

**Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.**

**Preston County Buckwheat Festival**

**Parade(s) Float Entries**

**2024 Float Entry Information, Criteria, Regulations and Procedures**

**[ONLY OUR ROYALTY FLOATS MAY PARTICIPATE IN OUR FIREMEN'S DAY PARADE]**

**The individual(s) submitting the entry form AND those bringing your float to our parade(s) MUST BE GIVEN A COPY OF THIS MATERIAL.**

## **FLOAT ENTRY CRITERIA AND INFORMATION:**

### **Floats:**

Dimensions: Length 40 feet, Width 12 feet, Height 15 feet and Ground Clearance **MUST BE** at least 15 inches.

Decorative materials **must be fire retardant**. Safety devices must be provided for the float riders and drivers as applicable.

**Not accepted as float entries in our parades:** Decorated cars, trucks, or other commercial vehicles.

These may be entered by contacting our Parades Coordinator/Parade Marshal via email:

[prestonbuckwheatparades@gmail.com](mailto:prestonbuckwheatparades@gmail.com)

### **Pulling Vehicles:**

Float sponsors are to provide their own pulling vehicles. All motorized parade units, and floats must be clean, in safe mechanical order, adequately fueled, and operated in a safe manner as well as making an appropriate presentation fitting for a family-oriented parade.

Any parade entries deemed inappropriate for family viewing, unsafe and/or inadequately protected will be disqualified and not allowed to participate in the parade(s).

Signage on the pulling vehicles shall be limited to the company name, the name of the sponsoring group, names and titles of float riders and acknowledgements such as "Vehicle Courtesy of.....".

### **Riders:**

Float participants under 10 years of age **MUST ride the float** through the parade(s) and an adult **MUST accompany** the float driver throughout the parade to insure the safety of the riders and to assist with any emergencies.

**Float Messages:**

NO political or controversial issue(s) may be represented or alluded to in any way on any parade entry.

**Judging:**

Floats are judged by professional float judges as they transgress the parade route.

**A \$50.00 FIRST PLACE PRIZE ONLY** will be awarded in each competitive category provided sufficient eligible entries exist in that category.

**Post Parade Float Score Sheets and Prize Presentations:**

Prizes to be awarded are at the discretion of the Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. and are subject to change without prior notice. Monetary prizes will be awarded by check and mailed following the Festival during October.

Winners will be announced from the Festival Information Center once the judges have made their determinations, usually within two hours of the conclusion of the parade(s).

You may request your float score sheet(s) at our Festival Information Center at the time float parade winners are announced.

**PARADE INFORMATION AND PROCEDURES:****Friday, School/Community Day, September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Line-up at 12:00 Noon DST-----Parade Start Time at 2:00 P.M. DST

**Saturday, Farmers' Day, September 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Line-up at 10:00 A. M. DST----Parade Start Time at 12:00 Noon DST

**PARADE DAY:****Line-Up Logistics Numbers and Procedures:**

Enter the parade line-up area on East High Street. East High Street intersects WV Route 7 East (Veterans Memorial Highway) at the Advance Auto Parts store which is near its intersection with WV Route 26 North (North Preston Highway) at the Kingwood Clear Mountain Bank building.

When you enter the line-up area on East High Street, our parade line-up volunteers will provide you with a confirmed or assigned line-up number. Line-up numbers are painted on the pavement and this is where you will park until the parade starts.

Once lined-up, a driver or a person in charge **MUST** remain with the float at all times.

You can obtain your line-up number and/or a map of the parade line-up area and parade route by checking our website [www.buckwheatfestival.com](http://www.buckwheatfestival.com) on or after **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 23<sup>RD</sup>**.

If you are a marching band, you will be given additional information from Mike Shaffer, [shafferprinting@yahoo.com](mailto:shafferprinting@yahoo.com), (304) 329-1730.

## **PARADE ROUTE PROCEDURES:**

**NO SOLICITING, THROWING OR HANDING OUT OF ANY ITEMS:** Because of the safety hazard it presents, the throwing from floats or other parade units and/or the handing out of any objects, (Candy, pennies, balloons, printed materials or any other such items.), or soliciting directly to parade participants in the line-up area or to parade spectators along the parade route before or during the parade(s) is **PROBIBITED**.

Unless otherwise instructed by parade officials or firemen, drivers must maintain a distance of sixty (60) feet between parade units while the parade is in forward motion.

Any parade unit intentionally stopping or slowing the forward movement of the parade(s) may be disqualified as a prize contender and/or asked to withdraw.

In case of mechanical difficulties, or other emergency on your unit or within the parade, the float or parade unit **MUST** move, or be moved to the right-hand curb as quickly as possible so as not to impede the forward movement of the parade, or hinder emergency response individuals/vehicles.

**Float riders MUST REMAIN on the float throughout the entire parade route. All** parade participants **MUST CONTINUE** in the line of march until directed to disband. Parade(s) end on South Price Street. KVFD firemen will direct float drivers and other parade participants to **A SPECIFIC SITE TO PARK**. To avoid blocking the flow of the parade and emergency vehicles, **DO NOT PARK** until directed to do so by a KVFD fireman. Once parked, disembark riders as safely and quickly as possible and then quickly tear down your float or other parade unit. Once torn down, move out of this parade/festival congested area to make room for other floats and parade units to accomplish these same tasks. Pick-up trucks and other motorized parade units needing to disembark riders will be expected to follow these same procedures.

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Candidates and public office holders may participate in our Friday, School Community Day and/or in our Saturday, Farmers' Day parades. A separate parade participation application is **REQUIRED** and **MUST BE** completed and submitted to Sabrea Funk, Parades Coordinator/Parade Marshal, 480 Grimmtown Rd, Tunnelton, WV 26444. Request an application via email: [prestonbuckwheatparades@gmail.com](mailto:prestonbuckwheatparades@gmail.com)

NO political or controversial issue(s) may be represented or alluded to in any manner by any parade participant or entity.

The use of alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, and/or the misuse of prescription drugs by any parade participants before or during the parade(s) is **PROHIBITED** and may result in legal action by the local authorities. **NO** inappropriate language or behavior by any parade participant(s), intoxicated or otherwise, **WILL BE TOLERATED.**

There are no facilities available within the parade line-up area for parade participants to change clothes.

Porta-Johns are available along the parade line-up area.

Food is available from the vendors on the Buckwheat Festival grounds.

## **DISCLAIMER AND AGREEMENT:**

The Board of Directors of the Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., or their designee(s), reserves the right to approve or reject requests or applications to participate in our parades. The right is further reserved to exclude objectionable, or unsafe parade entries, or inappropriate, non-compliant participants once observed in the parade line-up area or during participation in the parade(s).

We **will not** hold the Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. nor the Preston County Buckwheat Festival or subdivisions thereof liable for any personal injuries or property damages caused to persons or objects participating in, or viewing either parade as a result of our parade participation. We understand that we are participating at our own risk.

Failure to comply with written regulations, verbal instructions, or requests could result in: (1) competitive disqualification, (2) removal from parade(s) participation, (3) deletion from our mailing list. Parade Marshal(s), firemen and parade staff have the authority to enforce these written regulations for the safety and pleasure of our parade participants and spectators.

We certify we have read and understand all of the information herein.

KVFD respectfully requests that you cooperatively comply with these procedures. THANK YOU!

(T 8-10-24 WML II)