



CHRISTMAS PARADE THEME DECORATION IDEAS

This year's parade theme, "Cruisin' Into Christmas on Rt. 66" celebrates the magic of the holidays with a nostalgic nod to America's most iconic highway – Route 66. And as we cruise into Christmas 2025, we are preparing to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Route 66 beginning January 1, 2026.

As we celebrate the Mother Road that runs right through our hometown, each float, marching band, and entry can bring a little piece of Route 66 history to life—wrapped in garland, topped with bows, and sprinkled with holiday cheer. Whether it's a retro diner, a vintage gas station, or Santa himself swapping his sleigh for a convertible, this parade will be a joyful journey down the most famous highway in America—Route 66! Here are some ideas!

Vintage vehicles

- **Classic convertible:** Use a vintage red convertible as the centerpiece. Fill the back seat with wrapped presents.
- **Lights, wreaths, and bows:** Wrap string lights along the contours of your vehicle. Attach a festive wreath to the grille using zip ties, and add large, colorful bows to the hood or trunk.
- **"Sleigh" car:** Turn a classic car into a sleigh with painted gold accents, jingle bells, and attached "reins" leading to the front of the vehicle.
- **Candy cane stripes:** Use magnetic decals to add red-and-white stripes to your vehicle's side panels, mimicking a candy cane.
- **Holiday tow truck:** Use a vintage tow truck to pull a "sleigh" or a trailer decorated as a festive roadside diner.

Roadside diner float

- **Retro decor:** Create a miniature, '50s-style diner on a flatbed trailer. Use cardboard and paint to create the classic jukebox, checkered floor, and red vinyl booths.
- **Santa's diner:** Place Mrs. Claus inside serving hot cocoa to his elves, or have characters from the movie *Cars* enjoying a festive meal.
- **"Neon" signs:** Recreate the iconic neon signs of Route 66 using flexible rope lighting for a bright, classic look.

Iconic Route 66 landmarks

- **Holiday motel float:** Construct a miniature roadside motel like the Blue Swallow Motel in Tucumcari, New Mexico. Wrap the building in Christmas lights and place elves or snowmen in the windows.
- **Cadillac Ranch:** Replicate the famous Cadillac Ranch in Amarillo, Texas, with vintage cars seemingly buried nose-down in the ground. Decorate them with Christmas garland, tinsel, and ornaments.
- **Giant roadside attractions:** Make giant replicas of famous Route 66 oddities, such as the Muffler Man statues, the Blue Whale of Catoosa, or the World's Largest Ketchup Bottle. Give them a holiday twist with Santa hats and scarves.

All-American Christmas theme

- **Christmas tree made of tires:** Assemble a pyramid of old car tires and paint them green. String them with Christmas lights and decorations for an eco-friendly float.
- **Postcard greetings:** Attach large, hand-painted posters to the side of a vehicle, resembling holiday postcards addressed to Santa from various Route 66 towns.
- **Christmas on the farm:** If using a vintage truck, load the back with hay, a decorated Christmas tree, and wrapped gifts. Add characters like a scarecrow wearing a Santa hat.

