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Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade



Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day Parade **Credit: M. Kennedy for GPTMC**

[VisitPhilly](#)

Date & Time Thursday, November 22, 2012. From 8:30 am to 12 noon.

Overview The 1.4-mile 6abc Dunkin' Donuts Thanksgiving Day parade is the oldest in the country and a true Philadelphia tradition. The city streets make way for massive floats and giant balloons, plus local performers from choirs, dance groups, marching bands and more. And Santa himself arrives in grand fashion, ushering Philadelphia into the holiday season.

Some balloons to look out for include: Cookie Monster, Scooby Doo, Elmo, Hungry Caterpillar, The Lorax, Frosty the Snowman and T-Rex. Floats this year include Disney Magic Kingdom, a Thanksgiving Harvest-themed float, a music-themed float and, of course, Santa on his sleigh.

This year's special musical guests include American Idol finalist Justin Guarini, Frenchie Davis from The Voice, the 90s R&B singers of "I Swear" and "I Can Love You Like That" All-4-One, two-time Grammy Winner Rita Coolidge, Kristen Alderson from General Hospital, Charlie McDermott of ABC's The Middle, country singer Charlie Worsham, Disney Channel singer Coco Jones, Miss America 2012 Laura Kaeppeler, Ryan Howard of the Philadelphia Phillies and more.

Parade Route

1. Start point: 20th Street and JFK Boulevard. From there, the parade proceeds east on JFK Boulevard to 16th Street.
2. The Parade turns left onto 16th Street until reaching the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

4. The Parade bears right, going northwest on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway for three blocks until reaching Logan Circle.
5. The Parade loops around the southern part of Logan Circle and then continues on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway until it reaches Eakins Oval.
6. The Parade proceeds along the south portion of Eakins Oval finishing in front of the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Best Places to Watch

1. One of the best places to watch is at the parade's finish at the steps of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.
2. The south side of Eakins Oval (in front of the Art Museum) is also recommended. Campbell's Soup sponsors a tent there where there's hot food, warm drinks and entertainment for kids.
3. Other locations along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, like Logan Circle, are also good bets.
4. You can also watch the parade begin at 20th and JFK Boulevard and then take a shortcut on foot heading north on 20th Street five blocks to the Parkway and catch the parade again as it goes by.

Closest Hotels Another tip: stay downtown on Wednesday night so you'll wake up right next to the parade.

1. The Four Seasons Philadelphia
2. Embassy Suites Center City
3. Sheraton Philadelphia City Center

Bring The Kids The parade thrills with an entourage of popular characters from Sesame Street and Disney in floats and giant balloons. And Santa himself arrives in grand fashion, ushering Philadelphia into the holiday season.

This year's parade promises to be nothing short of a visual and celebratory feast. So bundle up, grab the kids and head out for an early holiday treat.

You can warm up in the Campbell's Winter Wonderland Expo Tent with some hot cocoa and look out for special guests and giveaways.

Food Drive Another facet of 6abc and Dunkin' Donuts partnership is a Holiday Food Drive you can contribute to in a number of ways. Parade goers are urged to gather their cans, and toss them into provided carts as Boy Scouts and Campbell Soup Company volunteers wind their way along the parade route.