



2017 Parade Rules

Parade Criteria - For ALL Entries

1. Minimum age to ride on any unit is 5 years old.
2. If walking, children under age 12 must be accompanied by an adult, and have a stroller or wagon available in case of fatigue. Any exceptions to age limits must be pre-approved by TRF.
3. All participants are expected to be of sound mind and body, sober and cooperative with Parade officials before and during the Parade. Failure to comply will result in immediate expulsion.
4. All entries must arrange for power, helium or any other supplies needed for set-up/tear-down of their unit.
5. All entries are responsible for ensuring their unit can safely fit on the Parade route (considering trees, street lights, turns, etc.)
6. Your organization's name must be an integral part of your unit, or may appear on a banner preceding or following your unit. Any advertising should be covered. Website address and phone number for your company may be displayed. Use of partisan political signs or other political material on any entry is prohibited on or around the Parade route. Any controversial statements, pictures or actions may cause your unit to be ejected from the parade.

Spectator Safety

1. Candy, gifts, or toys may not be handed out, tossed or thrown.
2. No squirt guns or silly string may be used along the Parade route.
3. Giveaway materials which are strictly advertising or political in nature are NOT permitted.
4. Please do not encourage spectators to leave their seats or enter the Parade route for any reason.

Marching Band Criteria

1. Bands are encouraged to perform over as much of the Parade route as possible.
2. No unit is permitted to STOP to perform. All choreography or demonstrations must be accomplished while moving forward, unless an exception is granted IN ADVANCE by the Parade Committee.
3. All members of a Band MUST continue to march forward while turning corners, keeping pace with the rest of the Parade.
4. Bands may not be followed by transportation buses or other large vehicles. This rule will be strictly enforced. Decorated golf carts or wagons ARE allowed as support vehicles on the Parade route.
5. Bands may be identified by banners or signs preceding the groups, or by signage that is an integral part of the group. Vehicles may not be used to identify bands.
6. The band is encouraged to dress appropriately. If the band chooses not to wear regular uniforms, then it should select the dressiest uniform possible for summer weather.
7. Any band stipend given by TRF is contingent on sponsorship obtained and the number of marching bands that qualify to participate in the Parade.

8. TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE MARCHING BAND STIPEND:
 - a. Fort Wayne and Allen County High Schools will receive first rights to receive the stipend **if applied for by the May 15th deadline**. Schools applying after that date may not qualify due to total number of Marching Bands that have met the application deadline.
 - b. Any remaining funds will be awarded to marching bands from outside Allen County based on the date of their application. Applications must be **COMPLETE**, and include Announcer Copy.
9. All units must be at the specified marshalling spot on time or they will not be allowed to participate.

FLOAT Criteria

1. A float shall consist of a low flat trailer (farm type), boat trailer (heavy duty), mobile home frame or other suitable frame with pneumatic tired wheels.
2. All applications **MUST** be accompanied by a sketch or photo of the proposed entry. The final entry must adhere to the original concept. Any variation or change requires prior approval of the Parade Committee. If a variance has not been granted, the entry is subject to elimination (on grounds of misrepresentation) at marshalling.
3. The approved towing units are: riding lawn mower or garden tractor, SUV, pick-up truck, ATV, UTV, Mule. **All vehicles must be decorated** (you must include **vehicles design** with your sketch) Self-propelled units (those in which the towing unit is an integral part of the float design) are also encouraged.
4. **The float design MUST reflect the Parade theme**. A sponsor's name on either commercial or non-commercial entries may appear on the float or on a banner preceding the float. Only authorized signage (that which appeared on the approved sketch or drawing) will be permitted.
5. The following minimum/maximum size restrictions apply:
 - a. Length: Min 12', Max 60'
 - b. Width: Min 7', Max 12'
 - c. Height: No minimum, Max 14' --Important because of railroad underpasses!
 - d. Flatbed Clearance: Min 2', Max 4'
 - e. Skirting Clearance: Min 1", Max 2"
6. Float Framework must be steel, aluminum, wood or other solid material, covered by chicken wire, plastic netting, sprayed canvas or other suitable material. The outer surface may be covered with poms, foil, paper mache, live or artificial flowers, cloth, garlands, fringes, petals, papers, grass mat or paint. Lettering may be cut from wall board or any other material, to which paint, glitter, foil, floral or other covering may be applied.
7. Animation and music are highly desirable.
8. **No unit is permitted to STOP to perform during the Parade**. This includes all specialty units such as mini-bikes, go-karts, and mini airplanes. All choreography, acts or demonstrations must be accomplished while moving forward unless an exception is granted **IN ADVANCE** by the Parade Committee.
9. When transporting the float to the Parade site, it is a good idea to cover it with polyethylene for protection from sun, wind and rain.
10. The following safety measures are required:
 - a. Float materials and costumes made of flame-proof material (or sprayed with a flame-proofing solution of 7 oz. borax, 3 oz. powdered boric acid and 2 quarts hot water).A fire extinguisher aboard the float or towing unit.
 - b. Safety type couplers for all towing connections.
 - c. Carefully secured lug nuts on all wheels.
 - d. Tires of good quality.
11. Children under age 10 must be in a restraint or supervised at all times by at least one adult. Minimum age to ride on float is 5 years, unless pre-approved by TRF.

12. Parade officials may disqualify an entry at any time if, in their opinion, the entry is not fully observing Parade rules and regulations or if the official observes any behavior or circumstance which is considered to be unsafe.

WALKING Unit Criteria

1. Each unit is allowed a maximum of thirty-five (35) people, including sign bearers.
2. Everyone must be able to keep up with the pace of the Parade.
3. Each walking unit **MUST** be costumed and have a choreographed activity/routine designed to entertain the people along the Parade route. **Lack of use of the current parade theme will affect your unit's acceptance into the Parade.**
4. Choreographed act/routine should be performed while the unit is moving at the Parade pace, and should continue along the entire Parade route. The routine doesn't need to be elaborate... just simple, creative and entertaining.
5. Parade officials may disqualify an entry at any time if, in their opinion, the entry is not fully observing Parade rules and regulations or if the official observes any behavior or circumstance which is considered to be unsafe.

POLITICAL Unit Criteria

1. The following positions are eligible for an entry in the Three Rivers Festival Parade:
 - President or Vice President of the United States
 - Governor of the State of Indiana
 - State Senators
 - Congressmen
 - Mayor of the City of Fort Wayne
 - Allen County Commissioners
 - Allen County Sheriff
 - Allen County Judges
2. Participation must be by the elected official and not a representative of the official.
3. Elected officials may be accompanied by no more than three (3) non-elected persons plus two (2) banner carriers.
4. Banner signage shall be limited to the official's name and title.
5. Parade officials may disqualify an entry at any time if, in their opinion, the entry is not fully observing Parade rules and regulations or if the official observes any behavior or circumstance which is considered to be unsafe.

Motorized Units Criteria

1. Motorized Unit refers to any Motorcycle, Car, Truck, Tractor or self-powered vehicle not pulling a float in the parade.
2. All drivers must be licensed and have proof of insurance.
3. **No more than 10 vehicles will be accepted in any one unit.**
4. Vehicles must travel through the route side by side, the only exceptions is when passing through any lane restricted area (any such area will be given out before the parade)
5. Vehicles must maintain no more than two car lengths distance between them and the vehicle directly in front of them at all times

6. Please refrain from: Burn offs, Hole shots, Dumping the clutch or any other action that the Three Rivers Festival may deem unsafe and would potentially endanger our parade guests or other parade units. Failure to do so will result in immediate removal from the parade along with further actions being taken by the Fort Wayne Police Department.
7. Parade officials may disqualify an entry at any time if, in their opinion, the entry is not fully observing Parade rules and regulations or if the official observes any behavior or circumstance which is considered to be unsafe.