

35th Annual Rotary Christmas Parade

THEME:
CELEBRATING HOMETOWN USA

CHRISTMAS PARADE 2024

Saturday, December 7TH
Benton, LA @ 3:00pm

Grand Marshall

Sydney Conley Elliott

2024 USA Paris Olympian

Registration deadlines:

Email: Monday, November 25th
bentonrotaryparade@gmail.com

USPS registration- mail by
Saturday, November 23rd

Day of Parade 9:00 to 1:00
Saturday, December 7th

Parade Check-In

ROTARY tent on the corner of the
School Board Office beginning at
9:00 am

Please consider a minimum
donation of \$25 per parade
entry for Benton Rotary
community projects.

Checks: Rotary Club of Benton
OR
Cash OR Venmo



venmo

MANDATORY SAFETY MEETING
Saturday, December 7th
1:00 pm at the Benton Rotary
Registration Tent

Organization Name: _____
Contact Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Organization contact E-mail Address: _____
Parade Entry Drivers Name: _____
Cell Phone of driver: _____
Driver's License Number of driver (REQUIRED for motorized entries): _____
Vehicle/motorcycle Insurance: _____

PLEASE CHECK ONE:

ENTRY TYPE: ___ FLOAT ___ WALKING/BICYCLE ___ MOTORCYCLE
___ BAND/DANCE/ GROUP ORGANIZATION ___ PRINCESS/QUEEN/KING
___ CLASSIC OR ANTIQUE CAR/TRUCK ___ **HORSE RIDER/GROUP

NOTE: All entries with horses or other animals will park trailers at the Simpson Street Park for staging and registration.

Entry Description

****Walkers Name: (4- WALKERS REQUIRED for entries larger than pick-up trucks; 2-walkers for all other entries. No exceptions ** MANDATORY per Benton Police Chief**

1. Name: _____
2. Name: _____
3. Name: _____
4. Name: _____

How to submit registration documents:

- Mail forms no later than November 23rd to P.O. Box 525, Benton, LA 71106; OR
- Email by noon on November 28th to bentonrotaryparade@gmail.com, OR
- **Fax:** 318-965-2577 (faxed registrations must be received by noon on Thursday, November 28th) OR
- Bring to parade Registration Booth between 9:00 am to 1:00 pm day of parade.

PARADE ENTRY
NUMBER

BENTON ROTARY CHRISTMAS PARADE HOLD- HARMLESS AGREEMENT

Participant in Benton, Louisiana, hereby represent(s) the following:

(1) if an individual, I am over the age of 18 and a resident of the State of Louisiana, and, if a corporation or partnership, the entity is duly organized in good standing with all regulatory authorities of the State of Louisiana.

(2) if an individual, I am either an authorized driver of the participating vehicle, or the owner/operator of the participating vehicle.

(3) if a corporation or partnership, the undersigned is the owner of the participating vehicle and has granted the undersigned individual the right to operate the participating vehicle in the parade; and

(4) if the owner of the participating vehicle, the undersigned hereby represents that the vehicle is insured at least up to the minimum requirements of the insurance laws of the State of Louisiana, and that the said insurance is provided by a company qualified to do business and doing business in the State of Louisiana; (5) the undersigned acknowledges that said parade vehicles correspond to height and length restrictions as set forth by the City of Benton, Bossier Parish and the State of Louisiana height and length restrictions for use on roadways.

(6) whether a corporation, or partnership, or individual the individual driver has a valid driver's license, which has not been revoked, suspended, or otherwise restricted. therein consideration of the invitation, extended by the organizers to allow the undersigned to participate in the parade, the undersigned agrees as follows:

(a) to waive any claim for compensation for participating in the parade and to grant the organizers the right to film, photograph, undersigned so recorded, free of charge, in connection with the business of the organizers or the future promotion of the parade.

(b) to refrain from the display of any obscene, profane or socially offensive language, symbols or advertisements on or within the participating vehicle, and to refrain from participating in or allowing any activity on or within the participating vehicle which might be considered obscene or socially offensive; and (3) to release, defend and hold harmless, Benton Rotary Club and Benton Festival Committee, and the members and organization of any and all liability arising out of any claims, of whatever kind or nature, due to the participation of the undersigned or his vehicle in the parade.

(7) *No alcohol is permitted in vehicles OR floats during the parade.*

(8) The undersigned has read, understands, and agrees to all the provided parade and rider rules included in the official parade packet. **OPTION FOR GROUPS 10 or MORE, please all print names on back of this document and sign, have parents sign for minor children.**

ROTARY PARADE OFFICIAL Use Only: Safety Mtg _____ Rotary Member Initials _____

Participant or guardian of minor Signature/Date

www.bentonchristmasonthesquare.com Visit the Festival website for information on all the activities of the day!

MANDATORY SAFETY MEETING:

Safety Meeting will held on Saturday, December 7 (day of parade) at 1:00pm at the Registration Table.

35th Annual Rotary Christmas Parade

GUIDELINES -initial each article – Return with registration and keep a copy to review with your participants.

THEME: Celebrating Hometown USA

_____ Parade entry must be decorated in a respectable theme. We ask that you do not have SANTA on your float but may have elves. The Benton Rotary Club carries SANTA on their float at the end of parade.

_____ Horse entries will be at the end of the parade.

_____ No alcoholic beverages permitted on float during the parade.

_____ Should an entry tow or trailer experience a breakdown of any kind during line up or while the parade is rolling, a parade official will help arrange for the entry to be pulled off the parade route.

_____ Parade officials reserve the right to remove any entry from the parade for not abiding by the rules outlined above.

_____ THE PARADE WILL ROLL AT 3:00 SHARP! Everyone should be loaded on their floats at 2:30 pm with the engines running.

_____ Keep pace with the float in front of you. Avoid large gaps.

_____ No GLASS bottles - please bring plastic for safety. No alcoholic beverages.

_____ Animals must be on a leash or restraint and always controlled. This includes walking in the parade or riding on a float or in the cab.

_____ No throwing while the floats are stopped. Please advise float riders. Riders should try not to drop throws too closely to the float – children tend to dart toward the float to catch them. Do not hand throws to someone over the side of the float. Do not throw in front or behind your float. Throw from the sides to the crowd to encourage spectators to move back.

POST PARADE PICK UP: Do not stop your vehicle coming back onto Simpson. Continue past the School Board office down to Simpson Street Park to unload.

I have read the guidelines, and I will review with participants included with my parade entry.

Print Name & Signature

Date



BENTON ROTARY CHRISTMAS PARADE INFORMATION

REGISTRATION:

- A. Mail in registration should be mailed by November 23rd. On-site registration- 9:00-1:00, Saturday, December 7th.
ENTRIES - When lining up should not block private driveways.
- B. **Release and Hold Harmless Agreement.** All entrants must sign and submit. Option for groups of 10 or more, submit 1 form with all names printed on the back with signature of participant or guardian of minor participants.

PARADE DAY PROCEDURES:

CHECK IN: Visit registration tent at the corner of Simpson on the School Board lawn. Entry numbers will be assigned during line up. Please put the number in front left windshield- visible for parade review stand.

LINE UP is on a first- come- first in line basis. All entries must be checked in by 1:00 pm

NEW: How & where to line up: Travel North on Hwy 3 (Benton Road), then turn right on Hwy 162 (5th Street); travel 0.6 miles and turn right on Montgomery Lane then right on Simpson. Continue to Bossier St and turn right. Turn left on 6th Street, then left on Sibley. (PLEASE DO NOT block street entrance or residential driveways) Once parked, at least one person needs to remain with entry. Parade officials will assign entry number.

PARADE ROUTE

Start at Simpson & Sibley (near the School Board Office), travel south on Sibley, cross over on Old Bellevue Road- come North on Lee Street back up to Simpson, turn right and continue down Simpson to unload in the Simpson Street Park.

Please check the festival website in the upcoming weeks for updated information on the parade.

www.bentonchristmasonthesquare.com



Grand Marshall

Sydney Conley Elliott

Dreams do come true. Just ask Benton's Sydney Conley Elliott. Sydney and her horse, Q-C Diamantaire, recently competed in the 2024 Paris Olympics. Initially named as alternates on the U.S. team, Elliott and Q-C Diamantaire were officially added to the four-horse team just two hours before the start of the Olympics after an injury sidelined another member.

- By Stacey Tinsley, Bossier Press-Tribune