

## Sweetwater Parade Stipend Overview

### *Marching Band Stipend*

Through the generosity of Sweetwater, we will be able to provide \$10,000 in grants among the high school marching bands that qualify for the parade. The stipend will be available in increments of \$1,000 and will be considered as follows:

- Fort Wayne and Allen County High School Marching Bands will be given first consideration and on a first come, first serve basis.
- 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.
- All members of a Band MUST continue to march forward while turning corners, keeping pace with the rest of the Parade.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Applications must be submitted by the May 15<sup>th</sup> deadline. Schools applying after that date may not qualify due to total number of Marching Bands that have met the application deadline.
- Applications must be COMPLETE, and include Announcer Copy.
- All units must be at the specified marshalling spot on time or they will not be allowed to participate.

### *Float-Building Stipend*

The goal of this project is to promote Float building for the Lutheran Health Network, Three Rivers Festival opening day Parade. Over the years the number of floats in the parade has decreased and the number of walking units, motorized and just straight advertising units has grown. The Parade is big. Now, it also needs to be more entertaining!

Sweetwater is providing \$10,000.00 in stipends to be distributed to first time float builders or any past builders that have not entered a float in the parade for more than seven years and wish to build a new float. Existing floats that have been redecorated to meet the theme will not qualify for the stipend.

These \$1,000.00 stipends will be distributed in the following manner:

- Stipends will only be awarded to parade participants from Allen County, Indiana.
- Current parade Float builders who have consistently provided excellent floats will have their fees reduced to \$250.00 (down from 350.00). We want to say "Thank you" and encourage them to keep doing a great job!

- Applications are judged as they are received, so you're encouraged to submit early.
- The Non-profit fee of \$95.00 is already discounted, so it cannot change due to its low cost.
- Municipalities are not eligible to receive the stipends.
- Non-Profits can qualify for the \$1,000.00 stipend if they are not currently a float builder and are accepted for entry to the Parade.
- Applicant must follow the regular process of the parade application, including meeting the deadline of April 30th.
- Applicant will be notified of the stipend award within 30 days of application being filed.
- To qualify: floats must be at least 14-foot in length and have one point of movement (example: spinning wheel or an animal that pops up from a tree trunk) and represent the current year's theme.
- A photo or accurate sketch must be included in the application for all floats.
- All units receiving the stipend will be preceded by a banner acknowledging them as a "First Time Float Builder" sponsored by Sweetwater (supplied by the Festival).
- The Stipends will be distributed day of parade, provided that all criteria has been met.

