

Washington Parish Fair Parade Rules and Guidelines 2019

The Washington Parish Fair begins with a parade that highlights the creativity and talent of our parish. This year's theme is "The Heart of Washington Parish." The parade is a fun and family friendly way to start the largest free fair in the United States. The 2019 Parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 16, 2019. Floats will stage at Franklinton High School. All dignitaries, car entrants and the Grand Marshal will stage at Franklinton Elementary School. All marching groups will stage at the Franklinton Farmer's Market area and will be directed to join the parade in progress by a parade official. The parade will follow the prescribed route through town and end at the Washington Parish Fair Grounds. In order to protect the entrants and spectators, and to make sure that the parade is in keeping with the spirit of the Fair, the following rules and guidelines are submitted.

a. Applications

1. All Entrants must register with Parade Committee before October 9, 2019.
2. All entrants can register by filling out an online form at <http://thefreefair.com/fair-parade/> or email their registration form to the Fair Parade committee at freefairparade@gmail.com.

b. Route

1. The parade will begin at Franklinton High School. The route is 3 miles long, will travel west towards the Courthouse, turn right towards the Fairgrounds, travel through the Fairgrounds and finish in the field east of the Livestock Barn.
2. All entrants will familiarize themselves with the route and will ensure their pace over the route helps the entrants behind them.
3. **All entrants will travel the entire route and will not disband prior to the end of the route.** The end will be clearly marked and will give enough space for all entrants to safely disband and dismantle their entries.
4. Drivers will remain close to the entrant in front of them. This will ensure the safety of spectators who will not be tempted to step into the road. This will also ensure a steady pace of the parade and will help prevent the entrants in the back of the parade from having to travel at a fast speed.

c. Staging

1. All entrants must be lined up and prepared, in parade order, no later than 8:00 a.m. on October 16th.
2. Judging and inspection of entries will begin no later than 8:00 a.m.
3. In order to help all entrants meet the Parade timeline, entrants will be allowed to stage their entries and construct their floats beginning at 8:30 p.m. on October 15th. Overnight security and portable toilets will be provided for all entrants who stage the night before the parade.
4. Entrants will be held accountable for the cleanliness of their areas during the entire staging process.

d. Judging

1. Judging and inspection are necessary to ensure the quality and content of all entries.

2. All float entries must be decorated to incorporate the theme of this year's Fair, "The Heart of Washington Parish."

e. Behavior and Content

1. Self-Promotion will not be allowed. This applies to candidates seeking election to public office as well as businesses looking to advertise. All business entrants must promote the theme of the fair in their float.
2. Music will not be excessive in volume or explicit in content. The parade committee will decide if music violates the parade standards regarding volume or content.
3. All entrants are expected to conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with the high standards of the Washington Parish Free Fair and will not be allowed to participate in the Parade if those standards are violated.

2. Specific Information

a. Marching Groups, Dance Teams, Bands

1. Groups will be allowed one support vehicle to follow their group along the parade route.
2. All marching groups will stage at the Franklinton Farmer's Market area and will be directed to join the parade in progress by a parade official.
3. All school affiliated cheerleaders, dance teams and bands will be judged on October 14th at Franklinton High School's Demon Stadium. Judging will begin at 9:00 a.m.

b. Horses

1. Horse entries must sign in no later than 9:00 a.m. on October 16th.
2. Horse entries will stage next to the Chevron Station across from Sunshine Equipment.
3. Horse entries must have proof of Coggins when they register.
4. Riders younger than 18 must have a parent or guardian signature.
5. **Any rider wishing to be judged must pre-register prior to October 9th.** Pre-registration may happen through the website at <http://thefreefair.com/fairparade/> or through the Parade committee at freefairparade@gmail.com.
6. Judging for horses will take place during the parade, along the route.
7. All horses must proceed at a slow walk during the parade. Any pace other than a slow walk may result in immediate expulsion from the parade.
8. Riders will not purposefully stop their horses or lag more than 5 yards behind other riders.
9. All horses will be directed to a side street before entering the Fair Grounds and will not travel on the main street of the Fair Grounds.

c. Floats

1. Floats will be decorated according to the theme of this year's Fair, "The Heart of Washington Parish."
2. Float entries will ensure their floats are safe and are able to travel the entire route.
3. Float entries will not allow large gaps to develop in the parade route.

d. Vehicle entrants

1. Tractors

- a. Tractors are not required to submit an entry form.
- b. Tractors must be staged and lined up no later than 9:00 am on the 16th.

2. Fire Trucks

- a. Fire Trucks will stage at Franklinton High School in front of the school entrance.
- b. Fire Trucks will be limited to one truck per district.

3. Cars and Trucks

- a. Entries will be limited to vehicles more than 20 years old.
- b. Group support vehicles are not considered a vehicle entrant.

4. Prohibited vehicles

- a. Motorized vehicles not allowed on Louisiana highways will not participate in the parade. This prohibition includes vehicles such as golf carts, ATVs, go-carts. An exception will be made for the Shriners.
- b. Eighteen Wheelers will not be allowed to participate in the parade.

e. Elected Officials

1. Elected public officials representing Washington Parish residents will be invited to participate in the parade as a representative of their current office. This includes officials who were elected but are not yet serving.
2. People seeking public office will not be allowed to enter the parade.
3. Elected public officials running for re-election are allowed to enter the parade only as representatives of their current office and are not allowed to campaign. No election specific promotional items will be thrown whatsoever.

f. Community Entrants

1. Schools

- a. Will be limited to 3 entries.
- b. Schools will select one person to serve as a point of contact with the parade committee and all communication regarding the parade will be conducted with that point of contact.

2. Other Community Entrants

- a. Communities are limited to 2 entries.
- b. Communities may request additional entries through the Parade Committee.
- g. Business and Commercial Entrants are prohibited from advertising and must represent the fair theme “The Heart of Washington Parish.”
- h. Royalty
 - a. Queens and royalty from other Parish and Statewide Fairs, Festivals and Pageants may ride on a car or a float that they provide.
 - b. Only one car or float will be allowed per Fair, Festival or Pageant.

3. Logistical Information

- a. All entrants will be responsible for their own hydration and nutrition during the staging, parade, and disbanding processes.
- b. Portable toilets will be located at the staging area, the disbanding area, and every half mile during the route.
- c. All entrants are responsible for picking up their own trash during staging, parade, and disbanding processes.

4. Administrative Information

- a. In addition to registration, entrants must check in with the parade committee prior to the start of the parade.
- b. The parade committee will have check in tables at Franklinton High School, Franklinton Elementary School, the Chevron Station and at the Farmer's Market. These tables will be manned starting at 6:00 a.m. on the 16th.
- c. Parade Marshalls and committee members will wear green smocks and be located throughout the route and staging areas.
- d. Any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions can be made to the parade committee at freefairparade@gmail.com.