

Macy's
THANKSGIVING
ESTD 1924 **DAY**
PARADE

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**LET'S HAVE A PARADE™:
THE WORLD-RENOWNED MACY'S THANKSGIVING DAY PARADE®
KICKS-OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON WITH ITS
91ST SPECTACLE OF WONDER**

THE ANNUAL MARCH WILL ONCE AGAIN FEATURE A HOST OF SURPRISES ALONG WITH ITS SIGNATURE GIANT CHARACTER BALLOONS, FLOATS OF FANTASY, THE NATION'S FINEST MARCHING BANDS, WHIMSICAL PERFORMANCE GROUPS, CELEBRITY APPEARANCES AND THE ONE-AND-ONLY SANTA CLAUS

New York, NY – November 16, 2017 – This Thanksgiving, a magical march returns to the streets of New York City and to homes across the U.S. as the 91st Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade® kicks-off the holiday season with its signature spectacle of wonder. On Thursday, Nov. 23, the streets of Manhattan will come alive at the sound of "Let's Have A Parade!" Ready to spread holiday cheer, the annual procession is sure to delight more than 3.5 million spectators and more than 50 million viewers nationwide with its traditional merriment.

"For more than 90 years, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade has signaled the start of the holiday season for millions of families. We are thrilled to once again come together as a nation to give this gift of joy and wonder to all," said Susan Tercero, group vice-president of Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. She added, "Our incredible team has planned a fantastic spectacle featuring an amazing line-up of giant character balloons, floats of fantasy, the nation's best marching bands and performance groups, a dazzling array of musical artists, all coming together to herald the arrival of the one-and-only Santa Claus."

Since the first march in November of 1924, the Macy's Parade has captivated audiences and become synonymous with the start of the holiday season. For the 91st edition, the line-up will feature 17 giant character balloons; 28 legacy balloons, balloonicles, balloonheads and trycaloons; 26 floats; 1,100 cheerleaders and dancers; more than 1,000 clowns; 12 marching bands and 6 performance groups.

STARS ON PARADE

On Thanksgiving, to open the 91st march of Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, a host of stars will be showcased "*Dancing in the Streets*" at various locations across the country in anticipation of the big Parade and annual kick-off to the holiday season. Featured stars include Harry Connick Jr., Whoopi Goldberg, Steve Harvey, Jane Krakowski, Gaten Matarazzo, Chrissy Metz, John O'Hurley, Martha Stewart and Thalia who will dance and sing in the out of this world kick-off to the pomp and pageantry. As the restyled song unfolds, the show arrives at Herald Square opening atop Macy's famed red star mark on 34th Street, where a host of groups will join the impromptu party including the Radio City Rockettes®, as well as dancers for The Teen Company and Malloy/CAP21; among other Parade participants.

In addition to the raucous party, international superstar Gwen Stefani will join the festivities for a special performance on the national broadcast of the Parade on NBC. A three-time Grammy® Award winner, Stefani is set to perform “White Christmas,” warming the hearts of audiences nationwide with her rendition of the classic tune.

The star power along the Parade route and in homes from coast-to-coast will once again feature some of the nation’s most riveting performers. Taking to the streets of New York City on board one of Macy’s signature floating stages will be 98 Degrees, Lauren Alaina, Cam, Sabrina Carpenter, Andra Day & Common, Sara Evans, Jimmy Fallon & The Roots, Flo Rida, Goo Goo Dolls, Kat Graham, Andy Grammer, Angelica Hale, Olivia Holt, Nicky Jam, Patti LaBelle, Wyclef Jean, Bravo’s *Top Chef* stars Padma Lakshmi & Tom Colicchio, Dustin Lynch, Miss America 2018 Cara Mund, Leslie Odom Jr. and the cast & Muppets of *Sesame Street*, Bebe Rexha, Smokey Robinson, Jojo Siwa and the one-and-only Santa Claus.

FLYING ICONS

Taking flight on Turkey Day will be the Parade’s signature giant character helium balloons. Since their introduction in 1927, these giants of the sky have featured some of the world’s most beloved characters. This year, four giant characters will debut including Disney Frozen’s *Olaf*, Illumination presents *Dr. Seuss’ The Grinch*, *PAW Patrol*® and *Jett* from *Super Wings*™.

The balloon line-up will also feature the return of Harold the Baseball Player, a legacy Macy’s character prominently featured in Twentieth Century Fox’s iconic holiday film classic, *Miracle on 34th Street*. In celebration of the film’s 70th anniversary, the Harold heritage balloon has been recreated for this year’s Parade, painted in hues of black, white and grey, to look exactly as it did on-screen during a memorable scene in the 1947 film. In addition to Harold, the famed spokesduck, The Aflac Duck, will debut as an all-new balloonicle (a Macy’s Parade innovation of hybrid cold-air balloon and vehicle) and is sure to have fans quacking with joy and laughter down the route.

Returning giant balloon characters include Angry Birds’ Red; Charlie Brown; Diary of A Wimpy Kid®; Sinclair’s Dino®; The Elf on the Shelf®; Hello Kitty®; Ice Age’s Scrat and His Acorn; Pikachu™; Pillsbury Doughboy™; Red Mighty Morphin Power Ranger; Ronald McDonald®; SpongeBob SquarePants; and DreamWorks’ Trolls.

THE STAGE FOR ENTERTAINMENT

Floating down the route this Thanksgiving, the Parade’s signature floats transport spectators to worlds of wonder. Designed and created by the incredible artists of Macy’s Parade Studio which include carpenters, painters, animators, sculptors, metal fabricators, scenic/costume designers and electricians, this year’s line-up of floats sets an unparalleled stage for entertainment. The painstaking process of creating a Macy’s Parade float is both a creative and technical endeavor. Macy’s Parade floats are often three stories tall and several lanes of traffic wide, but must collapse to no more than 12 ½-feet tall and 8-feet wide in order to travel safely from the New Jersey home of the Parade Studio, to the Manhattan starting line via the Lincoln Tunnel each Thanksgiving eve. These creations are not only works of art, but also engineering marvels.

This year, five new floats will debut including *Everyone’s Favorite Bake Shop* by Entenmann’s® (Sara Evans), *Harvest in the Valley* by Green Giant® (Lauren Alaina), *Parade Day Mischief* by SOUR PATCH KIDS® Candy (Nicky Jam), *Shimmer and Shine* by Nickelodeon (Jojo Siwa) and *Universal Playground* by Sprout® (Angelica Hale). A special float by Delta Air Lines will also debut to commemorate the season of togetherness with the perfect gift of song, as more than 125 Macy’s employees gather to form a one-of-a-kind cross-generational choir aboard the *Macy’s Singing Christmas Tree*.

The returning float roster includes *1-2-3 Sesame Street* by Sesame Street (Leslie Odom Jr. and the cast and Muppets of *Sesame Street*); *The Aloha Spirit* by King’s Hawaiian (Goo Goo Dolls), *Big Apple* by NY Daily News (Bebe Rexha); *Big City Cheer!* by Spirit of America Productions (Miss America 2018 Cara Mund); *Building A Better World* by Girl Scouts of the USA (Andra Day and Common); *The Colonel’s Road Trip to NYC* by Kentucky Fried Chicken (Dustin Lynch); *The Cranberry Cooperative* by Ocean Spray® (Patti LaBelle); *Deck the Halls* by Balsam Hill® (Olivia Holt); *Discover Adventure!* by Build-A-Bear (Sabrina Carpenter); *Frozen Fall Fun* by Discover®/NHL (Wyclef Jean, NHL Hockey Hall of Famers Ray Bourque &

Bryan Trottier); *Fun House* by Krazy Glue® (Flo Rida); *Heartwarming Holiday Countdown* by Hallmark Channel (98 Degrees); *It's All Rock & Roll* by Gibson Brands (Jimmy Fallon & The Roots); *Mount Rushmore's American Pride* by South Dakota Department of Tourism (Smokey Robinson); *On The Roll Again* by Homewood Suites by Hilton® (Andy Grammer); *Santa's Sleigh*; *Snoopy's Doghouse* by Peanuts Worldwide; *Stirrin' Up Sweet Sensations* by Domino® Sugar (Cam); *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles* by Nickelodeon (Kat Graham); and *Tom Turkey* featuring Bravo's *Top Chef* (Padma Lakshmi, Tom Colicchio).

DRUM ROLL, PLEASE ...

Marching bands are a central piece of the Thanksgiving delights, bringing national excitement and hometown pride to the streets of the Big Apple, not to mention the musical beat to the holiday revelry. Twelve performance ensembles will take up the call of the baton and march down the streets of Manhattan. This year's bands include Colony High School (Palmer, Alaska), Davis High School (Kaysville, Utah), Rosemount High School (Rosemount, Minnesota), West Harrison High School (Gulfport, Mississippi), Rockford High School (Rockford, Michigan), Ohio University (Athens, Ohio), Nation Ford High School (Fort Mill, South Carolina), Trumbull High School (Trumbull, Connecticut), Prairie View A&M University (Prairie View, Texas), The United States Air Force Band and Honor Guard, Macy's Great American Marching Band (United States) and the NYPD Marching Band (New York, NY).

Specialty Parade entertainment always promises a unique, exciting, and sometimes humorous look at the nation's finest performance groups. Returning to the line-up this year are the dancers and cheerleaders of *Spirit of America Dance Stars* and *Spirit of America Cheer*. These groups combined feature more than 1,000 of the nation's very best performers recruited from small towns and big cities. Days before Thanksgiving, they will gather for the first time in NYC, ahead of their once-in-a-lifetime national spotlight. Adding to the dancefloor revelry will be *34th & Phunk*, a special group commissioned and produced by Macy's with organizers from the United States Tournament of Dance. Choreographed by the legendary artist Will-dabeast Adams and acclaimed dancer Janelle Ginestra, *34th & Phunk* will be a one-of-a-kind hip-hop dance crew featuring performers of all ages and from all walks of life, who have a passion for dance and precision movement. Bringing a Broadway flair to the spectacle will be the talented kids of *Camp Broadway*, who this year have auditioned and selected dancers/singers from military bases around the nation, and who will pay tribute to America with their performance. Rounding out the performance group list are the zany *Red Hot Mamas* (Post Falls, Idaho) who will deliver their signature humorous take on the holiday season, along with the whimsical stars of the *Big Apple Circus* (New York, NY).

A GRAND TELEVISION SPECIAL EVENT

The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is the nation's biggest and most anticipated holiday celebration. Broadcast nationally on NBC, with millions of families nationwide tuning in to watch the excitement unfold, the TODAY Show's Matt Lauer, Savannah Guthrie and Al Roker will host the three-hour broadcast from 9 a.m. – noon (in all time zones). In addition, Telemundo will simulcast the Parade in Spanish with the event hosted by stars Carlos Ponce, Jessica Carrillo and Karim Mendiburu.

On 34th Street, Broadway's best shows will take a star turn in front of Macy's famed flagship with special performances from the casts of *Anastasia*, *Dear Evan Hansen*, *Once On This Island* and *SpongeBob SquarePants – The Broadway Musical*. In addition, the show-stopping Radio City Rockettes® will bring their signature high-kicking magic to Herald Square.

INTERACTIVE FUN

This year, the magic of Macy's iconic balloons and Parade artistry will head south for the winter to give fans an up close and personal experience for the holidays. Starting on Saturday, Nov. 18, Universal Orlando Resort's destination-wide Holidays celebration begins, featuring the all-new "Universal's Holiday Parade featuring Macy's." This one-of-a-kind experience is where merry and mayhem mesh to create a fantastic treat for park guests that features more than 15 incredibly-detailed floats, colorful stilt-walkers and characters, and a specially created cast of all new Macy's balloons that you can't see anywhere else. Universal's Holiday Parade featuring Macy's will run daily from Nov. 18 through Jan. 6.

The Macy's Parade is always a unique multi-level, magical march that provides spectators with different experiences, whether they watch it on television with friends and family or scout the perfect spot on the

route to watch it unfold live. To give fans another unique viewing opportunity, Macy's, along with NBCUniversal and Verizon will once again take viewers closer to the magic via up close and personal views of the event through a 360-degree livestream of the Parade on Verizon's YouTube page. The stream, found at www.youtube.com/verizon, will be synced with the start of the Parade.

For an insider's look at the holiday procession, fans nationwide should visit macys.com/parade for regular updates including behind the scenes previews, interactive historical information, and more.

The 91st Annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade will begin at 9 a.m. from 77th Street and Central Park West. The procession will march to Columbus Circle, turn onto Central Park South and march down 6th Avenue/Avenue of the Americas. At 34th Street, the Parade will make its final turn west and end at 7th Avenue in front of Macy's Herald Square. "A Holiday Treat for Children Everywhere" has been the guiding motto of this annual tradition for more than nine decades and is the mandate that continues to this day. From the very first Parade to this year's spectacle, Macy's own employees along with their friends and family have gathered together to give the nation a perfect holiday gift, and now it's time for another dazzling celebration. In 5,4,3,2,1... Let's Have A Parade!

For more information on the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade, please visit www.macys.com/parade or call the Parade hotline at 212-494-4495. Follow [@macys](https://twitter.com/macys) on various social networks and join the conversation using [#MacysParade](https://twitter.com/hashtag/MacysParade).

Delta Air Lines, New York's #1 airline, is the official airline of Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

RAM Trucks is the official truck of the Macy's Parade.

Remo is the official drumhead provider.

The Stewart is the official hotel partner of Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade

Under Armour is the official outerwear provider.

PLEASE NOTE: All talent, performers, elements and information included are subject to change. Additional Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade media materials including images, video and archival content are available at macysparadepress.com.

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