



FAIRFAX CITY, VA, INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE
RULES AND REGULATIONS
REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **APRIL 1, 2025**

1. Acceptance of your application is based on the entertainment value, the variety, and the adherence to the following rules/regulations. Submitting an application does not guarantee acceptance to participate in the parade; **receipt of an application after the deadline of April 1, 2025, does NOT guarantee acceptance to participate in the parade.** All applications will be reviewed by the Independence Day Celebration Committee (IDCC) and all applicants will be notified of their application's status in May 2025. **All parade participants in the parade will adhere to the following rules and regulations. Failure to do so will result in disqualification from competition in any of the parade categories as well as future parades. Thank you for your cooperation.**
2. Once an applicant has been selected to participate in the parade no additional units, organizations, or businesses cannot be added.
3. All applicants must complete the description on the entry form to aid selection process. Please list in detail, on a separate sheet of paper if necessary, the unit, the category, and the order of line-up within your organization. Example: *Antique Vehicle - 1966 Ford Mustang, *Marching Unit/Youth - Girl Scout Troup 123, *Vocal Group - Harmony Singers.
4. All parade entries must be in good taste and contribute an entertainment value to the 2025 parade theme **"Freedom, Flip Flops and Fireworks"**. Participants must be dressed in uniform/costume, ride in a decorated vehicle, float, or bicycle, or if walking, remain with their group.
5. Groups/organizations that have children participating under the age of 6 must have an accompanying, decorated vehicle for children's transport.
6. All units must keep moving and, in the line-of-march at all times. **NO unit shall stop on the parade route at any time to perform. Intentional delay or stopping and could result in disqualification of judging and future parade participation. All musical units (dancing, marching, performing, or singing) must perform the entire parade route – musical judges are located throughout the parade route and it is important that we entertain the spectators.**
7. Political dignitaries invited by the mayor are not allowed to have walkers, must ride in the vehicle provided, and may not distribute anything on the parade route while riding in the vehicle.
8. Distribution of Items:
 - a) Parade participants must not, **under any circumstances,** throw or eject anything to spectators along the parade route – any participants not adhering to this will be subject to elimination from future parades.
 - b) Parade units may have individual(s) walk alongside their unit and distribute candy, flags, coupons, or merchandise to spectators along the route as long as they are adjacent to the spectators and do not throw the items. Those distributing items must remain with their unit.
9. All floats participating in the float incentive must adhere to the attached float guidelines and must display the words and/or logo of the 2025 theme - **"Freedom, Flip Flops and Fireworks"**.
10. **ALL** equestrian units must provide adequate clean-up detail(s).
11. **NO DOGS will be permitted to walk the parade route except for service animals.**
12. **NO** parade unit may exit the parade prior to the end of the parade unless there is an emergency or mechanical failure.
13. In addition to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards given in each category the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place Mayor & City Council Award (selected by the Fairfax City Mayor and City Council Members), the Independence Day Celebration Committee (IDCC) Award (selected by members of the IDCC), and the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place high school marching band awards will be presented at 8:00 pm on July 4, 2025, at the evening show at Fairfax High School (3501 Lion Run, Fairfax, VA 22030). The above-mentioned award winners will be notified via telephone and email the afternoon of July 4. All other 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place category winners will be notified by mail along with their applicable ribbon.

Coordinators of the parade are the City of Fairfax Parks & Recreation Department and the IDCC.

