



Parade Rules & Regulations

- No entry fees
- **Entry Deadline October 6, 2023**
- Entries received after this date will be placed at the end of the parade, and **WILL NOT** be judged.
- **Participants should plan to arrive no later than 5:30pm**
- Parade begins at 7:00 P.M., Saturday, October 28, 2023
- Marshalling instructions and route format will be sent out on or before October 20, 2023.
- ** **LINE-UP NOTE: Feeder streets Duckworth, Ritter, Elizabeth and Oak will line up facing NORTH and move onto County Road. ****

FLOAT CATEGORIES (7)

- Youth Group
- Men's & Women's Organizations
- Churches
- Business & Union
- Miscellaneous
- Outdoor & Recreational
- Farm/Farm Related

Definition of a Float: A float is a decorated platform towed behind a vehicle.

NON-FLOAT CATEGORY (1)

- Marching Groups (non-organized bands or other groups)

PLEASE NOTE: On your application you must choose ONE category and whether or not your group wishes to be judged.

Float Judging Criteria

A total of no more than 100 points will be given to each float and divided as follows:

- Theme** – maximum 30 points
- Overall Effect/Eye Appeal** – maximum 25 points
- Workmanship/Lighting/Music** – maximum 25 points
- Originality** – maximum 20 points

General Judging Information

All categories of floats/non-floats will be judged prior to the parade at their designated marshaling locations. Judging will begin at 6:00pm sharp. **All float entries that wish to be judged must be in their assigned position by 5:30pm.** Please communicate directly with your Marshal about the arrival time of the judges in your area. The judges, prior to the start of the parade, will award prizes and ribbons.

Float Requirements

- All float entries must display a 12-inch by 12-inch sign on the **left front (driver side) of the float** with the **Float Entry number on it corresponding with the number you have been assigned.** This entry number is required so the judges can identify each float entry for the prizes that will be given. Each float may also have the name of the sponsoring group displayed on it with a plaque, sign or banner this is carried.
- **Floats are required to carry a fire extinguisher.** Minimum 10 lb. ABC dry chemical.
- **12' maximum height**

Prizes for Floats and Non-Float:

Each Category:

1st Place: \$100, 2nd Place: \$80, 3rd Place: \$60

Overall – only 1st place winners in each category are eligible for this prize

1st place: \$300, 2nd Place: \$200, 3rd Place: \$100

COSTUME CATEGORIES (4)

- Adult Individual
- Children's Individual
- Group Costume
- Decorated Children's Wagon

Costume category entries do NOT need to send an application to be in the parade. Costume categories will be judged near the beginning of the parade route at the intersection of Parker and Mill Streets prior to the Parade at 6:30pm.

Costume Prizes:

1st Place in each category - \$20

PLEASE NOTE: Judging is subjective and decisions are finalized before the parade.

POLITICAL ENTRIES are allowed **ONLY 1 FLOAT** (1 vehicle to pull it, no other vehicles/gators/golf carts, etc.) **PER PARTY** and as many **WALKERS** as you wish for the float. Contact your Perry County Central Committee Chair for parade line-up position.

Parade Order

Many groups ask to be near the front of the parade. We accommodate these requests where possible. However, in fairness, every year we rotate as to which group will be first in the parade (for example, if you were the first category last year, you will be rotated to the end of the parade this year).

Parade Schedule

- 5:15pm – Marshals in position
- 5:30pm – ALL entries MUST be in position
- 6:00pm – Float/non-float judging begins
- 6:30pm – Costume categories judging begins
- 7:00pm – Parade begins

Cancellations

If you have entered the parade but cannot attend, you MUST contact the Chamber at 618-357-3243 before the parade! Please call as soon as you know, and before 3:00pm the day of the parade! Again, we're striving for a great Mardi Gras parade and your help and consideration are an integral part of that!

Gaps in the Parade

Our biggest parade complaint is that there are too many gaps in the parade. **If you are a non-float marching group, DO NOT STOP TO PERFORM!** All entries MUST continue to be forward-moving throughout the parade. All entries should be aware of the location of the entry in front of and behind them in order to eliminate such large gaps.

Traffic, Parking & Restrooms

If you will be in the parade **PLAN TO ARRIVE EARLY** (no later than 5:30pm). Traffic is very congested around town and the parade route. Bus parking for marching bands will be concentrated in the fairgrounds/ball park area. Restrooms will be available inside the fairgrounds and port-a-potties will be located throughout the parade route.

NO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, NO BICYCLES, MOTORCYCLES, FOUR WHEELERS, HORSES, HORSE-DRAWN FLOATS, OR ANIMALS WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE PARADE

PLEASE DO NOT THROW ANYTHING INTO THE CROWD!! YOU MUST HAND ITEMS TO THE CROWD!

The Chamber reserves the right to restrict entry onto the parade route to any float/individual/group that is demonstrating or promoting anything that is not appropriate for the viewing of children.