



Balloon Handlers

Thank you! We are thrilled that you will be working as a **balloon handler** in the 2009 Ukrop's/Supervalu Christmas Parade.

All Balloon Handlers are asked to park downtown in the VCU/MCV Parking Lot I at the intersection of I-64 and 7th Street. From this parking lot, a shuttle bus will run every 15 minutes from 6:30 a.m. until 9 a.m. to the DMV.

***No shuttle bus after the parade!
Your vehicle will be just a couple blocks up the road!***

- **Check-in** is between **7:45 a.m. – 8:30 a.m. at the Science Museum** (allow for shuttle time) at 2500 West Broad Street. From the bus drop off, proceed on foot to the Science Museum. The Ukrop's/Supervalu Volunteer registration table will be inside the museum.
- **Gloves – all balloon handlers need to wear gloves**, this will protect your hands from rope burns. **Gloves will not be provided for you.**
- **Clothing - The Parade takes place no matter the weather (in sunshine and in rain), so dress accordingly.** The temperature will change between early morning and midday, so dressing in layers is a good idea. Wear comfortable shoes, the parade route is close to 3 miles long.

Reminders:

- It is important that you fulfill your volunteer assignment. The Parade will not be cancelled because of rain or extreme weather. All balloon handlers are expected to fulfill their commitment regardless of the weather.
- Balloon handlers must be 16 years of age or older. Children under 16 are encouraged to participate while *assisting* their parent or guardian with managing their rope and walking with the balloon along the parade route.
- This is a volunteer effort. You will not be paid for your time as a balloon handler. However, you might appear on television! CBS 6 will broadcast the Parade live the day of the Parade and again on Christmas day.
- Depending on where your balloon is positioned in the Parade, your ending time will vary, but everyone will be finished by 1:00 p.m.
- You must be able to walk the entire Parade route (2.5 miles) while helping to control your balloon. Being a balloon handler does not require super human strength, but you may get a little fatigued.

Again, many thanks for your time, commitment, and energy in bringing the Ukrop's/Supervalu Christmas Parade to life for the Richmond community. Should you have any questions, contact Terry Burcin at 804-290-8731 or tburcin@finsvcs.com. Additional information regarding the parade can be found at <http://www.richmondchristmasparade.org>.



Reminders:

- No smoking is allowed at any point along the Parade route.
- There are no bathrooms along the Parade route, only at the formation and disband areas.

Balloon Handler Overview:

Upon arrival to the Science Museum, check-in at the Volunteer Booth.

- ✓ Each balloon will have a lead balloon handler who will assist with direction and placement under the balloon.
- ✓ Your lead balloon handler will notify you when to proceed to the balloon inflating area and your assigned balloon.
- ✓ Each handler will help hold their assigned balloon in place while it is being inflated and assist in lining the balloons up in the correct order for the parade.
- ✓ During the parade, handlers will march down the parade route keeping the balloons under control as directed by the lead balloon handler.
- ✓ At the end of the parade, the handlers will hold the balloons in place while they are deflated – each balloon takes about five minutes to deflate so the time commitment after the parade has concluded is minimal.