

Guidelines for Parade Floats

1. All entrants must follow guidelines on application regarding drivers, insurance, etc.
2. Floats will be inspected by City officials 45 minutes prior to the start of the parade.
3. Vehicle and trailer floats should not exceed 55 feet in length.
4. All floats must be at least 8 feet wide, but no more than 13 feet wide.
5. Floats may not be more than 13 feet, 6 inches in height.
6. No alcoholic beverages or illegal substances will be allowed on or near the entries prior to or during the parade.
7. Entries may not display advertisements other than for the business they represent, nor for alcohol or tobacco (examples: banners, logos, etc.) on their float.
8. No items may be THROWN from the entries at any time. HOWEVER, candy, leaflets, or other items may be HANDED out by float personnel WALKING next to the float.
9. Wagon Floats fall in a different category and are not required to abide by these Guidelines. Refer to wagon float guidelines on application.
10. Fire Safety Requirements
 - a. Fire extinguisher mounted so that it is accessible to the operators. Do not obstruct the extinguisher with decorative material to hide its location. Extinguisher must have a current State Fire Marshal certification tag indicating that the extinguisher has been serviced within the last year. The gauge must indicate that the extinguisher has pressure.
 - b. Open flame devices are prohibited on parade floats. The use of fuel fired torches, candles or similar devices which can ignite the parade float are prohibited.
 - c. Fireworks are not permitted to be discharged.
 - d. No smoking on or near any floats at any time.
11. Safety Guidelines
 - a. **Float Vehicles:**
 - i. Float beds must be sturdy and capable of carrying the weight to be imposed.
 - ii. The float must be designed to maneuver the corners along the parade route without delaying the forward motion of the parade or causing potential hazards.
 - iii. Float vehicles should be properly registered and insured.
 - iv. The float vehicle must be properly serviced for gasoline, water, oil, brakes, tires and battery prior to entry into the parade. NO extra gasoline, other than the vehicle's tank, can be carried on the float vehicle.
 - v. Floats must have a minimum of 12 inches ground clearance from the frame. Nothing can drag on the roadway from the float. Proper clearance of material from around the wheels of the vehicles must be incorporated to avoid any materials being caught in them.

- vi. Decorative material and the parade structure must be kept clear of the exhaust system of a motorized float.
- vii. Portable generators must be used carefully. Do not allow the heated exhaust to come in contact with the parade float. Do not overload temporary electrical wiring (an electrician should do all float wiring). Secure extension cords properly; don't let them drag on the ground, contact tires or drive train. Inspect your electrical appliances before energizing the parade float.
- viii. Portable generators shall be secured to the parade float. Re-fueling of generators will not be permitted.
- ix. Plastic sheeting (visqueen) and plastic tarps will not be permitted.
- x. If music is part of your float, this must be included in your event application. Applicant must ensure that all necessary licenses or other permissions to use or perform copyrighted material, including performance of live or recorded copyrighted music, are obtained in advance of the special event.
- xi. The use of animals is restricted and must be approved through the permit process.

b. Float Drivers:

- i. Floats must be escorted to and from the parade site. If unescorted, proper running lights should be attached to the float vehicles.
- ii. Drivers must possess a valid motor vehicle operator's license and be adequately trained to drive their float. Drivers must be a minimum of 18 years of age.
- iii. Once the float is in position in the assembly area, a driver and representative must be in attendance at all times in the event there are questions, problems or the float needs to be moved.
- iv. Be sure that the operator (driver) has a clear field of view. The driver must have a wide field of view to avoid other floats and the crowd. If you have to back-up your parade float, have sufficient personnel to guide the float.
- v. Motorcycles – All motorcycle drivers and passengers must possess an "M" class license. All drivers and riders must be wearing a safety helmet approved by the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard.

c. Float Riders:

- i. NO ONE will be permitted to ride on the float as it is being transported to and from the parade site.
- ii. No children under 12 will be permitted to ride on a float without adult supervision.
- iii. All passengers standing or sitting on the float must be wearing a safety belt or have handholds or other supports while the float is moving.
- iv. No riders will be allowed to ride on the edge of the float. Any float with riders or articles hanging over the edge, before or during the parade will be subject to removal from the line of march.
- v. All children under 16 riding a bicycle, must wear proper safety equipment including a helmet at all times.