



America's 250th Birthday Parade

Rapid City, SD

Join us and be a part of history as Rapid City hosts a spectacular parade celebrating America's 250th birthday!

The Festival of Lights Parade is stepping into the spotlight for a special, **one-year-only** summer celebration! In partnership with the City of Rapid City, parade organizers are hosting a parade to help celebrate America's 250th Birthday. This patriotic event will use the same route and rates as the annual Festival of Lights Parade, making it easy for returning and new entrants alike to participate.

Anyone interested in participating is encouraged to do so! The parade will be held on **Thursday, July 2, 2026 at 7 p.m. in Downtown Rapid City**. The parade begins at East Boulevard and proceeds down Main Street, turning south on 7th Street, and traveling east on St. Joseph Street. It is a long parade route! There is a non-refundable **entry fee of \$45**. However, non-profit organizations, service clubs, civic organizations, and church groups **pay only \$30**.

The number of entries is limited. For safety reasons, participants must complete our **Participant Application Form and Waiver**, included in this packet. These forms must be submitted to the Festival of Lights organization to participate in the parade.

You will receive a Confirmation Packet with information regarding the staging area and route after we receive your registration and payment. **Please notify us by June 18, 2026, if you are unable to participate** so we can fill your space with an entry from our waitlist.

Registration fees can be paid by cash, check, or credit card. Checks should be made payable to Festival of Lights Parade. Cash and check payments can be sent by mail to the address below. Credit card [payments for businesses can be made here](#). Credit card [payments for non-profit organizations can be made here](#).

Please complete and return the enclosed application and waiver, proof of general liability insurance (commercial vendors only), and entry fee as soon as possible to:

Email to: festivaloflightsrc@gmail.com

Mail to: America's 250th Birthday Parade
% Connie Olson
5550 SOLITAIRE DRIVE
Rapid City SD 57703

All entries **MUST** be received by Friday, **June 18, 2026**. If emailing your application and waiver, please mail payment to the above address, submit it online, or drop off at Youth & Family Services, 1920 N Plaza Boulevard, Rapid City, SD 57702.

Space is limited – return your registration forms early!

America's 250th Birthday Parade Regulations

It is important that all entries adhere to these rules and float specifications:

1. Entries including **walkers are allowed** provided all walkers can complete the parade route of up to three miles. **Candy tossing to spectators is permitted.**
2. All motorcycles, bicycles, and unicycles must be affixed to floats. They may not ride independent of the float without approval from the Parade Chair.
3. All parade participants shall conduct themselves in a responsible manner. **No alcohol or drugs will be tolerated.** The Parade Chair reserves the right to expel any float from the parade at any time.
4. **Participants are not allowed to mount or dismount moving floats.**
5. Floats must keep pace with the parade (approximately 5 miles per hour). **Floats that cannot maintain the pace will be asked to withdraw.**
6. Floats must refrain from horn honking during the parade.
7. All floats must be self-propelled or towed by either a motor vehicle or team of horses. No motor homes will be allowed.
8. Rapid City ordinance requires that a float and tow vehicle combined may not exceed 80 feet in length or 14 feet in height. **Participants will be responsible for any damage done by oversized vehicles.** Call the Festival of Lights at **(605) 381-4204** for guidelines or technical assistance.
9. Generators used as a power source must be large enough to provide adequate power to supply the electrical needs of your float. **All entries using a generator should muffle the noise.** A three-sided box over the generator works well as long as you allow airflow. A refill of fuel should be available on the float or in the tow vehicle and must be in an approved container, with a manufacturer stamp of approval. A funnel is recommended.
10. Every float must have a **TYPE 2ABC FIRE EXTINGUISHER** approved for liquid fuels available on the float. This will be strictly enforced!
11. Floats should be constructed to withstand winds and wet weather. **All objects should be firmly attached to withstand high winds.**
12. Company logos should not be the main theme of the float. However, the sponsor's name should be prominently displayed on the float. Signs should be placed on the float or towing vehicle for easy identification by viewers.
13. Parade entries and float sponsors shall be responsible for the safe construction and operation of their floats.

14. **All entries will be viewed in the staging area to determine if they comply with the rules and regulations as outlined. Entries that do not meet Parade standards may be asked to withdraw from the lineup.**
15. **Obey all South Dakota traffic laws** in route to and from the staging and de-staging area. It is recommended that floats be partially lit as a safety precaution.
16. **Entries must be in place by 6 p.m.** No floats will be allowed in staging area prior to 4 p.m.
17. **Access into the staging area is restricted to floats only. Parking in this area is limited. We encourage float participants to meet up with their float before entering the staging area.**

You will receive maps detailing the staging area and parade route in your confirmation packet.

Please notify us by June 18, 2026, if you are unable to participate so we can fill your space with an entry from our waitlist.

Questions? Please call (605) 381-4204, email us at festivaloflightsrc@gmail.com, or visit our website at festivaloflightsrc.com/americas250parade. Enjoy the parade!

America's 250th Birthday Parade Participant Application

Business/Organization Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Contact Person: _____ Email: _____

Organization Phone: _____ Contact Phone: _____

How will you be participating in the parade? Float Animal unit (describe) Other: _____

There is a non-refundable fee to enter the parade. Registration fees can be paid via cash, check, or credit card. Checks should be made out to Festival of Lights Parade. Cash or check payments should be mailed to the address on page 1.

\$45 for business entries \$30 for non-business entries (nonprofit)

I agree to ensure that the proper fire extinguisher, as earlier specified, will be on our entry at all times.

Signature: _____ Date: _____

All entries in America's 250th Birthday Parade must meet parade standards and comply with all applicable rules, regulations, laws, and ordinances. You will receive all information concerning the event by mid-June. Parade organizers reserve the right in their sole discretion to deny any application for participation in the America's 250th Birthday Parade. **For more information or if you have questions, contact us via phone, email, or mail (see page 1).**

Parade Participant Indemnification, Statement of Financial Responsibility, and Waiver (Corporate/Organization)

I, the undersigned, as an authorized person, officer, or director of the participant herein named, do hereby agree to release, hold harmless, and indemnify America's 250th Birthday Parade/Festival of Lights and its participants, officers, directors, and sponsors from any and all liability or claims whatsoever for any damage or injury including death that may occur as a result of or relating to participation in the above named event.

I warrant that I am an authorized representative for _____ and as such further warrant that such entity/organization/person possesses adequate financial responsibility so as to indemnify that above named parties and assume all liability and expenses that may arise from any third-party claim. Further, as authorized representative I hereby waive any and all claim that the participant/organization may have against the above-named parties as a result of or relating to America's 250th Birthday Parade/Festival of Lights and/or related events.

Name of participant/organization: _____

Address of participant/organization: _____

Phone number of authorized representative: _____

I hereby warrant and represent that I have read and understand the above release, indemnification, statement of financial responsibility, and waiver, and that I am duly authorized to bind the above stated participant to such representations. The document is to be executed in duplicate, one for the records of the Festival of Lights Committee and one for the records of the individual or group executing the same.

Specific relationship of signor of this document to the participant in America's 250th Birthday Parade/Festival of Lights event: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____