

Vergennes Ho Ho Ho Holiday Roll TRACTOR PARADE RULES

We're delighted to welcome you to the **First Annual Vergennes Holiday Tractor Parade!** This new Little City event celebrates community, creativity, and the spirit of the season. To ensure a safe and joyful event for everyone, please review and follow the rules below. Should any participant fail to obey the rules of the parade or Vergennes Police, their entry will be disqualified from the awards and they may not be invited to participate in the future.

Eligibility

- Tractors Only. Tractors include riding lawn mowers and side-by-sides (UTVs & RTVs). Tractors may be towed on a trailer by another tractor, truck or car.
- No ATVs or backhoes are allowed.
- No trucks or cars are allowed EXCEPT as tow vehicles.
- No trailers are allowed EXCEPT for towing a tractor. Essentially, no floats this year.
- Tractors being driven must have Iz brakes and an emergency kill switch or device that is easily accessible to the driver.

Registration

- All entries must pre-register by **December 5, 2025** either online at www.VergennesDowntown.org/HolidayRoll or in-person at the **National Bank of Middlebury** (29 Green St, Vergennes; drive-through is available).
- All entries must abide by the parade rules provided herein and at registration.
- There is **NO** entry fee.

Decorations

- Holiday Theme. All entries must be decorated of "holiday theme" with lights, garland, bows, figurines, etc. Tow vehicles must also be decorated.
- Light Requirements. All entries must be lighted with a minimum of 1,000 lights. Battery-powered or generator-powered lights only – no open flames.
- Décor Placement. Decorations must be securely fastened and not obstruct the driver's view.
- Costumes. Costumes for the driver and any passengers are encouraged; however, NO full Santa Claus costumes are allowed. There will only be one Santa, and he will be on the last tractor of the parade. Santa hats are ok. Be creative and festive!
- Music. Entries with music must play holiday music only.
- Advertising. No commercial advertising is allowed, except for parade sponsors. No political advertising is allowed.

Riders & Passengers

- Passengers. No riders on tractors unless there is a properly fitted seat for an additional rider. No standing or riding on fenders, drawbars, or hitches. No legs may dangle over the side of the vehicle.
- Children. Children aged 10 and younger must be accompanied by a parent/adult on a ratio of 1 adult to 1 child. The child must be secured with a seat belt.

Safety & Parade Conduct

- Fire Safety. A working fire extinguisher must be present on every tractor.
- Generators. All generators must be secured and kept away from combustible items. No refueling of generators will be allowed once the parade is in motion.
- Smoking, Alcohol & Firearms. No smoking or alcoholic beverages are allowed on any parade entry at any time on the parade route or in the staging area. No firearms are permitted.

- Driver Responsibility. Drivers must remain with their tractor at all times. If the driver must leave the tractor momentarily, the tractor must not be left in gear or running. (This will prevent someone else from operating the tractor and accidentally running over themselves, others, or other equipment.)
- Walkers. No walkers alongside the tractors are allowed.
- Handouts. For the safety of participants and spectators, DO NOT THROW ANYTHING from the tractor on the parade route. Not candy nor any other objects.
- Respect and Order. This is a family-friendly community event. Please display good sportsmanship and holiday spirit! Treat event volunteers with respect and conduct yourself in an orderly fashion. Direct any concerns to a parade official.

Line-Up & Parade Route

- Staging Area: The staging area will be at the Champlain Valley Christian School, 2 Church St, Vergennes.
- **Check-In. All entries must check-in no later than 4:30pm at the Staging Area. Expected departure time is 5:15pm.**
- Parade Order. The order of the parade is at the discretion of the Lead Parade Official and may be determined by order of arrival. Each participant will be assigned a number when they check-in with the Lead Parade Official. The last tractor will be sponsored by the Grand Sponsor and carry Santa Claus.
- Parade Route. The parade route will start at the Champlain Valley Christian School, turn left onto New Haven Rd, go up Green St, cross Main St, turn right onto North St, turn right onto Park St, and end there. The parade will not loop back – participants are free to go in any direction after they leave Park St. A route map will be provided to participants.
- Parade Flow. All entries must be forward-moving, keep a slow, steady speed (approx. 3-5 mph), and always keep at least two tractor's length distance between you and the entry ahead. Parade officials will help regulate this.
- Straight Ahead. Always drive parallel to the spectators.
- No Stopping. Do not stop to perform or interact with the crowd anytime along the parade route.

Prize Awards

- Prize Categories. Prizes will be awarded for the following categories: Best Lighted Design, Best Costume, and Best Theme. Award certificates and prizes will be given to the winners.
- Judging. All entries will be judged at the Staging Area. The winners will be announced at City Park once the parade procession fully surrounds the Park. The judge(s) review criteria and ratings will be documented, and their decisions will be final.

General Rules

- Instructions. Follow the parade officials' instructions during the assemblage and procession.
- Right of Refusal. The parade officials reserve the right to refuse or remove any entry that in their opinion does not conform to parade rules.
- Cancellations. Rain or snow – the parade will go on unless conditions are deemed unsafe. Cancellation notifications will be made by 1:00pm on the day of the parade and provided directly to all parade entries (via email or phone). Notification will also be available by calling Vergennes Partnership at 802.398.7399 or viewed on social media @vergennespartnership.