

2024 LA PORTE 4TH OF JULY PARADE POLICIES & REGULATIONS

1. All entries in the LaPorte 4th of July Parade must support the **Parade's Mission to: "Amaze, Amuse & Entertain the masses in Celebration of our Nation's birth."**
2. Parade Starting Time is planned for **10:00 AM CENTRAL DAYLIGHT TIME.**

(FLYOVER MAY DELAY START TIME, PLAN ON ADJUSTING AS NEEDED)

3. The entry application form must be completed and signed acknowledging the understanding of the general policies and guidelines.
 - Incomplete forms will not be accepted.
 - Entry forms that are improperly completed will attempt to be contacted for clarification.
 - Due to space limitations and guidelines, all entries submitted may not be accepted.
 - The parade organizers reserve the right to reject any entry at any time, and all decisions are final.
 - The general policies and guidelines listed are for the safety and quality of the parade. Failure to abide by these policies and guidelines (and those presented with the parade information packages) may result in the unit's removal from the parade and jeopardize future invitations.
4. Acceptable parade units include floats, bands, marching units, or novelty units with historic or entertainment value.
 - Entries need not adhere to the parade theme but must be appropriately designed as an **acceptable** unit.
 - **All commercial vehicles must have appropriate 4th of July decorations.** Please see requirements on the following page under "Vehicles" and "Commercial Business Entries". The committee may reject entries if necessary.
 - **No entry shall espouse social commentary.** No entry shall have a political theme of any kind, except for Political Parties, which are allotted one (1) entry per Party, which must be approved by the 4th of July Parade Committee.
 - Fire Departments are limited to 1 (one) fire truck. **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

IN ADDITION, please take note for your particular parade entry type:

- **Marching Musical Units:** Marching musical units are requested to perform the 2-mile parade route.
 - All routines must be performed in a forward motion.
 - Stopping to perform is not permitted.
 - Bands are expected to perform their song/selections as much as possible while on the 2-mile parade route.
 - Band members should be dressed in traditional band uniform or band approved summer uniform.
 - Band leadership and chaperones to be dressed in a manner consistent with band members. *All band members, leadership, and chaperones to actively display pride in their school.*

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- **Equestrian/Animal Units:** The participants must always have control of their animals. Any animal deemed unsafe in the parade will be removed. **All animal units must provide their own “clean-up”** – “pooper scooper” crew and equipment to follow their unit in the parade. If unit does not arrive to line up with a clean-up crew, it will be pulled from the parade line up.
- **Floats:** Floats must be a fully decorated trailer that is self-propelled or pulled by a tow vehicle. It is strongly encouraged that the tow vehicle also be covered, decorated, and incorporated into the float theme. Size dimensions of the float must also be included on the application form. Float applicants must follow the “Parade Float Guidelines.”
- **Specialty Units/Novelties/Marching Units:** Drill, Dance, or Baton teams units will be considered on their entertainment value. Entries requiring vehicles to carry sound systems must notify parade organizers on the application. The type of vehicle must be listed for approval by parade organizers. Decorated carts or vehicles are required. *Stopping to perform is PROHIBITED.*
- **Vehicles: Vehicles considered for entry must be antique or unique.** Vehicles permitted in the parade will be restricted in numbers. Vehicle drivers are encouraged to dress in a manner consistent with the vehicles vintage or unique quality. **NO commercial or private vehicles are allowed in the parade without prior written approval by the parade committee.**
- **Commercial Business Entries:** Commercial entries must be a sponsor of the parade. A commercial business entry **cannot be used as a “major” advertisement** for the sponsoring business.

****AT NO TIME WILL ANY UNIT OF ANY KIND BE ALLOWED TO STOP AND PERFORM****

5. **No THROWAWAYS are allowed** from any unit or vehicle on the parade route. Units wishing to distribute ANYTHING **must receive permission** from the 4th of July Parade Committee (via disclosure on entry application and subject to receiving written approval). Units must provide their own people to distribute to spectators on the curb so as not to interfere with the flow of the parade.

Only Parade “walkers” will be allowed to distribute candy or other approved items. **NO THROWING items from the vehicles or encouraging children to approach units enroute – THIS ENDANGERS THE CHILDREN.** *Violators will be removed from the parade.*

6. Each unit will provide its own motor power. We suggest that you set up the idle speed of your car to prevent stalling. **Our desire is to present a parade which flows smoothly at approximately 2 MPH and is free of gaps.** The parade starter will instruct you before leaving the starting line on the proper distance to maintain between you and the unit ahead. This distance must be maintained throughout the parade unless you are instructed to do otherwise. There will be Parade Starters along the parade route who may ask you to alter the space between you and the unit ahead. **Please do not let your unit be the cause of a parade gap. It’s important for your parade walkers to be able to keep up with your unit.**
7. Final position and order of all entries in the parade will be determined by the La Porte 4th of July Parade Committee. Special requests will be accepted for consideration but are not guaranteed.
8. **All Units must be in their line-up position, according to their parade number, by 9:00 AM. Please check in with the PARADE STARTERS in your area!!!!**

Units MUST approach their positions from the EAST end of town to avoid blocked roads and ensure proper line-up. Please contact the Parade Chair before parade day if directions are needed.

9. **Each POLITICAL party will be allowed ONE vehicle w/float.** Candidates running for office or special guests participating in the Parade **must remain with their float and shall not encroach upon the curb-to-curb area and width allocated to other parade units by falling behind or moving ahead of their vehicle.** All Political Party entries must contact the Parade Chair prior to submitting their application.
10. **Current political officer holders** may join the parade, separately, as Dignitaries, but **are not allowed to use campaign materials in their unit to benefit their party.** *Ex: Joe Smith, for Mayor (Not Allowed); Mayor of La Porte, Joe Smith (Allowed)* All political party entries must contact the Parade Chair prior to submitting their application.

While campaigning is prohibited for all entries, campaigns may be included in the official Parade Sponsor Brochure. Such sponsorship messaging may affirm the candidate or candidate's position, but it may contain no messaging nor inferences directed at an opposing candidate or party.

11. The Parade Committee no longer has access to convertible vehicles historically provided for transporting Dignitaries or elected officials along the parade route. Such individuals/units will need to obtain such vehicles of their own accord and complete a Novelty Unit application.
12. **NO** alcoholic beverages will be allowed on the route.
13. These policies are established to ensure a safe and enjoyable parade for all. **Any parade entry which does not comply with these established policies will be asked to leave the parade route at the discretion of the Parade Chairperson. They will also be subject to possible suspension from future parades!**
14. The La Porte 4th of July Parade confirmation packet containing your instruction letter and map will be emailed to all entries approximately one week prior to the Parade date.

For applications and updated information visit:

www.Kiwanis4thofJulyParade.org

Kiwanis Club of LaPorte, PO Box 175, LaPorte, IN 46352

Visit our website regularly for the most current information at:

www.Kiwanis4thofJulyParade.org

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