

Austin Veterans Parade Float Participation Rules and Guidelines

Organized by BOLD MVEN, Inc., dba Military Veterans Empowerment Network

These rules are intended to promote safety, organization, professionalism, and a positive experience for all participants, spectators, and event partners involved in the Austin Veterans Parade.

Eligibility to Participate

- Float entries are welcome from veteran service organizations, schools, ROTC/JROTC units, civic groups, nonprofit organizations, businesses, military-affiliated groups, and approved community partners.
- All float entries must be pre-registered and approved by parade organizers.
- Parade organizers reserve the right to approve, deny, or remove any entry that does not align with the mission, standards, or safety requirements of the Austin Veterans Parade.

Registration Requirements

- Each float entry must submit a completed registration form by the stated deadline.
- Registration must include:
 - Organization name
 - Primary point of contact
 - Contact phone number and email
 - Description of float entry
 - Estimated number of participants
 - Vehicle and trailer details
 - Any special staging or unloading needs
- All entries must provide accurate dimensions and operational details at the time of registration.
- Any changes to the float design, towing vehicle, or number of participants must be reported to parade organizers in advance.

Float Size and Vehicle Guidelines

- All floats must fit safely within parade route requirements and staging space limitations.
- Final allowable float dimensions, height, width, and length limits must comply with organizer guidance and city safety requirements.
- Floats must be structurally sound and safe for movement throughout the parade route.
- Towing vehicles and trailers must be in good working order, properly registered, insured, and operated by licensed drivers.

- No float may exceed designated dimensional or safety restrictions established by parade organizers, law enforcement, or city permitting authorities.

Safety Requirements

- Safety is the highest priority for all float participants.
- Float operators and participants must follow all instructions from parade officials, law enforcement, safety personnel, and staging coordinators.
- Riders must remain safely positioned on the float at all times unless directed otherwise.
- No unsafe boarding or exiting while the float is moving.
- No jumping on or off moving floats.
- No open flames, fireworks, explosives, or hazardous materials are permitted.
- No alcohol, illegal drugs, or intoxicated participants are permitted on or around parade floats.
- Drivers must remain attentive and may not use handheld devices while operating in the parade.
- Floats must maintain safe spacing and movement at all times.
- Parade organizers may inspect any float before lineup and may remove any float deemed unsafe.

Decorations and Theme

- Float decorations should reflect the spirit of the Austin Veterans Parade and honor veterans, service members, and military families.
- Decorations must be secure and able to withstand movement during the parade.
- Political campaign messaging, offensive material, or inappropriate content is not permitted.
- Organizers encourage patriotic, respectful, and family-friendly displays.
- All signage, banners, and visual elements must be appropriate for a public community event.

Participants on Floats

- All float participants must conduct themselves respectfully and safely.
- Responsible adults must supervise children participating on floats.
- Organizations are responsible for their own participants, volunteers, and guests.
- Participants may not throw hard objects or unsafe items into the crowd.
- If giveaways are permitted, they must be handed out safely and in accordance with parade rules.

Music and Sound

- Music, amplified sound, or announcements from floats must be appropriate, respectful, and family-friendly.
- Sound levels must not interfere with parade operations, official announcements, or safety communications.
- Parade organizers reserve the right to require sound to be lowered or turned off if necessary.

- Music with explicit lyrics or inappropriate content is prohibited.

Lineup, Staging, and Arrival

- Float entries must arrive at the designated staging area by the assigned check-in time.
- Late arrivals may forfeit their place in the parade and may not be allowed to participate.
- All floats must follow staging instructions and lineup assignments issued by organizers.
- Drivers and float captains must remain available for communication during staging and lineup.
- Organizations must be prepared for loading, unloading, and final staging in accordance with event operations plans.

Conduct During the Parade

- All participants must maintain professional and respectful behavior throughout the event.
- Floats must keep pace with parade operations and avoid unnecessary stops or unsafe gaps.
- No reckless driving, horseplay, or disruptive conduct is permitted.
- Participants must follow directions from marshals, volunteers, and law enforcement at all times.
- Parade officials may remove any participant or float that fails to comply with parade rules.

Insurance and Responsibility

- Float owners and participating organizations may be required to provide proof of insurance upon request.
- Each participating organization is responsible for the conduct, safety, and supervision of its own entry.
- The Austin Veterans Parade, BOLD MVEN, Inc., dba Military Veterans Empowerment Network, and partnering entities are not responsible for damage, loss, or injury arising from participant negligence or rule violations.
- Participation in the parade constitutes agreement to follow all rules and accept responsibility for compliance.

Fees and Entry Classification

- Entry fees, if any, will be determined by parade organizers and communicated through the registration process.
- Schools, ROTC/JROTC units, and approved youth groups may be eligible for waived or reduced entry fees.
- Nonprofit, veteran-serving, and for-profit entries may be assigned different participation categories or fee structures.

Judging and Awards

- Approved float entries may be eligible for parade awards or recognition, if offered.
- Judging criteria may include presentation, creativity, theme alignment, safety, and overall impact.

- Parade organizers reserve the right to determine categories, judges, and recognition procedures.

Final Authority

- Parade organizers retain final authority over all participation decisions.
- Any matter not specifically addressed in these rules may be resolved by parade leadership in the interest of safety, mission alignment, and event success.
- Submission of a parade application constitutes acceptance of these float participation rules.