The MLK Celebration committee cordially invites you to participate in the “It Starts With Me” parade honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 13, 2024, at 3 pm with a ceremony to follow at Hope on A Hill.

The application deadline is January 5, 2024, by 5 PM. Please submit your application with the required attachments by this date, and $10 application fee. Please remember to complete the “Required” page. The MLK Committee will handle placement of the entries.

The Parade and Ceremony are based on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s public speech on August 28th, 1963, in which he called for an end to racism in the United States. This speech was delivered to over 250,000 civil rights supporters from the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. We ask that all entries decorate their unit to reflect the theme of the parade through music, decoration or dance.

The parade route will start on Main Street at Springs Street and end at Williams St. Entry numbers will be emailed the week of the parade, make sure we have your correct email address. All Details for vehicles must be on the application no other vehicles will be added once the deadline has passed. If you have vehicle changes, contact lroddey@lancastercitysc.com.

Following the parade, please join us at Hope on a Hill, (610 E Meeting Street Lancaster SC 29720) for an inspirational ceremony, including announcement of winners for the “It Starts With Me” essay contest. Please use front parking, handicap parking will be closest to the back entrance. Please call or e-mail with any questions or concerns that you may have! We look forward to seeing you on Saturday, January 13th!

Lisa Roddey
Events and Promotions Manager
City of Lancaster
201 W Gay St
Lancaster, SC 29720
LRoddey@lancastercitysc.com

DATES TO REMEMBER:
DEADLINE January 5th by 5 pm:
Parade Application Due in office of See Lancaster, with $10 fee
Entry Numbers and Line-Up will be sent via email provided.
PARADE RULES & REGULATIONS

Entries participating in this theme will be eligible for judging. It is very important to the success of the parade and the full enjoyment and safety of all participants and spectators that you know your responsibilities. Please review these guidelines with your participants.

PARADE UNITS

The parade will line up on Main Street from Providence Rd to Spring St. There will be parking for drop-offs/pick-ups at First Citizens Bank ONLY. To streamline the process of finding your group members, use designated drop off/pick up location as location for everyone to meet up.

- STAGING begins at 1:30 pm on Jan. 13 and ends at 2:30 pm at the designated street location. No admittance in the staging area after 2:30 pm.
- Distribution of candy must be handed out and not thrown from any vehicle. Any other distribution of gifts, merchandise, literature, or other material from any entry along the parade route is prohibited.
- All entered units MUST have definable and realistic sponsorship or represent a definable and realistic group or organization as Learn TV will be announcing the parade live.
- Alcoholic beverages are forbidden.
- No smoking on or around units
- FLOATS: Floats transporting people, must be more than 30 inches from the ground must have side rails. Rails should measure a minimum of three feet from the floor of the unit.
- Participants are not allowed on or off of the parade unit once in motion.
- All motorized units must be operated by a licensed driver with current auto insurance. ALL PARTICIPANTS MUST PRESENT DRIVERS LICENSE AND INSURANCE (General Automotive Insurance) AT STEP-OFF
- Only street legal vehicles are allowed with general liability insurance shown at lineup. If insurance is not presented, you will be asked to leave the lineup.
- Motorcycles/Automobiles/and Any other parade applicants that do any of the following (but not limited to): “racing”, “figure eights,” “Wheelies,” or anything considered “stunting” or “reckless behavior” will be ticketed or banned from participating in future events with the City of Lancaster.
- Motorcycles will be idling frequently.

ALL PARADE ENTRIES

- ALL PERFORMANCE groups are limited to one 90 second performance at the Learn TV Area. A space of no more than 30 feet for each entry will be enforced.
- All performances must be in good taste. This is a family event, therefore routines and or expressions that are lewd, obscene are expressly prohibited and likewise actions portraying violent, abusive and/or offensive behavior are not permitted and will be grounds for removal.
- Adult 18 years or older must accompany children at all times.
- The signing applicant must have rules in their possession and be present at time of entry inspection.

ENTRY NUMBERS/SIGNAGE

- Hard copy entry numbers will be provided by the City of Lancaster Parade staff and distributed during parade line-up.
- Signage: Participants are responsible for sign or placard stating the name of the entry and sponsor. Signs must be on the vehicle on the RIGHT front windshield or held by the person at the front on the RIGHT.
- PARADE JUDGING: BEST SOUND, MOST SPIRIT, MOST CREATIVE, BEST OVERALL.
Entries participating in this theme will be eligible for judging. It is very important to the success of the parade and the full enjoyment and safety of all participants and spectators that you know your responsibilities. Please review these guidelines with your participants.

**NO ON-DAY PARADE ENTREES**

- SAFETY IS FIRST! We also reserve the right to remove any entry or participant from the parade when the actions of that entry, or its participants, present a danger to spectators or other parade entries. Decisions of The City of Lancaster and Parade Committee are final. If any automobiles, motorcycles, or Any parade applicants that do any of the following (but not limited to): “racing”, “figure eights,” “Wheelies,” or anything considered “stunting” or “reckless behavior” will be ticketed or banned from participating in future events with the City of Lancaster.

The primary focus of the “It Starts With Me” Parade is to provide a safe, enjoyable and quality parade in and on the streets of Downtown Lancaster in celebration of the life and Legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. If at anytime leading up to or on parade day the weather/street conditions are deemed unsafe, the parade will be cancelled and rescheduled per Lancaster City.

**HAPPY CREATING!**

**LISA RODDEY**

**EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS MANAGER**

City of Lancaster  
201 W Gay St  
Lancaster, SC 29720  
LRoddey@lancastercitysc.com  
Office: 803.289.1498  
Work: 980.328.1897  

lancastercitysc.com
ENTRY TYPE

Please complete all entry information... Each form represents ONE entry

Theme: “It Starts With Me” No addition of vehicles the day of if you put two vehicles that is all you can have.

___ PROFESSIONAL FLOATS:

- With Walking Group? Yes  No

___ SELF-BUILT FLOAT: (1 Float)

- With Walking Group? Yes  No
- Make/Model of vehicle pulling float
- Type of trailer used as the float and size
- Overall length and full measurements are important for positioning in staging area

___ MOTORIZED UNIT: (up to 2 motorized units ONLY)

- With Walking Group? Yes  No
- Make/Model of vehicle pulling float

___ WALKING UNIT: NO VEHICLE

- Type of Walking Group (stepping group, marching band, Church group) etc

___ WILL MUSIC/SOUND BE ADDED? ___ Yes  ___ No

- If yes, please explain (ie. singing, sound system)
ENTRY FEE STRUCTURE: $10, CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE TO ‘THE CITY OF LANCASTER’

DEADLINE IS JANUARY 5, 2024, MAIL TO MLK PARADE
PO BOX 1149, LANCASTER, SC 29721

INDEMNITY AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

I/we further agree to defend, and hold harmless the City of Lancaster, SC, The Lancaster Christmas parade committee and its employees or agents against loss or expense, including attorney’s fees for loss or expense because of bodily injury, death or property damage sustained by any person or persons. It is further agreed that I/we, as participants, will provide proof of general liability and auto insurance for the parade entry naming the City as an additional insured.

Participant further agrees to have received, read, understood, and will fully comply with all of the City of Lancaster parade Rules and Regulations.

Name of Organization

Organization Representative

City ___________________ Date ___________________

Participant’s Signature

Participant’s Parent or Guardian
2024 PARADE UNIT INFORMATION

Please complete for our hosts to use on the parade. Use additional pages if necessary

Parade Number
(Office Use Only)

Organization: 

Contact Person: 

Primary Phone: 

What does your float and/or vehicle look like:

Organization Leader/President:

Number of members in your organization:

When your organization was founded:

When your organization meets/number of hours it practices OR if business, hours of operation:

Your activities during the year or services you provide:

Information about your unit: (How it was built, hours spent building it, special features, etc.):

Any unusual stories about building the float or about your organization that you want to share:

Other information you would like us to share on TV: