



1101 Alaskan Way | Pier 55, Suite 201 | Seattle, WA 98101

 THE
ORIGINAL
Christmas Ship™
FESTIVAL

11th Annual Parade of Boats
Boater Packet

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Your Friend with a Boat
ArgosyCruises.com



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2026 Christmas Ship™ Festival Parade of Boats Friday, December 11, 8:00-9:30pm

We are thrilled to have your participation in the 11th Annual Parade of Boats!

This packet contains the details for the upcoming parade. If you have any questions prior to the event, please email Cruises@argosycruises.com.

You will find the following sections below

- Vessel Order and Parade Numbers
- Parade Route
- Terms & Conditions

Parade Order and Vessel Numbers

The parade will promenade in the order below:

1. Spirit of Seattle, the official Christmas Ship™
2. Goodtime II, Argosy Cruises Follow Boat
3. All other Argosy Cruises Vessels
4. Boater Participants
 - a. Group A Vessels – all sailboats and vessels 30+ feet tall
 - b. Group B Vessels – all vessels shorter than 30 feet tall

You will be assigned a letter (A or B), which will tell you what grouping you are based on height of your vessel. If you signed up by the boater number deadline, you would receive a physical boat number (which will be mailed to you). Please display & mount on the **forward starboard bow** of your vessel. This will help our spotters find your boat and notify our onshore team to announce your boat decorations and description.

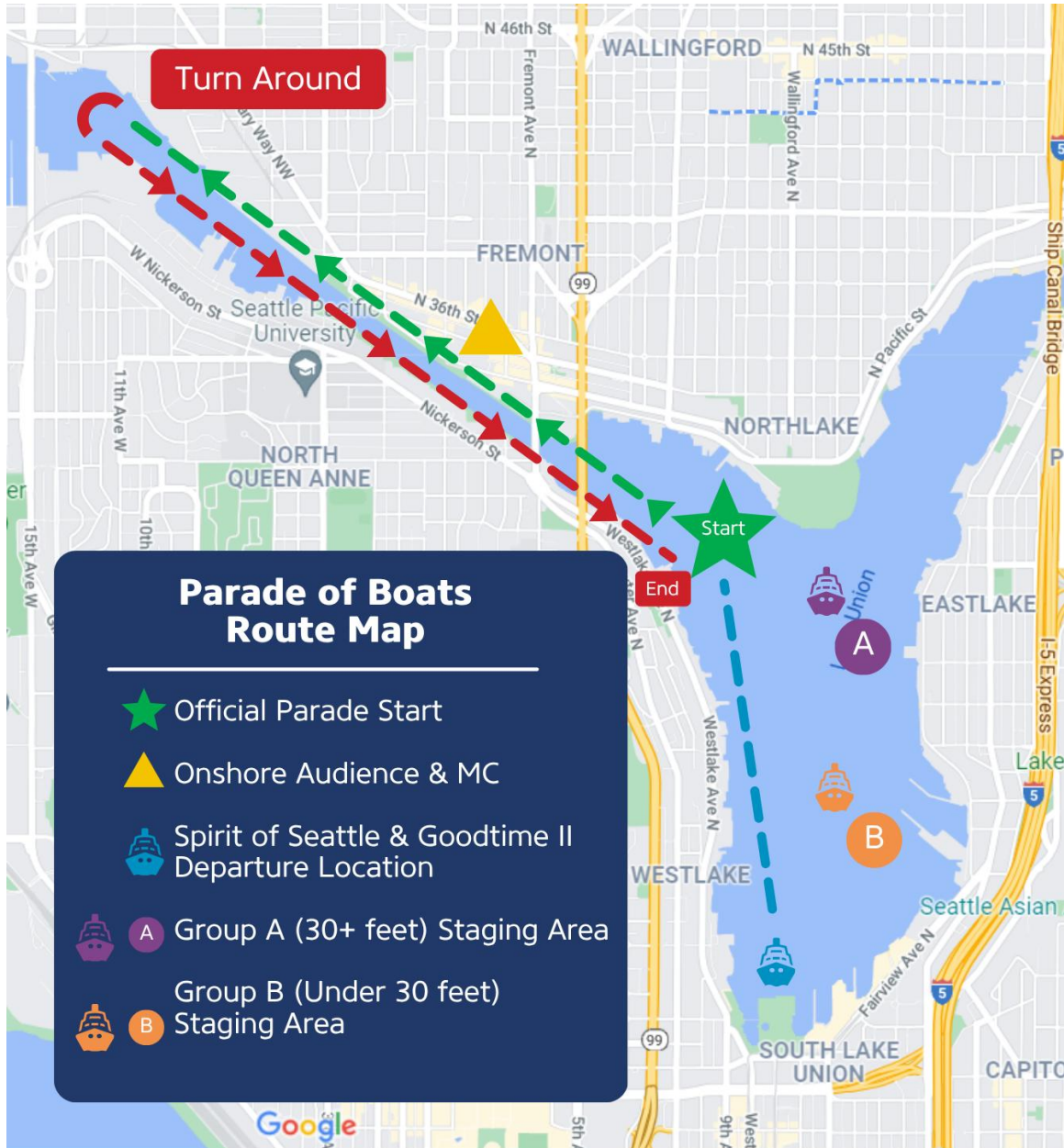
*We will **NOT** be communicating parade numbers over VHF radio (but please still be listening to VHF Ch. 68 for day-of instructions from our Christmas Ship™)*

We highly recommend sharing descriptions of your boat and decorations and an up-to-date photo so we can more easily identify your vessel in the parade. Please ensure your boat name is clearly visible or your parade number is prominently displayed for us to identify your vessel and make an announcement over the microphone to our onshore crowd.

Vessels are not required to transit by boater number, i.e. 28 can go before 3.

To minimize 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

Parade Route & Staging Map





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Terms and Conditions

You will find the following sections below

- General Guidelines
- Night of the Parade
- Day of Timeline
- Awards
- Safety Considerations

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 **the day before the scheduled parade day**. Unregistered vessels are required to follow behind the official parade and are not eligible for awards.
- 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 **Cruises@ArgosyCruises.com** for signage approval if you intend to display a commercial sign on a registered vessel.

Night of the Parade

- The Parade Director's official vessel & the turn around point for the parade is The Beaver
- Each participant must follow Argosy's Parade Director instructions and law enforcement officers.
- Skippers must always monitor **VHF Ch. 68** for directions from Argosy captains on spacing, special maneuvers, and other information relevant to the parade night
- 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 the parade safe but tight, two to three boat lengths between boats conditions permitting; always maintain a safe speed



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Day of Timeline

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 Argosy Cruises vessels, Christmas Ship™, Goodtime II, All other Argosy Vessels, Group A, Group B *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 the start of the 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 forward starboard bow. To ensure your boat number is seen stay towards the right of the Fremont Cut. *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*

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Awards

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

We highly recommend submitting an up-to-date photo of your 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 social media channels (@argosycruises) and www.ArgosyCruises.com. We will not host official judges and all votes will be submitted by the public online.

Winners will be announced online December 23, 2025. An Award plaque will be distributed to the winner of Best in Show.

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 VESSELS TO WEAR COAST GUARD-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 from 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