



# HOW TO BUILD A PARADE FLOAT

Barrie Santa Claus Parade

## 1 Register your Float with the Barrie Chamber

Sign up! You must be a registered float in order to be in the parade: [BarrieChamber.com/Santa](https://barriechamber.com/santa)  
Registration will open September 1st, 2023.

## 3 Design your Float

The 2023 theme is "Parade of Lights". Start visualizing what you'd like to do. Be realistic with what you think you can achieve. [Google](https://www.google.com) is a fantastic resource for ideas and inspiration.

## 5 Define your Budget

Lights, wood, nails, paint, paper, costumes, decorations can all add up. Remember that materials must be weather resistant.

## 7 Find a Location to Build

You'll need a location to build, preferably out of the elements so it doesn't impact your timelines.

## 9 Lights & Music

Adding your lights last will ensure they're able to be seen and not covered by other materials. We highly suggest you have music - be sure to protect your speakers if they are not all-weather. If you are using a generator, make sure it is well ventilated & placed with non-flammable, sound barriers between it and your participants.

## 2 Download the Guide

The Barrie Chamber of Commerce has a participant guide with the rules and requirements to participate in the parade. [Download it from BarrieChamber.com/Santa](https://barriechamber.com/santa)

## 4 Build your Team

For best results, form a design team! Together you can build your lists of materials and assign tasks to skillsets: paint, building, decorating, sourcing materials, costumes, etc.

## 6 Pick a Platform

A flatbed trailer is typically best. They are stable and provide a lot of area to build on. Ensure it is in good repair, from the floor boards to the tires and everything in between.

## 8 Team Building

Building your float can be an amazing team building exercise. Discover skills you never knew each other had!

## 10 Final Trial Run

Taking your float for a trial run can help identify any issues. Driving an open float with people takes some getting used to. Go slow & drive carefully. Depending on the weight of the float, you might require a more powerful vehicle.

### Plan for Safety

Participants that will be on the float should be placed in the middle and away from the edges. Ensure there are no tripping hazards or loose footing. Everything should be secure. Safety must be a top priority.

### Design Top to Bottom

Be sure to decorate the whole float! You can install a "skirt" around the lower portion of the trailer to expand your design. You are only limited by your imagination.

### Have FUN!

Your enthusiasm will be contagious! Dress in costume (per the rules), dance, sing and wave to the crowd! The more fun you have, the more fun the crowd will have.

For addition information, please contact  
the Barrie Chamber of Commerce:  
705-721-5000 x4 or [Tricia@barriechamber.com](mailto:Tricia@barriechamber.com)

