



MADISON PARKS AND RECREATION

2025 Hometown USA Parade Rules and Regulations

Entrants must observe all applicable rules and regulations and follow instructions from police and parade officials or will be barred from the parade. The parade officials reserve the right to remove any entrant from the parade either prior to assembly, while assembling, or any time during the parade. The parade officials reserve the right to accept or decline any entry.

Deadline and Fees

- All entries must be received by June 20, 2025. Late entries will not be accepted.
- An entry fee is not required, but a suggested donation for entrants is \$100 to support the City of Madison Firework Extravaganza on July 5, 2025.

Parade Day Information

- The parade starts at 6 PM.
- Check-in begins at 4 PM. Parade Headquarters will be set up at the corner of Jefferson Street and Second Street.
- All entries must be checked in and lined up by 5 PM. Check-in is important as last-minute instructions may be given, parade officials need to know that each unit has arrived, and floats will be judged at this time.

Entrant Rules and Regulations

- All entries must decorate their floats to match the patriotic theme of Hometown USA. Please remember this is a family-friendly event.
- Vehicles, UTVs, ATVs, Golf Carts, and buses will not be allowed in the parade unless pulling a float or providing transportation for pageant entrants and dignitaries. *Exceptions will be considered for antique vehicles, other organized specialty car/tractor groups, and hydroplanes with prior approval.*
- Drivers of all vehicles in the parade areas must possess a valid driver's license, be at least 18 years old, and possess all liability vehicle insurance.
- No candy, goodies, or materials can be thrown from a vehicle or float. Those wishing to distribute candy, goodies, or materials must distribute items hand-to-hand at the curb by walking along the parade route next to the spectators.
- No alcohol or glassware is allowed in the parade. Bottled water and cans of soda are permitted.

- Horse and dog groups may be permitted by parade officials upon registration submission. If approval is granted, all animals must have someone to clean up, if necessary, along the parade route. The City of Madison is NOT responsible for cleaning up after animals.
- Music is strongly recommended for each entry. Remember, this is a family-friendly event and ONLY family-friendly and patriotic-themed music is permitted in the Hometown USA Parade. Parade officials have the complete authority in this matter and reserve the right to withdraw any unit that does not comply with their instructions to turn down or turn off sound when instructed to do so. Failure to comply with the officials' instructions will result in immediate removal from the parade and jeopardize future participation.
- The parade officials reserve the right to withdraw any unit of which costume or performance does not meet the Hometown USA parade rules and regulations or conform to the standards of reasonable public taste and fit the parade theme.
- Candidates and local political organizations may participate but must enter a float or walking group. The float and walking group must contribute to the theme of the parade and adhere to all parade rules. No campaign materials may be distributed.
- Units may not contain flags, banners, bumper stickers, t-shirts, hats, or other visible materials that contain obscene language. This is a family-friendly event.

Line-up

- All entries will be assigned a line-up number and receive further instructions about the parade upon receipt and approval of the application. This information will be sent via email and a map will be included to show where each entry is to line up.
- Upon your arrival at the parade staging area, you must check-in at our table at the corner of Jefferson Street and Second Street.
- Your unit number can be found on the street during line-up.
- The line-up will NOT be changed to get a unit closer to the front. Please keep in mind that everyone wants to be in the front, but the end is just as important!

Route

- The parade starter will be positioned at the corner of Main and Jefferson Streets, where units will be fed into the parade lineup.
- The parade officials will control the conduct and traffic flow of the parade. Participants must obey the directions of the officials as they relate to the parade.
- The parade participants will enter Main Street from their line-up point and travel west to Cragmont Street where ALL units will turn north or south as directed by parade officials or public safety officers.
- The parade ends at Cragmont Street. DO NOT stop at the intersection to let people out of cars or off floats; this backs parade traffic up behind you. Pull into the nearest parking lot away from parade traffic.

Floats

- A parade float is a platform that is decorated for display in a parade. A parade float may be decorated with any manner of artistic elements, according to the theme of the parade. Simply stacking equipment or furniture on a trailer or in the bed of a truck is not a float and will not be considered for the Hometown USA Parade. However, equipment may be utilized if it contributes to the float and the theme of the parade. Our title sponsor, SuperATV is an excellent example of how equipment can be used in a way that contributes to the parade.
- All entries must be decorated according to the Hometown USA Parade's patriotic theme.
- All banners must be neatly lettered.
- Participants must be costumed/dressed according to the parade theme.
- No participants may jump on a float to ride and may not interfere with any other unit in any way.
- No participants will dismount from a float during the parade route. Participants will not have body parts, particularly legs and feet, extending past the sides, front, or rear of the float. This is an extreme safety hazard.
- Units may contain no element higher than 15 feet to provide clearance of overhead wires and lights.
- A range of 20-40 feet between each unit will be enforced. All units are required to close gaps between units when instructed by parade officials. Failure to do so may warrant removal from the parade.

Bands/Marching/Walking Units

- All marching, walking, or dancing units must maintain forward motion. Routines that cause gaps will not be permitted. Units may not stop forward motion for performances. Stopping or reversing the motion will result in removal from the parade and will jeopardize future participation. Only patriotic theme music will be allowed.
- If for any reason a gap of greater than 40 feet is created, marching units must increase their pace to close the gap.
- Participants must be suitably costumed/dressed in accordance with the theme of the parade. Walking groups must be dressed in uniform that easily identifies walkers as a part of the same group.
- No vehicle may accompany marching units without written approval.

Kings and Queens

- Kings/Queens from any Elementary, Jr. High, High School, College, or recognized pageant will be considered for the parade at the discretion of the parade officials.
- Kings and Queens from the same school/pageant must ride in the same vehicle or float.
- Kings and Queens are required to furnish their own vehicles/floats and the driver must be at least 18 years old as noted previously.
- A maximum of 2 persons per vehicle (driver excluded).
- Signage must be neat and look professional.

For questions about the rules or registration, please reach out to Brett Ricketts at bricketts@madison-in.gov.