

46th Annual
Pinellas Park
CHRISTMAS PARADE
December Eighth Two Thousand and Eighteen

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION

QUICK FACTS

DATE	DECEMBER 8th, 2018
START TIME	6:00PM
LINE-UP BEGINS	4:00PM
LINE-UP CONCLUDES	5:30PM

GETTING TO THE LINEUP AREA

Road closures will start between 12:30PM and 1:00PM and will progress eastbound as follows (*all times are estimations*):

- Park Blvd at 66th Street at **1:00PM**
- Park Blvd at 58th Street at **1:30PM**
- Park Blvd at 49th Street at **2:15PM**
- Park Blvd at 40th Street at **3:30PM**

Keep in mind:

- You will not be able to cross Park Blvd between 66th Street and U.S. 19 after 3:30PM.
- You will not be able to utilize 49th Street between 70th Avenue and 78th Avenue after 2:15 p.m.

LINEUP

- The lineup area opens to participants at **4:00PM**. **There are to be absolutely no parade participant vehicles or individuals on Park Blvd prior to this time.**
- Access to the lineup area is limited to **65th Way via 70th Avenue ONLY**. Some units will be placed on specific side streets per their lineup information.
- Vehicles not participating in the parade will not be permitted past 72nd Avenue on any side street. *For example, a vehicle dropping off children to walk in the parade must stop at 72nd Avenue and let them off there to prevent unnecessary traffic in the lineup area.*
- Your lineup position will be marked with a wooden stake. When you arrive at the marked location, pull your vehicle to the curb (slow) lane or center lane and as far forward as possible. The space allotted to you is based on utilizing the curb and center lanes. *For example, if your entry consists of two truck and trailer combinations that are 40 feet each, you will be allotted 40 feet so that the vehicles can be parked side-by-side.*
- Vehicles may only travel eastbound in the lineup area. If you miss your lineup position you must turn south onto a side street, west onto 70th Avenue and back to 65th Way to re-enter the lineup area.
- The median lane (fast lane) must remain clear at all times, there are no exceptions.

- Someone with a key must remain posted with participating vehicles at all times.
- **The lineup area is closed to all vehicles at 5: 30PM, there are no exceptions.**



LINEUP TIPS

- Once participating vehicles are in place, the driver(s) can identify the nearest side street to direct any individual participants. *For example, if your lineup location is closest to 61st Street on Park Blvd, individuals can be dropped off at 61st Street and 72nd Avenue to minimize walking distance.*
- **REMEMBER: the lineup area closes to vehicles at 5:30PM, not individuals.**
- If you only have one vehicle in your entry, position it in the center lane and use the curb lane as a waiting area for any walkers that will be accompanying your entry. This makes the vehicle a buffer between the median (parade traffic) lane and pedestrians.

PARADE SAFETY OFFICERS

- Certain entries are exempt from the requirement. These entries include: car clubs, marching bands, and government agencies. Other exemptions can be issued by the parade committee.
- PSO responsibilities include ensuring all individuals within the entry adhere to the rules and regulations and serve as the primary point of contact for parade officials during the event.
- PSOs are required to walk along the parade route in the curb lane beside their respective entries.
- PSOs will wear a safety vest that will be provided by the parade committee so that they can be easily identified by parade officials and law enforcement personnel for the duration of the parade.

THE PARADE

- Preliminary units will step off promptly at 5:55PM and the parade will step off at 6:00PM.
- Before the parade begins, your lineup number should be positioned in the lower corner of the windshield on the passenger side of the first vehicle of your entry. Do not duplicate the lineup number for every vehicle in your entry. If your entry does not include a vehicle, affix it to a banner or signage.
- Once the parade begins to move, reposition into the center lane (entries lined up side-by-side should fall in line).
- For entries that include vehicles and walkers, **vehicles must be in the center lane and walkers must be in the curb lane.**
- The median lane must continue to remain clear once the parade begins for use by parade officials and emergency personnel as needed.
- Until you cross parade start (railroad tracks), be on the lookout for parade officials that may be directing other entries from side streets into position in front of you.

- There is no stopping at any time once the parade begins, there are no exceptions.
- There is no loading or unloading of individuals from vehicles or floats once the parade begins – this creates a safety risk.
- Should a vehicle within your entry experience a mechanical issue, pull out of the center lane and notify a parade official or police officer along the route.
- The reviewing stand is located at Park Blvd and 53rd Street.

DISTRIBUTION OF PARADE HANDOUTS

- Handouts include, but are not limited to: beads, individually wrapped candy, apparel, and soft/inflatable item.
- Prohibited items include, but are not limited to: paper products, lollipops, coins, and pens/pencils.
- Handouts must be thrown underhand from vehicles/floats or tossed to spectators by participants walking along the route (preferred).
- Drivers of vehicles/floats may not distribute handouts along the parade route.
- Any participants found to be intentionally throwing handouts carelessly or with the intent to cause injury will result in immediate ejection.

THE END OF THE PARADE

- The parade disperses in all directions at 40th Street (The Shoppes at Park Place):
 1. Northbound U.S. 19
 2. Southbound U.S. 19
 3. Westbound Park Blvd (via U.S. 19 underpass U-turn)
 4. Eastbound Gandy Blvd (via U.S. 19 overpass)
- The Pinellas Park Police Department has provided the following additional traffic options at the end of the parade:
 1. The ramp to U.S. 19 is being split in two. The left lane (of the ramp) will be for thru traffic wishing to head north/south on U.S. 19 or west on Park Blvd via the underpass. The right lane will be for vehicles wishing to stop to unload passengers into the mall parking lot before continuing.
 2. Vehicles wishing to continue eastbound onto Gandy Blvd may utilize the U.S. 19 overpass.

THE END OF THE PARADE TIPS

- The objective of parade and law enforcement officials is to prevent congestion at the end of the parade and in the immediate vicinity of the 40th Street entrance to the mall parking lot.
- Getting away from parade-related traffic is highly recommended. Many groups proceed to other locations nearby to briefly pull over and offload participants or break down floats.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS

- This is a one Santa parade – provided by the Pinellas Park Kiwanis Club. Reindeer, elves, and sleighs are okay. Likenesses of Santa will be removed from their respective entries.
- Santa (the last entry) left staging just after 7:45PM last year – this is a long parade.
- Please be respectful to private property throughout the lineup area.
- This is a Christmas Parade. Decorations, music, and handouts (other than throw beads and candy) should be holiday-themed.
- Parade officials expect those operating vehicles (of any kind) in the parade to do so in a safe, responsible manner. Erratic driving, burnouts, or any actions deemed unsafe will result in removal from the parade.

- Celebrate Pinellas Park, Inc. has a **zero tolerance policy** for alcohol. If it is found onboard any vehicles or on any person participating in the parade, they will be removed from the event and turned over to the Pinellas Park Police Department.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

QUESTION	ANSWER
Are there restrooms available?	There are port-o-lets positioned along Park Blvd, most heavily on the parade route itself.
Can I leave my car somewhere in the lineup area and return to it later?	Street parking is legal, but should be done at your own discretion.
Can I obtain an electronic copy of this information that I can share with others that are a part of my entry?	Yes. This document will be posted on our website (celebratepinellaspark.com) by December 7 th . If it is needed sooner, e-mail us at celebratepinellaspark@gmail.com .
Can you estimate what side street [insert lineup number here] will be closest to?	No. We recommend the driver(s) of participating vehicles arrive early to identify the nearest side street to the lineup location.
How can I obtain a DVD copy of the parade when they become available?	Contact the City of Pinellas Park Government Relations Division at (727) 369-0700.
What if someone in our entry gets tired and cannot walk any further?	There are breaks in the barricades at cross streets along the route. They can step onto the crowd side of the barricades to get off the route.
Where does the parade “officially” start?	At Park Blvd and the railroad tracks; however spectators begin gathering a block or so before that.
Will there be barricades along the route to keep the crowd back?	Yes.