyers, or favors, may be THROWN or DISTRIBUTED out along the entire parade route or in the staging area. Michigan State Law prohibits the throwing of items in a parade.**
2. There will be no fueling of generators during the parade. Fuel cans (gasoline, fuel oil, etc.) are not allowed to be stored on the entry. They can be stored in the vehicle.
3. There will be NO live fires or open flames on any floats. No straw or hay is to be used.
4. One current 5 lb. ABC Dry Chemical extinguisher must be carried and accessible on each float. The gauge must be in the green area.
5. There are to be no vision obstructions to tow vehicles. An observer other than the driver is required with all towed entries. The observer can walk or ride with the entry.
6. Electrical problems are a concern. Safety inspectors will look for common hazards such as exceeding the number of light strands per manufacturer's specifications, faulty extension cords, staples in wiring, etc.
7. There will be a brief **mandatory driver meeting at 6:30 p.m.** in the staging area on the night of the parade (More details to come).
8. Float riders are only permitted to ride on the float during the parade. They are to load onto the float in the staging area and unload at the disbursement area on Grand River between Elm and National Street.
9. Alcohol beverages are not allowed in the staging area, during the parade, or disbursement.
10. No smoking near or on entries.
11. Please place your generators in a well-ventilated area on your entry. We recommend using 10-to-12-gauge wire to the generator.
12. **Any violation of the rules or safety requirements could result in your not being able to participate in the parade.**

I have read the accompanying safety and rules guidelines and agree to abide by them.

Responsible party signature _____ Date _____

Please email completed form to lcurnalia@howell.org

or mail to: Howell Area Chamber of Commerce, Fantasy of Lights, 123 E. Washington St., Howell 48843

Help support the Fantasy of Lights, a program of the Howell Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation, a nonprofit 501 (c) 3. We are reaching out to the community for support to make the event sustainable in years to come. Donations made to the Howell Area Chamber of Commerce Foundation are tax deductible. Thanks for your consideration.