



Northbrook 4th of July Parade Guidelines

Help ensure a safe and enjoyable parade for everyone by following these basic rules:

- The maximum height for entries is 12 feet, 6 inches; the maximum length is 30 feet.
- Throwing items to the crowd is prohibited—participants must walk to the curb to hand out giveaways. Violators are subject to having their items confiscated.
- Alcoholic beverages and illegal or non-prescribed drugs are not allowed.
- Inappropriate behavior, comments and/or attire may result in removal from the parade.
- Bicycles, skateboards and rollerblades are not allowed.
- Pets can be in the parade only if they are on floats or in cars.
- Squirt guns can be used only with the following guidelines:
 - Engage with others who have squirt guns or encourage you to spray them.
 - Show respect for uniforms, instruments, decorations and parade visitors.
- Throwing water balloons is prohibited.
- The sale of items by participants along the parade route is prohibited.
- Entries should keep pace with those in front of and behind them.
- Requests made by parade officials should be acknowledged and followed.
- Entries featuring elected officials and/or political candidates are allowed only if the official or candidate appears in person.

Violation of any rules may result in removal from the parade and/or exclusion in future years.

Float Safety Guidelines

Construction and Materials

- No one can stand on a float unless there are adequate handholds, belt restraints, side railings or other means to prevent falls.
- Floats, displays and decorations should be structurally sound.
- No devices using flames or heat (i.e., candles, kerosene or gasoline lanterns, torches, space heaters, heat blowers, etc.) are permitted.
- No tandem trailers or trailers with wheels in the center are allowed for units that have people on them.
- The tallest part of the deck that people can stand on is four feet from the ground.
- If a generator is used, it must be securely mounted on the vehicle with at least 12 inches separating the generator from any combustible material.
- Any electric wiring must be grounded, secured and guarded to prevent shock or fire.
- No ticker tape or confetti can be used on the parade route due to fire hazard, engine air-intake problems and clean-up costs.

Fire Safety

- Floats should use materials that are flame resistant or flame retardant.
- Non-flammable finishes, such as latex and watercolor paints, should be used.
- Tag board or poster board should be used instead of materials containing inner gaps or space, such as corrugated cardboard, cornstalks and straw.
- No part of the float should drag or touch the ground, which could result in items getting entangled in wheels or becoming potential fire hazards. All parts of the float should be a reasonable and safe distance from the ground, wheels and/or any part of the float that could entangle them.

Towing Unit

- The float unit must be hitched securely to the towing unit and have a safety chain attached to the towing vehicle.
- No one is permitted to stand or ride on the float tongue, tractor bars or hitch assembly.
- The hitch used to attach the float to the pulling vehicle will be factory receiver type or welded pickup-style bumper. No bolt-on hitches are allowed.

Float Regulations

- Floats must have handholds for anyone standing and/or secure seating.
- Float entries should be built on a pickup truck bed, flatbread truck or trailer.
- No children under the age of 12 are allowed on a float, unless an adult is present; there must be one adult for each five children.
- Float riders are not permitted on vehicle roofs or roof racks, in the back of pickup trucks or on the tailgate. Riders must be positioned on a flat surface at all times.
- All float drivers must be at least 21 years old and possess a valid Illinois motor vehicle operator's license.
- Float drivers must have clear 180-degree forward vision at all times and an unobstructed view of the float. If an unobstructed view to the rear is not possible, a spotter must walk alongside the operator to monitor activity on the float.

Entry Inspection

- Entries will be inspected prior to the parade. Any entry not meeting the safety requirements or deemed unsafe will not be permitted to participate until requirements are met.
- At the time of inspection, the float platform must be complete, with the exception of finishing touches and staging elements (i.e., props).

In the unlikely event that a float catches on fire, **call 911** and stop in place.

If there are questions about the guidelines, contact the Northbrook 4th of July Parade representative, Theresa King at 847-897-6119.