

Medina Parade of Lights -- Medina, NY

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How do I enter?

A. Send in the entry form. If you don't have one you can call parade organizers, Jim Hancock (798-2118), Reinhard Rogowski (585 318-4105) or Dave Miller (798-3904).

Q. What kind of entries are allowed?

A. We're hoping to have some nicely decorated floats, but many other possibilities exist. You can enter a lighted tractor, truck, fire truck, car, golf cart, bicycle... Also, marching or performing groups (also utilizing lights where possible). You get the idea, just about any kind of entry is possible.

Q. How do I get the electricity to power lights on my float or vehicle?

A. There are several possibilities:

- Obtain power directly from vehicle battery (special 12V bulbs needed). It's even possible to use light strings that run off AA or similar battery packs.
- Obtain a power inverter which will convert 12V battery voltage to 120V (available at NAPA and many other retail automotive or camping departments).
- Use a small gas powered electrical generator (BE CAREFUL when handling gasoline and be cautious of heat and carbon monoxide from generator!!).

Q. How many lights can I run off my power source?

A. The new LED lights use much less power than older incandescent bulbs, so you can run more on your battery or other power source. For example a 400W power inverter might run 10 strings of LED lights, but only 2 or 3 strings of incandescent. Look at the wattage rating for the lights and DON'T OVERLOAD your power source or fuses.

B. Always check your system ahead of time to be sure it will run for the 1 hour length of the parade without draining your battery or blowing a fuse. (There's nothing worse than having your lights go out just as you're turning down Main Street!)

Q. Do I need an electrician to help?

A. Most entries will use light strings plugged into a standard outlet. So it's not much different than decorating your house or yard for the holidays. But be careful and remember that conditions the day of the parade could be wet. If you have questions, it would be good to consult an electrician or someone else with experience in outdoor lighting.

Q. Where can I get ideas and supplies for my parade entry?

A. The web has many sources of information. Search for Christmas parade, Christmas floats, etc. There are many ideas for what you might do.

Q. Can I add music to my display?

A. By all means. Music can add a lot to the display. A live performance, e.g. a choral group, would be great. Or you could use recorded seasonal music. There are also ways to synchronize your lights with the music.

A Few Website links:

Christmas Float ideas: (there are many more - just search for christmas float ideas)

<http://paradefloats.wordpress.com/category/christmas-float/>,

http://christmas.lovetoknow.com/Christmas_Parade_Float_Ideas

http://www.ehow.com/way_5134849_church-parade-float-ideas.html

Inverters: www.dcacpowerinverters.com

LED light strings: www.imaginarycolours.com

Music synchronizing: www.youtube.com/watch?v=szLmAPW39uE