

# GRAND PARADE RULES

## FREEDOM FESTIVAL VISION

We celebrate the founding of America and the Spirit of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. Central to our vision is God, Family, Freedom and Country. We promote love, unity and patriotism in our community and across America. ALL are invited to participate in the festival activities through service and volunteerism.

## FREEDOM FESTIVAL MISSION

America's Freedom Festival is a nonprofit foundation organized to fulfill its vision and support four main purposes: to celebrate, teach, honor and strengthen the traditional American values of God, family, freedom and country. The Festival's events celebrate our freedoms, teach the rising generation to appreciate and preserve these freedoms, honor those who have distinguished themselves in the cause of liberty nationally and internationally, and strengthen individuals in remembering their own civic duties and responsibilities.

## PARADE PURPOSE AND APPLICATION PROCESS

Participation in the Grand Parade, sponsored by America's Freedom Festival at Provo, will be permitted only upon approval of each year's current web-based application, which must be submitted prior to the application deadline. Incomplete applications will not be considered. Every application must include a clear and detailed description of the entry, the acts, feats, performances or actions of all accompanying participants, list of any music to be performed or which will accompany the entry, and include a picture or conceptual drawing. The submitter must clearly describe how their entry's inclusion will support and enhance vision, mission and values of the Freedom Festival. The completed application must also establish that the entry is sufficiently unique and entertaining to be part of the Grand Parade. The Parade Committee reserves the right to refuse an entry into the parade if, in its sole judgment, it determines that the entry is political, partisan/social issues, unlawful, obscene, vulgar, defamatory, offensive to local community standards, or otherwise considered to be inconsistent with the standards, theme, quality, or purposes of the Freedom Festival.

All applications will be reviewed by parade leaders for completeness, compliance to all Freedom Festival requirements and each entry's entertainment value. Upon acceptance, each entry will be notified of such acceptance in an email with a link to pay for their entry. Once payment is received, a spot in the parade will be reserved for the entry.

## GRAND PARADE DEFINITION

The Grand Parade is the largest of the Freedom Festival's activities and yearly has approximately 300,000 spectators in attendance. The Parade is a free community event for all spectators and occurs only through the generous contributions of sponsors and the support of hundreds of volunteers.

The Parade is held to encourage feelings of patriotism and the establishment of our nation on July 4<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, the following rules and procedures have been established –

## RULES AND PROCEDURES

1. **Number of Entries.** The Freedom Festival Parade will consist of no more than 125 units. The Freedom Festival Parade Committee will give first consideration to quality and to those entries who demonstrate their support for the mission of the Freedom Festival through compliance with the Parade theme. Too much commercialization can disqualify an entry.
2. **Decision of Committee.** The decision of the Committee concerning acceptance of any entry into the parade will be final.

3. **Right to Refuse Participation.** The Executive Committee reserves the right to refuse an entry into the parade if, in its sole judgment, it determines that the entry is controversial, unlawful, obscene, vulgar, defamatory, offensive to local community standards, or otherwise considered to be inconsistent with the standards, theme, quality, or purposes of the Freedom Festival.
4. **Vehicles.** Miscellaneous vehicle entries, such as trucks, convertibles, motorcycles, etc., will not be allowed in the parade unless the Parade Committee gives specific prior approval to meet a special purpose.
5. **Distribution of Candy, Literature or other items.** The distribution of items along the parade route has become a serious problem. It has resulted in an increase in the amount of trash left along the parade route and more importantly has become a safety hazard for spectators. Therefore distribution on the parade route of advertisements, literature, candy, gum, treats, promotional material or any other items, may be done only upon the following conditions:
  1. Distribution of items MAY BE DONE ONLY DURING THE PRE-PARADE, by members of an approved Pre-Parade entry or an authorized Parade Vendor.
  2. Distributed materials may not be thrown to or in the direction of spectators, but must be handed to an individual. Distribution must not occur in any manner which encourages or rewards spectators that move from the viewing area into ANY PORTION of the street assigned to the parade route.
  3. If in the opinion of a Freedom Festival or Parade Committee Official, the continued distribution of materials could endanger Parade spectators or participants, the official may ask entry participants to cease from the distribution of these materials. The Freedom Festival and Parade Committee Officials will bear no responsibility for any financial or opportunity loss associated with this request.
  4. **Violators of this provision may be subject to prosecution, as appropriate, under Utah Statutory Code.**
6. **Signage.** Signage must follow Parade Signage Guidelines. The name of the sponsor and logo should not detract from the float or entry. All questions regarding proposed signage should go to the Parade Signage Chair for review. Assigned entry numbers must be affixed to the entry in such a way as to be clearly visible from the front to both sides of the street throughout the parade.
7. **Commercialization.** Sponsors should avoid over-commercialization. Any commercial message should be a minor part of the float presentation, should be in good taste, should add to the entertainment, and should not unfavorably detract from entry presentation.
8. **Campaigning.** No campaigning, positive or negative, is allowed by Parade participants.

America's Freedom Festival at Provo is nonpartisan and supports no candidates or elected officials of any party. We have determined there are adequate venues for public campaigning and that active campaigning during the Parade would be detrimental to the goals and purposes of the Festival. Each year, a few currently serving elected Federal officials, a few State and County officers and Provo City's Mayor and City Council are invited to participate in the Grand Parade. This is done in recognition of the office which each holds and for the services they have rendered, and not to give them an opportunity to campaign.

No candidate or supporter of a candidate for election or re-election may: display or distribute any materials or voice or transmit audio materials in support for or against theirs or another's candidacy. Currently serving elected officials and candidates for election may appear on a float or in a vehicle, but no reference to any office being sought may be displayed. No candidate or currently serving elected official, whether running for office or not, may walk the parade route to greet or shake hands with spectators during the Grand Parade.

9. **Demonstrations or Protests.** No demonstrating, protesting, positive or negative is allowed by Parade participants.

No individual or group of individuals may use the Grand Parade as a forum to: display or distribute any materials or voice or transmit audio materials in support for or against theirs or another's situation, policy, or political or social position.

America's Freedom Festival at Provo is nonpartisan. We have determined there are adequate venues for public demonstrations and protests and that active civil disobedience during the Parade would be detrimental to the goals and purposes of the Festival.

10. **Rule Publication.** It is the responsibility of each entry sponsor to insure that every entry participant is aware of and agrees to comply with these rules. Each entry participant must be made aware that they must follow the instructions and commands received from both Parade Committee members and local law enforcement officers.
11. **Entry Participants.** Clowns and other costumed participants are highly encouraged so long as they add to the theme of the Parade. Each participant must be capable of the exertion required to complete the route at the pace set by Parade Officials.
  - a. **Drivers.** Drivers must be able to control their vehicles. If adequate sight-lines are not available, the entry must provide Safety Personnel who have adequate communications with the driver in order to insure the safety of both entry participants and spectators. The entry sponsor is responsible to see that the driver and any required safety personnel, have adequate skills, experience and training to perform their duties.
  - b. **Riders.** Riders must be appropriately dressed and costumes coincide with the theme of the entry. Precautions should be taken to ensure the safety of all riders.
  - c. **Participants / Out-walkers.** Care must be taken by all participants not to draw spectators from the viewing area into ANY PORTION of the street assigned to the parade route. No performance or activity shall be permitted which results in the drawing of spectators onto the parade route. Safety is of the highest priority for all entries in the parade.
12. **Line-up of Parade.** Details concerning the line-up of the parade, where to assemble, and other parade instructions will be emailed out prior to the parade. This preliminary information will be emailed to the sponsor's primary contact, as defined on the Parade Entry Application. Each entry will receive updated information upon check-in. Arrival times must be strictly adhered to. Arrival is to be defined as all key participants and vehicle(s), if applicable, being in position in the assigned staging area at the appointed time. Late arrivals may be denied participation with no fees returned. Line-up order is to be determined solely by the Parade Executive Committee.
13. **Speed, Spacing and Flow of Parade.** The Primary Entry Contact must convey to each entry participant the importance of maintaining the flow of the parade and following the instructions of Parade Officials. Large gaps between entries are unacceptable and diminish the spectator's enjoyment of the Parade. Entry participants should expect to be asked by Parade Officials to speed-up, slow-down or perform to enhance the flow of the parade and for its effective management and operation. Bands are encouraged to play regularly along the parade route and particularly when approaching and passing the Grandstand set aside for Dignitaries at approximately 700 East Center Street.
14. **Violation of Rules.** Parade Entries who fail to follow these rules will lose the opportunity to participate in the Parade and may be asked to leave. Flagrant violation of these rules may prevent future participation by that organization and/or the individuals involved for a period of up to five years. Failure to follow the directions received from Parade Committee Members will be considered a flagrant violation of Parade Rules.