

RIDGEWOOD FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION, INC. PARADE POLICIES & REGULATIONS 2024

1. The purpose of the Ridgewood Fourth of July Celebration is to celebrate the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the USA and its history and to honor American Patriots of all times.
2. The Parade is not to be used as a platform for political, commercial or special interest groups.
3. All Parade participants must keep within the theme of the Parade and the spirit of the Fourth of July.

GENERAL POLICIES

- The Parade begins 10:00 a.m. **THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2024** (RAIN OR SHINE!)
- All Parade entries must be entertaining and appropriate for a family audience.
- All groups with children must provide adequate adult supervision along entire Parade Route and in Line-up area.
- Participants riding on a float/vehicle must remain in the vehicle, switching of marchers and riders is not allowed
- No alcoholic beverages are permitted.
- The Committee reserves the right to limit the size of any participant group at any time.
- Drivers of all vehicles in the Parade must be licensed.
- Elected officials must ride in motorized vehicles and may not campaign.
- Animal Entries are required to clean up behind their group along entire Parade Route and in Line-up area.
- Parade entries with generators or other possible fire hazards must have suitable fire extinguishers on board.
- No premature exiting of the Parade (*other than first responders on a call*).
- All participants must keep up with the pace of the Parade. (*Do not allow large gaps to form in front of your group. Failure to keep up will result in removal at the next intersection. Always maintain an appropriate distance from other groups.*)
- Parade participants are required to carry one sign clearly identifying their group for spectators and judges -- other signs are not allowed.
- **NOTHING, REPEAT NOTHING, MAY BE HANDED, THROWN OR DISTRIBUTED TO THE SPECTATORS ALONG THE PARADE ROUTE. IGNORING THIS REGULATION WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE EXPULSION.**
 - This means **DO NOT THROW CANDY!** Children picking up candy from the street are out of the line of sight for most large parade vehicles (fire trucks, floats, etc.). In a split second, there could be a tragedy.
 - Most paper handouts end up littered on the sidewalks, streets and yards along the parade route.

APPLICATION

- To participate, all groups must complete, sign and return the application and entry fee by June 15th
- Notification will be made by June 20th if any application is denied.

PARADE ENTRY TYPES (several types may apply to each group or organization)

- Color Guard (*uniformed marchers escorting the Flag of the United States of America*)
- Fire Department / Rescue Squad / Ambulance Corps (*limited to 4 vehicles per entry unless accompanied by a band.*)
- Float (*Float=larger than 4'x8', Mini-Float=4'x8' and smaller.*) Must reflect Parade theme and/or the spirit of the Fourth of July.
 - All Floats MUST fit under the Franklin Avenue train trestle, if more than 11 feet high, float personnel must demonstrate the ability to collapse and reassemble float in less than two minutes. ANY FLOAT TALLER THAN 11 FEET UNABLE TO MEET THESE CRITERIA WILL NOT BE PERMITTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE.
 - Floats may include sponsor signage up to 22"x28" per sponsor, maximum of three sponsors' signs.
- Parade Group (*any unit not otherwise defined-- includes Marching/Walking Groups and Individual(s) riding in cars*)
- Musical Group (*marching bands/drum corps or ensembles riding on a float/vehicle*)
- Vehicle (*antique car, truck, motorcycle--25 years old or older, other vehicle types subject to Committee approval.*)
- Commercial / Business Entry: (*Only current year sponsors at the \$1,000 level and above of the Ridgewood Fourth of July Celebration are permitted. \$1000 level Sponsors and above receive recognition in the Parade and are permitted to enter a unit*)

LINE-UP

- Line-up information will be mailed in June and posted online.
- Participants may begin to line up at any time on day of Parade. No "place markers" (such as cones, barricades or vehicles other than those used in the parade, etc.) may be used to reserve a space at the line-up site -- actual members of the group must be present.
- All groups must be in place by 9:00 a.m. (**Floats by 8:00 a.m. for Judging**)

PARADE JUDGING

- Floats are judged at **8:00 a.m.**
- All other groups are judged on their performance along the Parade route, not at the Grandstand.

Failure to comply with these regulations or with orders from Parade Marshals will result in the participant being refused permission to march in the Parade or in expulsion after the Parade begins.