

Phoenix Veterans Day Parade Entry Standards and Guidelines

Parade Date: November 11 at 11 a.m.

Veterans Day is the day set aside to recognize and thank all those who served honorably in the military during war or peace. Veterans Day is mainly intended to thank our living veterans for their service, for supporting our national security, and to underscore the fact that all those who served have sacrificed and answered their call to duty to preserve our freedoms.

Veterans Day was first known as Armistice Day—established by President Woodrow Wilson in 1919, in honor of the signing of the Armistice to end World War I. The signing took place at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918, giving significance to the day and time. President Dwight D. Eisenhower changed the name of the celebration to Veterans Day in 1954 at the end of the Korean War to honor all Veterans. Today, Veterans Day is observed in the United States on November 11 and is both a federal and state holiday.

In Arizona, [Honoring America's Veterans \(HAV\)](#) is the proud sponsor of the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade. HAV is a 501 (c) (3) organization and is operating this event in its private capacity as an organization. HAV works with the [City of Phoenix](#), which provides support with city street services, police and fire assistance, and other ancillary services.

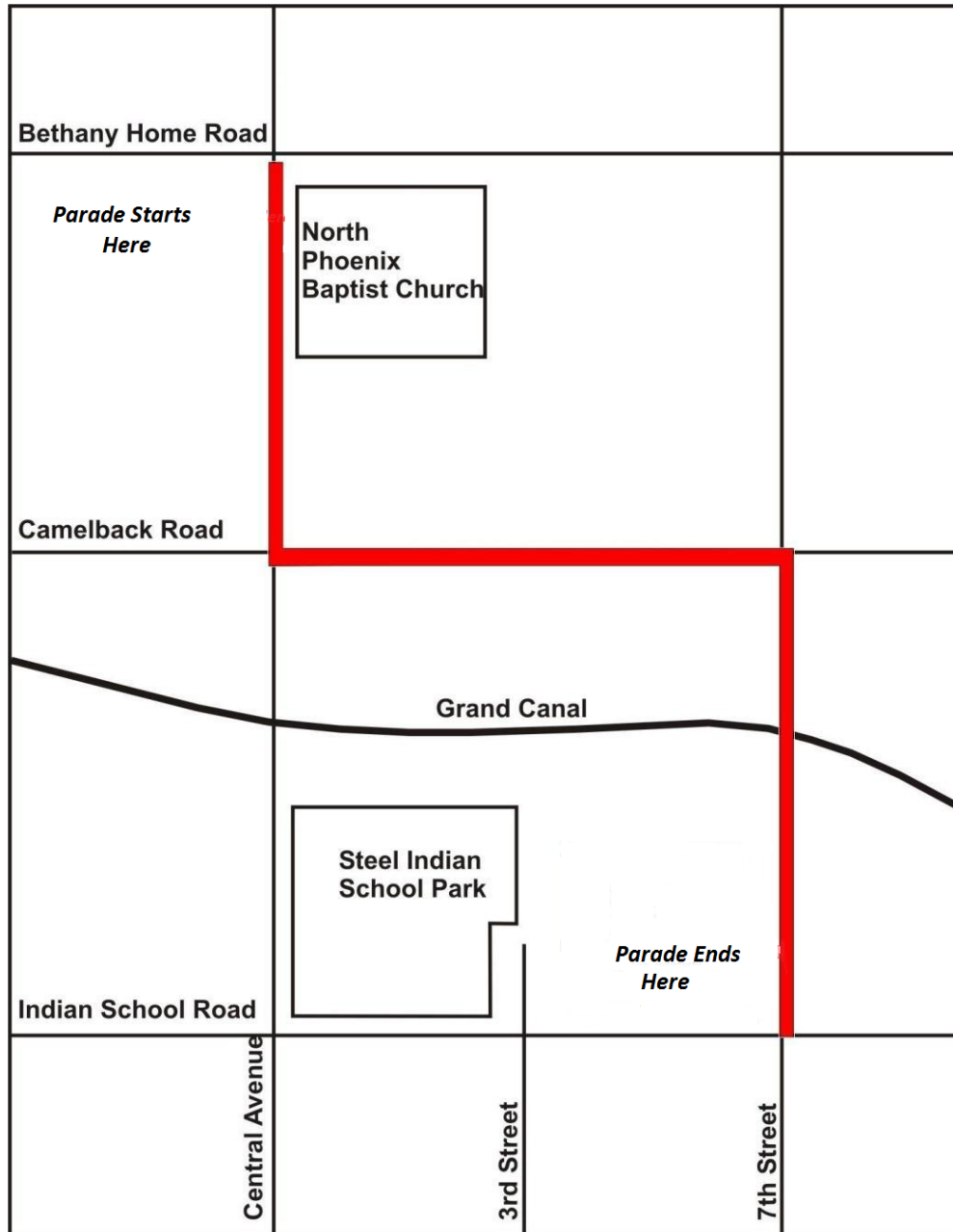
***The Phoenix Veterans Day Parade Mission Statement:** To create an annual Veterans Day Parade to honor the contributions of our United States Veterans and help build a patriotic Phoenix community spirit that recognizes the sacrifices Veterans make for our country.*

This year's theme: Honoring America's Heroes

PHOENIX VETERANS DAY PARADE

November 11 at 11 a.m.

PHOENIX VETERANS DAY PARADE ROUTE



The parade heads south on Central Avenue, turns East on Camelback Road and turns South on 7th Street where it ends and de-stages at Indian School Road. The parade route is two miles long. Parade staging takes about 1.5 hours, and entries will move into parade march at approximately 10:30 a.m. ***Street closures begin at 10 a.m. so all entries must be in place before the street closure.***

PARADE LINE UP: To create a beautiful parade and reduce the closure time of the streets, the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade Team reserves the right to coordinate entries for the best possible line-up. Lineup Coordination may include a grouping of similar units together.

PHOENIX VETERANS DAY PARADE ENTRY STANDARDS

1. INTENT AND PURPOSE: The intent and purpose of the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade are to honor our nation's Veterans by respectfully and positively recognizing their military service in the Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, National Guard, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marines). Any individual or unit determined to have a presentation that is inconsistent with the theme of this parade may be denied participation in the parade on that basis. The parade may not be used as a platform for any other issue or cause.
2. ENTRY REQUEST/ACCEPTANCE: Entrants must complete a Phoenix Veterans Day Parade Entry Application Form in its entirety. Entries **MUST** include what type of attire the unit will be wearing for the parade **AND** what type of items they will be carrying or displaying. *All entries are subject to approval by the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade Team to ensure adherence to the standards and guidelines.* Missing information on the entry form may delay this approval process. **Entries will be notified of parade acceptance or declination.**
3. SIZE LIMITS: Each parade entry is limited to 150 members (except bands). Any entries larger than this who wish to participate in the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade will be split-up into two or more separate units to create steady flow for the overall parade.
4. MINIMUM AGE LIMITS: Because of the length and pace of the parade route, children who are marching in the parade must meet the minimum age requirement of 13 years old.
5. TRASH (PACK IT IN AND PACK IT OUT): Entrants must ensure that all trash generated by their entry while in the staging and de-staging areas is disposed of properly. This includes any staging needs, such as decorations, wooden pallets, paper, empty water bottles, etc. Trash bins are provided, and entrants are requested to take their trash to these disposal areas.
6. ESCORTS: If there is a need for official escorts for a unit, they should be an actual part of each parade unit. Official escorts participating in the parade are limited to five escorts per 50 people. (150 entry limit = 15 escorts maximum per unit). **Escorts MUST be in patriotic attire and be an actual part of a marching unit.**
7. SAFETY AND COURTESY: Entries should participate in the parade courteously, with safety in mind always. Parade entry members who are riding on a float must be securely fastened to the float with safety harnesses. All entries of vehicles must display proof of current insurance, and the driver must have a valid driver's license to participate. License and insurance will be checked for each entry before parade movement. ***For safety reasons, throwing anything into the crowd from the parade route IS PROHIBITED. Handouts or giveaway items are to be listed as part of your entry. If you are handing out items, you must walk to the spectators, handing out items individually and keeping pace with your entry.***
8. ELIGIBILITY FOR JUDGING: Entries have the option of being judged for parade awards. Entries will be judged on presentation along the entire two-mile parade route. Any entry that fails to adhere to the parade standards and guidelines will disqualify their entry from eligibility for all awards. Dependent upon the infraction, the entry may also be suspended from participation in future parades.

9. NO STOPPING ALONG PARADE ROUTE: **ENTRIES SHALL NOT STOP IN THE PARADE** for any reason other than an emergency, including any precision or drill unit presentation or gymnastics, etc. *Please note that stopping along the parade route creates gaps in the parade and can ruin the overall event.*
10. ANIMAL WASTE: All animal (equestrian and canine) units must have appropriate methods of waste removal (i.e., diapers or “pooper-scoopers”) and are responsible for ensuring cleanup in the staging area, along the parade route, and in the de-staging area. All entries with animals shall ensure that the animal waste is packed out with their entry or disposed of safely and appropriately.
11. THEME: The theme of the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade changes each year and is chosen to help honor our Veterans through patriotic and uplifting parade entry displays. We intend to positively recognize those who have served in the Armed Forces who protected the citizens of the United States and preserve our freedom. Any individual or unit determined to have a presentation that is inconsistent with the theme of this parade may be denied participation in the parade on that basis. The parade may not be used as a platform for any other issue or cause.
12. APPAREL: Parade apparel must be appropriate to the parade theme. For example, *Reserve Officer Training Corps in uniform, Novelty Unit in Pom attire, Pearl Harbor Veterans in Aloha attire, etc.* DOD standards allow for those who are on active-duty, active-reserve, or on orders to be in uniform. Retired members’ uniform wear is optional but highly preferred in keeping with the theme. **Please note: Flag etiquette prohibits the wearing of the American flag as clothing.**
13. MUSIC: Bands **MUST** play music along the entire length of the two-mile parade route. Bands are also strongly encouraged to play some patriotic music and some military marches. Floats must have recorded or live patriotic music on their float. The music should be played during the entire length of the parade for the enjoyment of all spectators.
14. VEHICLE AND FLOAT DECORATIONS: Vehicles entered the parade should be either of historic or military significance or have some Veteran connection. If not, they must be able to provide a service to the parade (i.e., carrying a parade grand marshal, novelty, VIP, etc.). ALL civilian vehicles shall be decorated in a patriotic theme to bring more attention to the service of our Veterans. Tow vehicles for floats or other entries should also be decorated in a patriotic theme. Vehicles shall also maintain the parade pace.
15. HAV maintains the right to be selective of parade entries.