

LEXINGTON ST. PATRICK'S PARADE

Parade Safety Rules

Thank you for participating in the Lexington St. Patrick's Parade. We ask you to help us prioritize safety for all participants while fostering a positive and engaging experience for spectators.

The safety of your unit, any vehicles you operate, and all participants associated with your group is your top priority during the Lexington St. Patrick's Parade.

To ensure a smooth and safe event for everyone, all participants are required to complete the parade insurance waiver before the start of the parade. **Please note that participating in the parade without a completed waiver constitutes participation at your own risk.**

We encourage all unit leaders to review the waiver thoroughly with their members and address any questions before the parade.

General Safety:

- **Throwing Prohibition:** Absolutely no throwing of any object, including candy, literature, or balloons, into the crowd. Distribute these items directly to spectators along the curb, ensuring they remain on the sidewalk.
- **Driver Visibility:** Decorations on vehicles and floats must not obstruct the driver's vision during maneuvering.
- **First-Aid:** It is recommended that each float or unit carries a basic first-aid kit in case of minor injuries.

Floats:

- **Line-up and Entry:** Follow designated parade committee instructions for float arrival and entry procedures on Midland Avenue via Third Street (Winchester Road).
- **Ventilation:** Maintain proper ventilation for exhaust fumes and engine heat on float prime movers.
- **Emergency Exits:** Ensure clear and accessible emergency exits for everyone riding the float.
- **Fire Safety:** Each float must have a readily accessible 4 lb dry chemical fire extinguisher.

- **Standing Support:** Provide secure handholds or other support for those standing on the float.
- **Weather Preparedness:** Float sponsors are responsible for providing their own personnel for maintenance, security, and rain protection (coverings).

Preparation and Maintenance:

- **Vehicle Checks:** Prior to the parade, thoroughly inspect all vehicles and floats for any mechanical issues or potential hazards.
- **Loose Objects:** Secure any loose items on floats or vehicles that could fall off and injure spectators.
- **Weather Awareness:** Be prepared for changing weather conditions. Dress appropriately and have a plan in case of rain or extreme temperatures.

Parade Control:

- **Parade Committee Authority:** The committee retains authority to ensure a smooth and efficient parade flow. Unit leaders hold responsibility for their unit's readiness.
- **Non-Compliance:** Units failing to meet specifications or hindering parade progress may be removed at the committee's discretion. Police assistance will be requested if necessary.

Signs and Banners:

- **Positive Messaging:** The Parade Committee reserves the right to approve all signs and banners carried in the parade. The parade is not a platform for condemning or criticizing governments, organizations, or individuals.
- **Enforcement:** Parade marshals will enforce these regulations and seek police assistance if necessary.

Unit Movement and Spacing:

- **Maintain Pace:** Establish a consistent walking or driving speed to avoid bunching up with units in front of you. Leave enough space between units to avoid collisions or last-minute stops.
- **Clear Communication:** Units with multiple members should have a designated point person or clear communication system to ensure everyone stays together and maneuvers safely.
- **Watch Out for Children:** Be extra cautious around children and other spectators in the crowd. With vehicle units, slow down, avoid sudden movements, and maintain a safe distance.

- **Animal Safety:** If a unit includes animals, ensure they are properly trained, leashed, and comfortable in the parade environment. Clean up after any animal waste immediately.
- **Costume Safety:** Costumes should not restrict movement or vision, and footwear should be appropriate for walking or marching distances.
- **Reviewing Stand Performances:** To maintain a steady flow and avoid delays, all performances at the reviewing stand are limited to a maximum of one minute. Music must be provided by and contained within the unit.

By working together and prioritizing safety, we can create a memorable and enjoyable experience for all parade participants and spectators.