



Festival of Lights Parade 2025

Dear Friends,

On Saturday, December 6th, 2025, starting at 4:30 pm in downtown Bangor, the Rotary Club of Bangor will once again stage its yearly Festival of Lights Parade.

Our **2025 theme is "Unite for Good"**.

As in the past, we hope to present a spectacular nighttime parade, featuring entries that convey the many ways of celebrating winter in Maine.

To help defray the cost of transportation, Rotary will contribute up to \$1,000 to the **first marching band (school or non-profit)** who registers and marches in our parade.

We can accommodate approximately 80 glittering units: marching bands, small and large floats, dancers and other performing groups. Your group may represent traditional scenes celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah, Ramadan, New Years, Solstice, Kwanzaa or any winter happening. This dazzling event brightens the season for the thousands of spectators who will line the streets of Bangor.

You may apply to be part of this parade by completing an electronic application form. Please click here to access the electronic application form:

<https://bangorrotary.org/events/festival-of-lights-parade-2025/>

Please describe your unit/float design (art work doesn't count - any layout will help planners tremendously - size and theme will help us plan). *We ask you to include these with your application as it helps us present a better parade for spectators...we want to avoid putting two "Frosty" floats, or two units playing the same music close together.*

There is no fee to participate in the Parade. The deadline for registering is **November 1st at 5:00 PM.** Please call Jan Currier at 207-942-8261 Ext. 224 with questions or concerns regarding your application, or participation in the Bangor Rotary's *Festival of Lights Parade*. **Please provide your email address** in your application to allow timely communication from the committee. We will not share it with others outside the Parade Committee operation.

The parade is weather dependent. If we have inclement weather that is not conducive to a safe Parade environment, we will move the parade to December 13th. Same times and lineup will be used.

Building A Float

Creating a spectacular float—that is all aglow-takes time, a dedicated crew of volunteers and Yankee ingenuity. Check out these websites for ideas and have fun building a fabulous entry.

<http://www.valleydecorating.com/howto.html>
<http://www.wikihow.com/Build-a-Float>
<http://www.beverlyfarms.org/Float-Building-Manual.pdf>
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bzfeO5kM3VU>
<http://paradefloats.wordpress.com/category/winter-float/>
<https://www.cityofeastpeoria.com/149/Festival-of-Lights>

Judging and Trophies

Our judges will be seated on the Reviewing Stand in West Market Square. Marching bands, performing groups and those who would like to perform (a song, dance, skit, etc), for the judges will have 30 seconds to stop at the reviewing stand. *Please practice with a stopwatch.*

The Bangor Rotary will present trophies in seven categories plus **Best Overall Entry**. On the application form be sure to check off the **appropriate designations** for your unit. Categories include:

- Outstanding **Non-Profit**
- Outstanding **Youth Group**
- Outstanding **Commercial Entry**
- Outstanding **Municipal**
- Outstanding **Performing Entry**
- Outstanding **Adult Group**
- Outstanding **Band**

Notes to Entrants

For last minute info go to <http://www.BangorRotary.org> or <https://www.facebook.com/BangorRotary>

This is a nighttime parade...be sure your entry (vehicle and people) is festively decorated and loaded with **lots of lights!!!**

- ♦ Please no candles. Use a *quiet* generator or another source of power. *Test and re-test your lights. Follow the manufacturer's instructions. Fuel should not be carried on any float.*

- ♦ **No candy or other items are to be handed out or thrown to spectators along the parade route. This is a safety requirement, as children dart into the streets for candy.**

- ♦ During the parade, designate at least two spotters to walk near your float to check on float riders and parade viewers.

Due to the shorter route and staging area limitations, we ask that all entrants be limited to one vehicle.

- ♦ Vehicle Operators should possess a valid Maine Driver's license and be at least 18 years of age. This includes any commercial vehicles and the operator.
- ♦ Floats should be constructed to support the number of participants.

- ♦ Create 2 signs with your organization's name (**1 for each side of your float**) so spectators and judges will know who you are. Parade Unit numbers will be added to each float by Rotary volunteers on the day of the parade.
- ♦ Please, **NO Santa**—we already have one.
- ♦ *Please be sure your entry features music.* You may sing, play instruments, or play recorded music.

Parade Formation Parade units will form on Exchange Street and utilize the side streets and parking areas around Exchange Street including Hancock Street between Oak and Exchange, York Street between Oak and Exchange, as well as the public lots in Kenduskeag Plaza. The staging area is marked below in **RED**.



Parade Route The “official” parade starting point is the intersection of State/Exchange Streets. From there, the route turns left on State Street and proceeds to the intersection of Main/State/Hammond. It then turns left onto Main Street and proceeds up Main Street to the intersection of Main/Water Street, and continues to the intersection of Water/Washington Street. The parade will end at the intersection of Water and Washington Streets. The parade route is marked above in **YELLOW**.

Location for the Parade End: We will use Exchange Street and the side streets and parking areas around Exchange Street including Hancock Street between Oak and Exchange, York Street between Oak and Exchange as well as the public lots in Kenduskeag Plaza to unload the floats and breakdown as necessary.

Special thanks to our Parade route businesses for their understanding during the closing of the roads in front of their establishments. Please remember to thank them by visiting them and shopping while you are in Bangor.

Sincerely,

Jan Currier, 2025 President

Rotary Club of Bangor

Email: OpportunityKnocksInRealEstate@gmail.com

Work #: 207-942-8261 Ext 224



The Rotary Club of Bangor is dedicated to serving the needs of the people of the greater Bangor region and beyond. Meetings are held both via Zoom and in person at the Dyke Center for Family Business at Husson University each Tuesday at 12 noon. Rotary Club of Bangor annually distributes more than \$25,000 to charitable organizations and causes. Learn more at : www.bangorrotary.org