

## Rules of Participation

**Grand Marshall: To be announced**



1. Be in the staging area **no later than 6:00pm** - roll call will begin promptly at Dark
2. Monitor Channel 72 for parade control, patrol, and medical – back up Channel 68
3. Christmas lights may only be displayed during the parade, not before. As you decorate and operate your boat, be aware of night blindness from the lights. A person on the bow is a good safety practice.
4. You will be instructed as to when your lights are to be turned on. This will be by your boat number assigned to you in the parade.
5. Boat number indicates your judging number and your position in the parade. **Number must be HELD up** to judges as passing judging location – port at BYC, starboard at Riverhouse/Regatta & Pier 22/Twin Dolphin.
6. Florida Marine Patrol, U.S. Coast Guard and Manatee Sheriff's Department will be on the water for assistance for the duration of the parade, as well as other law enforcement vessels.
7. Sea Tow will be on the water for assistance if needed. They will monitor Channel 72.
8. If your boat breaks down in any way, please drop out of the parade and call for assistance.
9. Rules of the road apply for the following: Motoring to the staging areas, during the parade, and after the parade back to your mooring.
10. All boats must be able to maintain safe speed. No boats on plane. Boat speed will be determined at the start of the event depending on weather conditions. In general, the speed maintained will be 5-6 knots.
11. Keep a minimum of 100 ft. spacing between boats and no more than 200 ft. except in viewing areas. Proceed toward the bridge to the marked signal before making a turn in front of the viewing area and judging stand. Boats are allowed to make 1-360 degree turn in the viewing areas. Any boats making more than 1-360 degree turn will be subject to disqualification. Maintain a minimum of 100 feet of separation to allow the spinning of boats. Upon leaving the viewing areas, speed up to re-establish proper spacing.
12. All boats will assemble inside the west cove of Shaw's Point, near the cross. You may enter from either end to get to your position. Details to be discussed in captain's meeting.
13. No boats will be allowed to enter the parade except at the staging area.
14. Alcohol consumption by the Captain or person operating the vessel is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Violators will be told to leave the parade and will not be asked back next year.
15. Any boat causing breaks in the parade pattern will either be asked to leave or take position in the back as to not prohibit the parade's progress.
16. Nothing is to be thrown or projected from any boat at any time of the parade. Violators will be told to leave the parade and will not be asked back next year.
17. Parade committee reserves the right to deny entry to any applicant.
18. Please remember that this is a family friendly, community event. Have your boat decorated in a holiday theme to show your festive spirit!
19. Boats are judged based on the following categories: 40' and over & under 40'. There will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prize per category entered.
20. **Awards Ceremony:** All captains and crew will secure their boats, join us at Bradenton Yacht Club for the Awards Ceremony immediately following parade – approx. 9:00pm. All captains will receive a thank you gift for participating! Bring your boat number for crew photo. **You will be given a ticket for you and 5 crew members to the Awards Ceremony & VIP Party when you turn in your boat number.** Extra tickets for the VIP area may be purchased for \$15 per person. A cash bar will be available - **Cash Only** please for additional tickets. We request docked boats keep their music low to not interfere with the Awards Party festivities. No outside alcohol will be permitted into the event space.

**THIS IS A COMMUNITY EVENT FUNDED BY SPONSOR'S CONTRIBUTIONS AND PARTICIPATION OF BOATERS IN OUR COMMUNITY!**