

# Parade Float Tips

Your parade entry is only limited by your imagination!

## Simple steps

Identify the parade theme

Identify your platform

Design your entry!

## Parade Theme

The Annual Altavista Christmas Parade selects a theme every year for the parade. The theme is listed on the application and on the Altavista Area Chamber of Commerce website.

## Platform

Low-boy and hay type trailers are the most popular and make for grand floats. However, the lack of either shouldn't discourage you from participating! Your group could decorate a car or truck and have walkers alongside to make a grand impression as well!

You can find parade float decorations online, from a full suite, to bits and bobbles. The key to success is to design your entry so that it coordinates.

## Vehicle Walker Floats

If you are using a vehicle, plan around the primary color of the vehicle, make it festive by adding vinyl fringe, trim, garland and twists. Coordinate your walkers by having them all wear the same color coat, same color hat, etc., that is used in your decorations. Go even further and have them all wear black pants, same color sweatshirts and same color gloves. Buy inexpensive poster board, letter your poster and then add some decorations to it as well. Have a mascot in front with the sign around their neck. Or, back your posterboard with another posterboard (glue stick), or thin wood backing. If you're worried about scratching the vehicle, glue flannel or felt on the back of the wood.

## Trailer Floats

Elevate your float riders using hay bales, or secured wood pallets. Cover either with inexpensive tablecloths, bed sheets, etc. Vinyl fringe and coverings are readily available online, but you can also DIY fringe! Simply purchase inexpensive vinyl or plastic tablecloths and cut into fringe before unfolding. Attach to your float and you're well on your way!

## Total DIY

Hay bales, wood pallets, camping chairs for sitting on trailers, drape with twin sheets

Inexpensive tablecloths, bed sheets, blankets for covering and draping (donate after use)

Spray paint!      Poster paints      Bulletin board paper      wrapping paper

Glue sticks, adhesive spray, staple guns (be sure it is okay with the trailer owner!)

Inexpensive artificial Christmas trees, donated artificial Christmas trees

Unused mantels, gas logs with cardboard fabricated mantels, fabricated fireplace with red glitter fire

Sleds, ice skates, lightweight outdoor house decorations

Christmas decorations: garland, tree toppers, battery operated lights

Plywood cutouts painted and decorated

Posterboard cutouts painted and decorated, hung around necks (stockings, presents, etc.) or hung onto vehicle.

Costumed characters, posterboard/cardboard books, greeting cards, (consider the possibility of rain)

Toddler type peddle cars, play houses, kitchens, etc.

Old throw blankets become winter scarves, stockings, rugs, even coats and shawls!

Sports equipment and uniforms

Musical instruments, giant Christmas Carols

Cardboard tubes spray painted black mounted with battery operated lanterns and carolers