

SHENANDOAH APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL®
Grand Feature Parade Float Regulations

Within the context of the following information, the term “Festival” refers to the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival®, Inc. Violations of the following regulations may result in disqualification and removal of the float from the parade by Parade Marshals who are members of the Winchester Host Lions Club. **The Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival® reserves the right to reject any application that does not fit the needs of the parade(s) or that it deems to be offensive to a general audience. Any unit deemed on parade day by parade officials to be substantially different from the description on its application or to display behavior, signage, or dress offensive to a general audience may be denied entry into the parade or be removed from the line of march and barred from participation in future parades.**

INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. ***EACH FLOAT MUST BE COVERED BY GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE IN EFFECT DURING ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE SHENANDOAH APPLE BLOSSOM FESTIVAL®.***
- B. The Float sponsor must submit a completed, signed, and dated Float Application to the Festival Office, 135 North Cameron Street, and receive a letter of acceptance in order to participate in the Festival.
- C. The Float Application must contain the following:
 1. Name of driver of pulling vehicle. Driver must hold a valid drivers license and be at least 18 years of age on the day of the Parade.
 2. Name of owner of pulling vehicle. Over-the-road vehicles must have a valid registration and state inspection.
 3. Name of liability insurance company for pulling vehicle and policy number. This information is required for both over-the-road and off-road vehicles including farm tractors. Any pulling vehicle loaned by an automobile dealership not covered by automobile liability insurance provided by the dealership must be covered by automobile liability insurance provided by the driver or the float sponsor.
 4. In the case of horse drawn Float, the name of the liability insurance company covering the pulling horse(s) and policy number must be provided.

STRUCTURE

- A. Decorated automobiles, trucks, station wagons, boat trailers, lawn mower trailers, scooters, motor bikes, over the road tractor or trailer or combination are **NOT CONSIDERED** floats. And, therefore, will not be accepted to participate in the parade.
- B. **DIMENSIONS:**
 1. MAXIMUM OF 13’ IN HEIGHT MEASURED FROM PAVEMENT TO THE HIGHEST POINT OF FLOAT.
 2. BETWEEN 8’ AND 12’ IN WIDTH AT THE WIDEST PART OF THE FLOAT.
 3. BETWEEN 16’ AND 55’ IN LENGTH – NOT INCLUDING THE TONGUE OR THE PULLING VEHICLE.
 4. The framework must be at least 14 inches from the ground when the float is fully decorated and loaded. No part of the framework shall be so low as to prohibit the float from clearing surfaces and obstacles along the parade route and within the **ASSEMBLY AREA.**
 5. Requests for variance of any of these dimensions must be submitted in writing by **MARCH 1.**
- C. All tires shall be reasonably new and of good quality. Tires must not rub any portion of the frame when the wheels are turned.
- D. “Good” weldments, “reasonably new” materials, and adequate structural design are required. Any float considered unsafe by Parade Officials will not be allowed in the parade.

- E. All visible portions of the float, including top surfaces and wheels, shall be fully covered.
- F. Floats shall be so constructed and decorated that viewing from either side is equally appealing.
- G. Words that designate the sponsor of the float or its title should show on both sides of the float. As long as the words are incorporated **TASTEFULLY AND PERMANENTLY INTO THE DESIGN OF THE FLOAT**, there is no particular restriction as to their location. If the title of the float or its sponsor is going to be designated by temporary signage (foam signs, cloth banners, cardboard signs, vinyl banners, etc.) that are nailed, tacked, stapled, tied or taped to the float, the sign location is restricted to the skirt of the float and the size is restricted to a maximum of a 2ft. x 8 ft. sign on each side.
- H. Float skirt shall be constructed so as to allow sufficient access for all four wheels to be changed using an **IMPACT WRENCH**.

SAFETY

- A. **NO MATERIALS MAY BE HANDED OUT OR THROWN ALONG THE LINE OF MARCH.**
- B. Safety devices must be incorporated into the float for each rider whether seated or standing.
- C. The number of riders per float is limited to 20. Flooring shall have adequate strength to safely hold all riders.
- D. All drivers shall be familiar with the maneuverability of the float; be able to negotiate both right and left turns, maintain parade speed, and to be familiar with changes in elevations.
- E. Alcoholic beverages are forbidden on any float, in any vehicle, or on the person of any participant. Participants consuming alcohol prior to or during the parade will be removed from the line up.
- F. Sufficient wheel and wagon tongue clearances shall be incorporated so that no interference can occur with the chassis or with any structure in any phase of operation of the float.
- G. A minimum of one 5 lb. dry chemical **FIRE EXTINGUISHER** of the multi purpose ABC style is required with each pulling vehicle.
- H. Floats using gasoline-powered generators must be absolutely sure that exhaust fumes are safely ventilated. Thus, creating no danger to float riders.
- I. The following information applies to **SELF PROPELLED UNITS**:
 - 1) Must be full of gasoline and water when lining up for the parade.
 - 2) Starters must be in good working condition and batteries fully charged.
 - 3) Must have extended exhaust pipes so fumes will not be directed to parade viewers, float riders or float driver.
 - 4) All radiators must be of adequate size and must be unobstructed to prevent overheating.
 - 5) Drivers must have good visibility.
- J. Floats temporarily disconnected from pulling vehicles must have wheels of float chocked to prevent rolling.

PULLING VEHICLES

- A. Floats must be pulled by cars, farm tractors, pick-up trucks or 4-wheel drive vehicles (**CLEAN ON PARADE DAY**). No over-the-road tractors permitted.
- B. A float may bear the name of its sponsor. **OTHERWISE, NO ADVERTISING IS ALLOWED ON FLOATS.** The pulling vehicle may display the sponsor's name discreetly. Otherwise, no advertising is allowed on pulling vehicles. APPLE BLOSSOM officials reserve the right to determine what is advertising and to require its removal from pulling vehicles or floats. Pulling vehicles or floats bearing advertising that cannot be removed may be removed from the parade.
- C. Garden tractors should be tested to be sure they are big enough to pull floats up hills!

GENERAL INFORMATION

- A. Information will be sent approximately two weeks prior to the parade detailing the location and time you are to report to the assembly area.
- B. All floats **MUST ARRIVE** at the assembly area **BY 7:30 A.M. ON SATURDAY, May 4th**. Units who cannot attend as scheduled must notify the festival office as soon as possible. Parade officials

will escort all floats from the Assembly Area to the downtown Line-Up/Judging Area on Cameron Street at 8:30 a.m. All floats **MUST BE READY TO MOVE AT 8:30 A.M.** You may not hang back using this time to complete your float. If your float is still incomplete you will have to finish it downtown in the Line-Up/Judging Area. If you hang back in the Assembly Area and miss your escort to the Line-Up/Judging Area, you will forfeit your parade position and you will be placed at the end of the parade.

- C. Floats are not allowed to stop during the parade. If your float does break down, immediately contact the nearest Parade Marshal (there should be one per block) for instructions on what to do.
- D. Walkers ARE NOT ALLOWED to accompany float in line of march.** Requests for exceptions when submitted in writing with the float application will be considered on a case by case basis.
- E. Float riders must remain on the float through the entire parade.
- F. Children under the age of 6 on the day of the parade shall not be permitted to ride on floats.**
- G. Participants of any unit are prohibited from walking or marching back through the line of march after disbanding.
- H. Parade marshals are located along the parade route and are clearly identifiable by YELLOW JACKETS AND YELLOW IDENTIFICATION RIBBONS. Cooperation of float entrants with Parade Marshals is required.
- I. A distance no greater than fifty (50) feet not less than ten (10) feet must be maintained between any two entries.
- J. **ALL AMPLIFIERS AND PA SYSTEMS MUST BE SOUNDED SO AS TO NOT INTERFERE WITH OTHER MUSICAL UNITS AND BANDS.** The Parade Marshal has complete authority in this matter and reserves the right to withdraw any unit that does not comply.
- K. It is recommended that a kit containing appropriate tools accompany the float in the event minor repairs are necessary.
- L. The Festival is not responsible for jewelry, money or other valuables left in the dressing room or on the float.
- M. The Parade Marshals are there to assist in any way possible. However, the float builder/participant/sponsor is ultimately responsible for security of float in the **ASSEMBLY AREA AND ENROUTE.**
- N. Drivers of any and all vehicles in the parade and parade areas must have a valid driver's license and be at least 18 years of age.
- O. THE FESTIVAL IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR SIGNS LEFT BEHIND ON RENTED FLOATS. THE FESTIVAL DOES NOT PROVIDE SIGNS FOR RENTAL FLOATS!**

JUDGING

- A. ALL floats must be parked in the proper location by 9:30 a.m.
 JUDGING WILL BEGIN AT:
 - Division I Floats – 9:30 a.m.
 - Division II Floats - 9:30 a.m.
 - Division III Floats - 9:55 a.m.
 - Division IV Floats - 10:20 a.m.
- B. All float riders must be in costume and on their float at the proper time in order for their float to be eligible for judging.
- C. Floats will not be judged during the parade.
- D. The Judges decisions are final. The official list of awards will be completed for distribution by approximately **12 NOON.**
- E. **PARADE ADJUDICATION:**
 - Originality – 20 points
 - Use of Color – 20 points
 - Spectator Appeal – 25 points
 - Excellence of Design – 25 points
 - Execution of Current Year's Festival Theme – 10 points

- F. **FLOAT AWARDS** – First, second and third place awards will be presented in each of the following six categories:
- Business Organizations – Professionally Built
 - Civic and Service Organizations – Professionally Built
 - Communities Participation – Professionally Built
 - Business Organizations – Non-Professionally Built
 - Civic and Service Organizations – Non-Professionally Built
 - Communities Participation – Non-Professionally Built
- G. **OVERALL AWARDS** – A small number of the best floats chosen from the winning floats in the categories listed above will also win these four overall awards. They are presented without regard to classification. It is possible, for example, for the one float with the highest point total in the parade to win the Sweepstakes Award as the Best Overall Float in the parade; the First Place Award in its category; and the Festival Theme Award for best interpretation of the current theme.
- Sweepstakes Award - Best Overall
 - Lion's Award - 2nd place Best Overall
 - Grand Marshal's Award - 3rd place Best Overall
 - Festival Theme Award - Best Interpretation of Current Festival Theme

POST PARADE

- A. Float riders – it is the responsibility of the float builder/participant/sponsor to arrange for pick up of float riders in the **POST PARADE AREA**. The Post Parade Area is the block of Millwood Avenue between Cameron and Kent Streets.
- B. Floats **MAY NOT STOP** at “Parade End” at the intersection of Cameron Street/Gerrard Street/Millwood Avenue. Floats **MUST PROCEED THROUGH THAT INTERSECTION** and continue on Millwood Avenue toward Kent Street. Parents and others may meet float riders at McCarthy Tire Company (formerly Duncan Brothers) along Millwood Avenue. **Please notify the parents of your younger float riders of this important rule!!!** Floats can pull over only long enough to drop off riders and may not park. The movement of floats in the Post Parade Area is subject to the direction of Parade Marshals.

The Festival is not liable for injury to parade participants or spectators, or for damage to floats, or damage caused by floats, or damage to vehicles and personal property.