

**Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.**

**Preston County Buckwheat Festival**

**Parade(s) Float Entries**

**2023 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.**

## **CRITERIA FOR FLOATS AND PULLING VEHICLES:**

### **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 the individuals in the pulling vehicle including a currently certified ABC fire extinguisher.

**Not accepted as float entries in our parades:** Decorated cars, trucks, or other commercial vehicles. At the discretion of our Parades Coordinator/Parade Marshal(s), these units may participate in our parades. Application for participation is through our Parades Coordinator/Parade Marshal(s).

### **Pulling Vehicles:**

Float sponsors are to provide their own pulling vehicles. All motorized parade units, pulling vehicles, and/or floats participating in our parade(s) must be clean, in safe mechanical order, adequately fueled, operated in a safe manner in the parade line-up area and through the parade route, and make an appropriate presentation fitting for a family oriented festival parade.

Any parade entries, pulling vehicle and/or floats 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.....".

## **CRITERIA FOR RIDERS AND FLOAT MESSAGES:**

### **Riders:**

Parade participants under 10 years of age **must be driven** through the parade(s). If children under the age of ten (10) are riding on a parade float, at least one adult **MUST** accompany the float driver in the towing

vehicle throughout the parade to insure the safety of the riders and to assist with any emergencies. Individual(s) riding in our parade(s) who currently hold, or are running for any type of political or public office **SHALL NOT** represent their candidacy, nor the political or public office held in any manner on any parade entry.

### **Float Messages:**

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

## **COMPLETING THE FLOAT ENTRY FORM:**

**Only written entries** are accepted and **MUST BE RECEIVED ON OR BEFORE SEPTEMBER 15<sup>TH</sup>, 2023. NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED BY PHONE.**

Floats may be entered in the Friday and/or Saturday parade(s), but **MUST** compete in the same competitive category each day. A Friday float winner **will not** be judged on Saturday, but float sponsors are encouraged to enter these prize winning floats in our Saturday parade.

### **Competition:**

#### **DEFINITIONS:**

**PROFESSIONAL FLOAT:** The float is rented or purchased from a professional float builder.

**AMATEUR FLOAT:** The sponsoring group obtains the float superstructure, designs, builds and decorates their float.

#### **COMPETITIVE CATEGORIES:**

- A. **Category I Amateur Sponsors:** (1) Youth Organizations or (2) Schools.
- B. **Category II Amateur Sponsors:** (1) Adult Organizations, (2) Churches and Religious Organizations, or (3) Guest Fairs and Festivals.
- C. **Category III Amateur Sponsors:** (1) Commercial Business Profit or Non-Profit, (2) Manufacturing or Industrial Business, or (2) Governmental Organizations or Entities.
- D. **Category IV Professional:** **ALL** professionally built floats **MUST** compete in **Category IV ONLY.**

## **PARADE DAY:**

### **Line-Up Logistics:**

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.

You will be assigned a line-up number when you enter the line-up area on East High Street. These numbers are painted on the pavement..

All floats **MUST** be on their line-up spots on East High Street at the designated parade line-up times.

### **LINE-UP TIMES:**

**12:00 noon DST** on Friday, School Community Day. The parade starts at 2:00 PM DST.

**10:00 AM DST** on Saturday, Farmers' Day. The parade starts at 12:00 Noon DST.

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

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.**

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

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

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

### **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 spectators along the parade route before or during the parade(s) is **PROHIBITED.**

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

Float drivers are to maintain a distance of sixty (60) feet between the parade units while the parade(s) is in forward motion unless otherwise instructed by parade officials/firemen.

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 if at all possible as quickly as possible so as not to impede the forward movement of the parade, or hinder emergency response individuals/vehicles.

Floats are judged 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.

**ALL float riders MUST REMAIN on the float throughout the entire parade route.** The parade(s) will end on South Price Street. KVFD firemen will direct float drivers 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.

### **Post Parade Prize Presentations:**

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).

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

Prizes to be awarded are at the discretion of the Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department, Inc. and are subject to change without prior notice. If used, trophies or plaques will be awarded from our Festival Information Center in conjunction with these parade winners' announcements.

Monetary prizes will be awarded by check and mailed following the Festival. **If no official recipient is listed as requested on the entry form, the prize will be forfeited.**

### **DISCLAIMER AND AGREEMENT:**

The board of directors of the Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department, Inc., or their designee, reserves the right to screen and approve or reject any or all requests or applications to participate in our parades. The right is further reserved by the above 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.

Failure to comply with any or all of these written regulations, verbal instructions, or requests made by our Parade Marshal(s), firemen and/or their designated parade staff could result in competitive disqualification, removal from participating in the parade(s), removal from our float and/or parade invitation mailing list or any combination of these consequences as determined by the appropriate designated Kingwood Volunteer Fire Department/Festival Official(s). These individuals have the authority to enforce these regulations and to issue additional instructions for the smooth execution of our parades for the safety of our parade participants and spectators.

We respectfully request that you and your group cooperatively comply with these instructions, requests, and any directives made by the Parade Marshal(s), parade staff, and/or firemen.

(T 7-9-23 Revised Through 8-3-23 To Be Mailed 8-4-23 WML II)

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