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MEDIA ALERT

PARA CHRISTMAS PARADE PARTICIPANTS UNDER AGE 16 ENCOURAGED TO WEAR WRIST BAND ID FOR SAFETY

Tuscaloosa County Park & Recreation Authority announced today that Christmas Parade participants under age 16 are encouraged to wear an identifying wristband. PARA will provide the wristbands to parade entry participants, which are peel and stick, one-size-fits-all.

“This is the first year that PARA is encouraging parade participants age “under 16” to wear an identifying wristband,” said Becky Booker, Parade Chairperson. “Safety is always of primary concern and the wristbands are an extra layer of protection. The simple process requires only two pieces of information: the participants name and a telephone number of a parade entry contact or parent,” she said.

According to Sgt. Brent P. Blankley, Tuscaloosa Police Department spokesperson, “The Tuscaloosa Police Department believes that wristbands for children under the age of 16 that participate in any parade is a great idea. In the past, we have had to wait on parents to pick up children and children not knowing phone numbers to call parents. By making this small step to add a name and phone number on a child’s wrist it could make it more time effective for officers to get in touch with parents if an emergency should arise. This concept is used in other parades and we feel it would benefit everybody involved.”

PARA will have wristbands available for distribution at the Parade Entry Information Meeting on November 29 at 5:30 p.m. in the Belk Center located at 2101 Bowers Park Drive.

For parade entrants unable to attend the meeting, wristbands are available for pick up at Belk Center and the PARA Building administrative offices located at 614 Greensboro Avenue. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday–Friday.

The West Alabama Christmas Parade is the largest parade of its kind in West Alabama and is approximately one mile in length.

On the night of the parade, the traditional “Lost and Found” station for children and other items is located in the PARA Building close to the corner of Greensboro Avenue and 6th Street.

For more information, please call 205-562-3220 or visit online www.tcpa.org.

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