

2025 INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE Friday, July 4th, 2025

Floats - General Information and Rules

Parade Theme for the 2025 Wakefield Independence Day Parade is “Patriotic – Celebrate July 4th in Wakefield”

1. There are two Float Divisions – Non-Profit Organization and Corporate/Business. Wakefield School System’s PTOs are part of the Non-Profit Division. Floats in any division are eligible to win the Gertrude M. Spaulding Award for the best use of recycled materials.
2. Floats must be no taller than 13 feet in total height or they will not fit along the parade route.
3. The winners (First, Second and Third) will be presented with a banner to hang in front of your float so spectators can see the winners. All winner banners will be collected at the end of the parade to be used in future parades.
4. General Information All floats and participants will go directly to check in at the Lakeside Office Park no later than 3:00pm for judging at 3:30. All persons, decorations and equipment that are a part of the float must be on the float and ready for judging at this time. Float drivers must be in the truck cab or the towing vehicle 30 minutes before the parade starts to line up. Because of the overall parade schedule, floats must be on time.
5. The Float Coordinator or Parade Coordinator reserves the right to remove any float that the Committee considers inappropriate or a danger to spectators. No racial, religious, sexual orientation or ethnic slurs, explicit sexual content of any kind, as determined by the judges, will be tolerated.
6. **There is absolutely no throwing of anything from any float per the rules in our insurance policy.** No handouts such as brochures, flyers or advertising will be allowed. All people riding on the float must be secured to the float or able to hold onto something while the float is in motion. This is in consideration for the safety of both participants and spectators. Any group seen throwing or handing anything out will be immediately ejected from the parade and will not be allowed to participate the following year. Any float that is told to leave the parade, but does not, will be banned from any and all future parades.
7. There is no walking on the side of the float for safety reasons. All participants not riding on the float, may walk behind or in front of the float.
8. No alcoholic beverages will be allowed on any float or in any other vehicle on the parade route. No alcoholic beverages may be consumed before or during the parade by the float participants or the driver of the float vehicle. Anyone seen consuming alcoholic beverages, will be reported to the Wakefield Police, and the float will be removed from the parade line up.
9. No fundraising by any organization is allowed.

10. All prizes will be announced before the parade begins so that floats may travel in the parade with awarded recognition. The decision of the judges will be final. Judging will be done by persons from outside of Wakefield. Floats will be assigned a place in the parade's line of march by the Parade Coordinator and the float will receive a paper with their number on it when they check in.
11. All float participants MUST fill out an application. This is NOT the Google form. The application will be e-mailed to you. If you choose to withdraw from the parade for any reason – please let us know by July 2nd at 5pm.
12. Parade Route: The Parade starts on North Ave in front of the Lakeside Inn Office Park. Travels down North Ave and takes a left onto Church St. Then a right onto Main Street, where it ends at the Galvin Middle School.
13. Parade staging is at the Lakeside Office Park. Off North Ave, turn onto Willard Street, and it will bring you to the entrance to the Parking lot and Parade Check in Area where volunteers will show you where to stage.
14. Drop off at the Check in Area is from 12:30pm to 3:00pm, when North Avenue will be closed to vehicles. Buses will transport participants from Mikes Gym on the corner of Broadway and North Ave, and the Galvin Middle School. The parade ends back at the Galvin Middle School.
15. Units with multiple participants, meet at another location and enter the parade line up as a group with your parade unit if possible.
16. All units with horses must have a cleanup team with them or they will not be allowed in the parade
17. All towing vehicles and walking units must keep up with the pace of the parade.
18. For inquiries, please contact info@julyparade.org