



# FLOAT GUIDELINES

## JUDGING OF FLOATS

1. All entries in the float category will be judged prior to the start of the parade. Floats being judged must be in their respective locations no later than 8:00 am and judging will commence promptly at 8:15 a.m. Any float that is not in its respective location or is still being assembled at 8:15 a.m. will not be judged.
2. Volunteer judges will be judging all floats and once the judging has finished the scores will be tallied and placards will be given to the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place float winners to affix to their float as it travels the parade route; those announcing the parade will be notified of the winners so they can be announced during the parade. Prize money awarded to the top three judged floats is as follows:

First place	\$500
Second Place	\$300
Third Place	\$200

The winners of the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place floats will be announced at the evening show at Fairfax High School; no prizes will be awarded at that time.

3. To qualify as a float – a vehicle must be towing a trailer, wagon, etc.; decorated vehicles will **NOT** qualify as a float.
4. All decorative material shall be manufactured or treated to be effectively fire retardant.
5. Participants on a float are not permitted to throw, toss, or drop objects from the float to the crowd.
6. All participants riding on floats shall have solid sitting arrangements with hand holds readily available to them. Any standing participants shall have stabilized body support with means to prevent falling from the unit. No person shall be wired or tied to the float. Secured safety rails, barriers, or ropes may be used to prevent a fall from the float. No unsecured riders may be located where they might fall beneath the float, under its wheels, or between the tow vehicle and the float (e.g., no seating on rear edge of tow vehicle or on front or back edge of float). Children must be under adult supervision and seated at all times when in motion. Riders are to remain on the float once parade begins and when the float is in motion. Alcohol consumption or smoking on the float is strictly prohibited.

## FLOAT INCENTIVE

The Independence Day Celebration Committee (IDCC) will be adding a \$150 incentive to any organization/business submitting an application to enter a float in the parade. To qualify for this incentive, the following guidelines must be met:

7. To qualify for the \$150.00 float incentive all floats are required to abide by items #1 – 6 above.
8. The float must include the overall theme and include the logo/wording of the 2025 theme “Freedom, Flip Flops and Fireworks.” on their float.

Thank you for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mitzi Taylor at 703-385-7949 or via email at [specialevents@fairfaxva.gov](mailto:specialevents@fairfaxva.gov).