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**8th Annual Parade of Boats**

**Terms and Conditions**

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2023 Christmas Ship™ Festival Parade of Boats

Friday, December 8, 8:00-9:30pm

We are thrilled you are interested in participating in the Argosy Cruises Christmas Ship™ Festival 8th Annual Parade of Boats. Below are instructions for vessel participation.

You will find the following sections below

* General Guidelines
* Vessel Order and Parade Numbers
* Dates & Times
* Night of the Parade
* Awards
* Safety Considerations

Please read these in advance of the day of the parade and bring them with you for reference.

**General Guidelines**

* A vessel may not participate in the Parade of Boats unless it registers with Argosy Cruises prior to the parade date. All vessels must register no later than **Tuesday, November 28**. Unregistered vessels are required to follow behind the official parade and are not eligible for awards.
* Receiving a parade invitation does not constitute registration. You must register even if you have received a verbal or written invitation from Argosy Cruises.
* No religious or political signs of any sort are permitted in the parade
* Entrants are responsible for the removal of litter or decorations left in water
* Limited commercial signs are allowed on an individual basis. Please contact Argosy Cruises well in advance of the parade date at **GeorgiaG@argosycruises.com** for signage approval if you intend to display a commercial sign on a registered vessel.

**Vessel Order and Parade Numbers**

* Parade numbers are assigned electronically via email upon completing registration
* Vessel numbers will consist of a letter and number, e.g., B12, C4
* Each parade number issued by Argosy Cruises will be assigned to only one vessel
* The information collected during registration (boat name, décor theme or description) as well as your parade number (displayed on the forward starboard bow and at least 12” tall) will be used to identify your boat as it passes the viewing party
* To minimize the disruption to the flow of car traffic on the Fremont Bridge, please stick with your assigned group so the bridge is only opened twice: once at the start of the parade and once at the end of the parade

**Dates & Times**

All times are approximate

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 8:00 pm | The Christmas Ship™ begins its departure from Lake Union Park (MOHAI) and begins traveling north across Lake Union towards the Fremont Cut.  Boaters fall in line ***behind*** the Christmas Ship™ as she travels north.  \*Boaters leave 100’ clearance around the Christmas Ship™ at all times\* |
| 8:20 pm | The parade arrives at the Fremont Cut and the Christmas Ship™ begins her first performance from 8:20-8:40pm. **This is a rolling show.**  \*Parade speed is 4 knots\* |
| 8:20 pm until last boat passes beneath Fremont Bridge | As you pass under the Fremont Bridge, please have your assigned parade number clearly visible on the starboard bow.  \*If we cannot easily see your parade number or vessel name, we will not announce your vessel\* |
| Duration of Parade | Parade vessels follow down the Fremont Cut, passing the official onshore viewing party on the north shore of the Fremont Cut at Evanston Plaza.  Just before (east of) the Ballard Bridge, vessels will see Argosy Cruises’ 34’ vessel, The Beaver, stationed with a yellow flashing light. Parade boats make a U-Turn around The Beaver and head east, back through the Fremont Cut to Lake Union.  \*Eastbound and Westbound traffic in the Fremont Cut\* |

**Night of the Parade**

* The Parade Director’s official vessel is The Beaver
* Each skipper will follow all instructions from the Parade Director and law enforcement officers. The parade will start on orders from the Parade Director
* Thereafter the parade will continue alphabetically by class, i.e., Spirit of Seattle, Class A, Class B, etc. Vessels are not required to transit by number within their class, i.e., B8 may transit before B5
* Skippers must always monitor VHF Ch. 68 for directions from the Parade Director on spacing, special maneuvers, and other information relevant to the parade
* Steer a straight course with the bow going in a forward direction; please no unnecessary turns off course until the U-Turn just before the Ballard Bridge
* Keep parade safe but tight, two to three boat lengths between boats conditions permitting; always maintain a safe speed

**Awards**

All boats competing for awards must pass through the Fremont Cut (east to west) and your parade number prominently displayed on the starboard bow or boat name clearly visible.

We highly recommend submitting an up to date photo of your decorated vessel and include thorough descriptions of your decorations so our staff can identify your vessel in the parade.

The award is Best in Show. Voting will occur online only via Facebook (@argosycruises) and [www.ArgosyCruises.com](http://www.ArgosyCruises.com). We will not host official judges and all votes will be submitted by the public.

Winners will be announced online December 23, 2023. An award plaque will be distributed to and send to the winner.

**Safety**

* Please help us honor and respect the security forces that will be working to support this event; all vessels in the parade must pre-register with Argosy Cruises and display their parade number – do not exchange parade numbers
* All emergency communication should be transmitted on VHF Ch. 16 or via cell phone 911
* Argosy Cruises encourages parade participants to model good boating safety by following the U.S.C.G. Federal PFD Regulation for Children: THE REGULATIONS ESTABLISH A FEDERAL REQUIREMENT FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13 YEARS OLD ABOARD RECREATIONAL VESSESLS TO WEAR COAST GUIARD-APPROVED PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDs), WHILE THE VESSEL IS UNDER WAY, UNLESS THE CHILDREN ARE BELOW DECK OR IN AN ENCLOSED CABIN
* A $2,500 fine and/or jail sentence could result form throwing any other objects from your boat
* In keeping with Argosy Cruises strict policy of protecting our environment, please be ecologically minded by refraining from using overboard discharge heads, releasing balloons, using plastic streamers or in any way polluting our waterways