



St. George Fire Protection District

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MEDIA RELEASE

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SANTA PARADES

The St George Fire Department will be conducting our annual Santa Claus parades the first two weekends of December. We are again partnering with the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank and Christmas for Challenged Children, a local faith-based group that helps make Christmas merrier for children facing chronic or life-threatening medical issues.

For those of you who may not be familiar with this tradition, Santa Claus will parade up and down the streets of each subdivision in the St. George Fire Protection District on top of a St. George fire engine. Following the fire truck will be a truck from the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, and following them will be a vehicle from the Christmas for Challenged Children organization. We urge all to please have your donations bagged and ready by the door so that when you hear the truck coming down your street you can hand it to the appropriate volunteer in the trucks behind the fire engine. **For safety's sake, please do not approach the fire truck** and try to hand your gifts directly to Santa or the firefighters.

The Food Bank will accept non-perishable food goods or contributions by check made out to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank. Please **DO NOT** make checks out to the St. George Fire Department. The Food Bank, because of negotiated discount agreements, can stretch their dollars far better than an individual can. That having been said it is incredibly heart-warming to watch families come to the curb, and each child hand delivers their food or toy donation.

The Christmas for Challenged Children organization will be accepting **new and unwrapped** Christmas gifts for children ages infant to 17. Please do not wrap your gift, because it will have to be unwrapped to assure the gender and age appropriateness of the gift. Like the Food Bank, Christmas for Challenged Children can buy at discounts not available to you or me, so if you wish to make a money donation, please make all checks payable to Christmas for Challenged Children.

For information about what subdivisions Santa will visit on which weekend go to the St. George website: www.StGeorgeFire.com. Unfortunately, since Santa and his sleigh drivers are on duty firefighters, who may have to leave the parade route to respond to emergency calls, we cannot break the parade route down in any more detail than to identify the weekend they will be in a given subdivision. So, listen for the fire engines in your neighborhood on the weekend listed on the website.