



# BATH HERITAGE DAYS INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

250 YEARS IN MOTION - LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

May 2026

Friends & Neighbors,

Participate in Maine's largest Independence Day parade on Saturday, July 4, 2025, at 10:00 AM.

**Parade Theme: 250 Years in Motion - Looking Back, Moving Forward**

*A Red, White, & Blue Celebration of America's 250th*

For 2026, we mark a historic milestone with a theme that invites everyone to be part of the story. From the earliest days of our nation to the possibilities ahead, this year's parade is all about movement - *how we've grown, built, created, and continued forward over time.*

We invite businesses, **organizations, schools, and community groups** to bring this theme to life in ways that are meaningful to you. Your float or entry might explore a moment in history, show how something has evolved, or imagine what lies ahead! Whether through craftsmanship, creativity, music, or motion, every entry becomes part of a larger story, *one that connects past progress with future promise.*

#### **SUBMIT BY JUNE 19:**

Register online at [visitbath.com/bath-heritage-days](http://visitbath.com/bath-heritage-days) or scan the QR code.

Physical forms are available online or at the Main Street Bath office at 15 Commercial St., Bath.



#### **ENTRY FEE: \$35/unit**

Payment can be easily made through the online registration form.

*Checks are payable to Main Street Bath.*

#### **AVOID PARADE DAY STRESS:**

Attend the pre-parade check-in event at Main Street Bath on **July 3rd from 5-7 PM.**

Pre-checked entries may go directly to the lineup on July 4<sup>th</sup>.

**Here's to looking back, moving forward, and creating a safe parade together!**

*Main Street Bath*

For updates or more info, follow Bath Heritage Days, go to [visitbath.com/bath-heritage-days](http://visitbath.com/bath-heritage-days), email [4bathparade@gmail.com](mailto:4bathparade@gmail.com), or call 207-442-7291.



# HERITAGE DAYS 2026

## AWARDS & REMINDERS

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**250 YEARS IN MOTION - LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD**

### JUDGING CATEGORIES

- Most Entertaining Award - Entry receiving the most crowd reaction
- Dedication Award - Best non-profit entry
- Route 66 Award - Best antique car
- Best Overall Award - Unit best depicting parade theme
- American Dream Award - Best small business
- Shining Star Award - Best youth entry
- Let Freedom Ring Award - Best musical entry
- Salute to our Troops Award - Best Armed Forces entry

*Judges are required to consider how a unit relates to the theme. All awards are at the discretion of the judges. Awards will be sent by mail the week following the parade. Winners will be listed on the Main Street Bath website and Facebook page.*

### SAVE-THE-DATES

- June 19: Entry Deadline
- June 30: Line-up numbers and confirmation details received by June 30.
- July 3, 5-7 PM: Pre-Parade Check-In (*Vehicle entries, bring driver's license and proof of insurance*)
- July 4: Parade Day / Arrive by 9:30 AM, Parade starts at 10 AM

### CHECKLIST/REMINDERS

- Complete and submit the entry form by June 19
- Sign contracts (Hold Harmless Agreement / Rules & Regulations)
- Pay \$35 entry fee
- Arrange transport in advance from the end of the parade back to the beginning of the route or parked vehicle(s)



# HERITAGE DAYS 2026

## PARADE ENTRY FORM

**250 YEARS IN MOTION - LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD**

ENTRY NAME (Use Group or Business Name if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

STREET ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE YOUR CONFIRMATION LETTER? (Check one):

EMAIL

US POSTAL SERVICE

PARADE ENTRY TYPE (Circle all that apply) :

Wheeled Entry      Float      Pets      Theme-Entry

Kids' Entry      Musical      Humor      Street Walkers (Entries on Foot, Mascots)

DESCRIBE YOUR ENTRY IN MORE DETAIL:

Estimated Length of Entry \_\_\_\_\_ FEET (Includes cars, anything towed and walkers)

Special Needs or Requests (Include horn and siren use):

VEHICLE INFORMATION: PLATE # \_\_\_\_\_ INSPECTION EXPIRATION DATE \_\_\_\_\_

Driver's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Driver's License # \_\_\_\_\_

Vehicle entries must provide proof of insurance and a valid drivers license at the July 3rd pre-parade checkin at Main Street Bath from 5-7 PM or parade day registration. Thank you for your cooperation.

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:** Received:      Amount:      Payment Type:      Check No./Date:



# HERITAGE DAYS 2026

## PARADE CONTRACTS

250 YEARS IN MOTION - LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

### SIGN & RETURN:

Sign the two contracts below and include them with your completed entry packet by June 19. Entries will not be allowed in the Parade Line-up without the signed forms on file at Main Street Bath.

**GROUP/BUSINESS NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

### RULES & REGULATIONS:

I have read and understand the Rules & Regulations.

SIGNATURE OF ENTRY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

By executing this agreement as a participant in the 2026 Bath Independence Day Parade, the undersigned (must be signed by person responsible for the entry) agrees for himself, herself, itself and its (their successors), heirs and assigns that participation in the Bath Independence Day Parade, as described herein, shall be at the risk of the undersigned, and that the undersigned hereby releases and forever discharges and expressly agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Main Street Bath, the Heritage Days Festival, and the officers, directors, employees, agents and members of either organization, together with their successors and assigns of and from all debts, demands, actions, causes of action, suits, dues, sum and sums of money, accounts, reckonings, bonds, specialties, contracts, covenants, controversies, agreements, promises, doings, omissions, variances, extents, execution and liabilities whatsoever including, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, claims for contribution, exoneration or indemnity, or any other thing whatsoever which might arise from the undersigned's participation in Bath Heritage Days.

SIGNATURE OF ENTRY CONTACT \_\_\_\_\_ DATE \_\_\_\_\_



# HERITAGE DAYS 2026

## RULES & REGULATIONS

**250 YEARS IN MOTION - LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD**

### ARRIVAL & LINEUP QUALIFICATIONS

- Arrive by 9:30 am. Parade Starts at 10 am.
- The parade formation and staging area are at the Bath Middle School. All parade units must have their designated rep check in at the registration table to pick up the pre-assigned entry number to display. Inform your group in advance of your assigned parade line-up number.
- Judging begins before the start of the parade. Stay with your entry and in character while waiting for the parade to start.
- The Parade Committee reserves the right to limit the number of entries in each category.
- Main Street Bath and the Heritage Days Parade Organizers reserve the right to remove from the parade, either before assembly, at assembly, or at any time during the parade, any entrant not conforming to the Rules and Regulations or any entrant refusing to follow the instructions of police or parade officials.
- Designated Main Street Bath volunteers will check at the line-up that entries match their registration form. Motorized entries must be properly licensed, registered, inspected if applicable, and have proof of insurance on the day of the parade. Decoration cannot impede the driver's vision. All entries will be reviewed and must be declared in compliance with the rules to join the parade.
- All entries must have some form of theme-related flair, music, humor, and/or entertainment purpose. Units with a business name and no other form of decoration will not be allowed to enter the Line-Up. Classic cars do not need additional decorations, but thematic décor and costumes are strongly encouraged.

### LOGISTICS

- No vehicles are allowed to park in the formation area unless part of an entry.
- Arrange in advance for transportation from the end of the parade back to the beginning of the route or to your vehicles if needed. A shuttle is not provided.
- Breakdown procedures: All units must be properly constructed to minimize the chance of a breakdown during the parade. If a float breaks down, obtain help from parade officials to quickly push the entry out of the lineup and over the curb. If a float develops a flat tire or cannot proceed under its own power or be towed, quickly remove it from the parade route at the nearest intersection. All parade entries are to proceed around any such problem to keep the parade moving.

### CHILDREN & ANIMALS

- Entrants attracting or inviting children into the parade route will be removed from the parade.
- Children on floats must be accompanied by an adult. The ratio of adults to children should be 1:5 for children below the age of 12. Children riding in pickup truck beds must be seated at all times behind rails or sides of the truck. Trucks must have closed tailgates or enclosed backs. No parade participant may ride with feet hanging over the side of the entry.

**CONTINUED ON OTHER SIDE**

# HERITAGE DAYS 2026

## MORE RULES & REGULATIONS

250 YEARS IN MOTION - LOOKING BACK, MOVING FORWARD

### CHILDREN & ANIMALS CONTINUED

- Dogs and other household pets must have the opportunity to ride for a portion of the parade route. If an animal appears distressed, a parade volunteer will ask your unit to exit the parade route.

### SAFETY

- No items may be thrown into the crowd. This includes, but is not limited to the following: candy, food, pencils, and silly string.
- The use and/or possession of any alcoholic beverage or illegal drugs by any unit/entry or participating member are strictly forbidden.
- There is no smoking / vaping on or near floats. Floats must be attended by an adult at all times.
- Candy and flags may be handed out by parade walkers to onlookers along the same side of the street. There is no street crossing during the Parade. Handing out paper or print material of any kind is not permitted, such as handouts, letters, publicity, or coupons.
- There is no stopping during the parade route with exception of during the National Anthem. This is dangerous, creates gaps, and lengthens the parade for all.
- **National Anthem:** All drivers must remain in their vehicles when the parade stops for the National Anthem. All other members of an entry should stand and render the proper honors.
- Entries must request use of sirens or horns on the application to avoid placement near animal or musical entries.

### INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE

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207.442.7291  
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