

Saturday, July 4th, 2026

Downtown Ridgefield, Washington

Theme: AMERICA 250!

Honoring Our Grand Marshals: Maureen O'Reilly & Chris Bidleman

To maintain a safe and enjoyable environment for everyone along the parade route, we have a strict "no throw" policy. This applies to all parade entries, including candy, promotional materials, flyers, and merchandise.

Distributing candy from parade floats is OPTIONAL. However, if you choose to hand out candy, you must provide designated float marshals to distribute it safely.

We encourage you to channel that energy into making your float, performance, or costume the most memorable part of the event!

Zero-Tolerance Policy: To be fair to everyone, this rule applies to all participants without exception. Please brief your team thoroughly on this requirement before the event. Items will be confiscated at the beginning of the parade route.

LEADER'S
NAME _____ Email _____

SCHOOL, GROUP, ORGANIZATION _____

DAYTIME PHONE _____ or EVENING PHONE _____

NUMBER OF PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP: _____ ANIMALS: _____ VEHICLES: _____

TOTAL LENGTH OF OVERALL ENTRY BUMPER-TO-BUMPER: _____ (most important detail of application) space is assigned according to length. Staging will be in Abrams Park. Limit of 100 feet or 10 vehicles per entry.

GROUP DESCRIPTION _____

PARADE CATEGORIES:

1. Floats (commercial, non-commercial, clubs, and youth organization) [2 walkers mandatory]
2. Bands - marching &/or riding
3. Teams - Drill Teams, Dance Teams, Honor Guards, Marching Units, Athletic Teams
4. Animals - any size, any kind (Ridden or on Leads) [pooper scooper mandatory] Limit 8 horses per entry. Horse trailer parking 8th Ave Nazarene Church parking lot.
5. Vehicles - Antiques, Car Clubs, Motorized equipment

JUDGING CATEGORIES:

1. Best Commercial entry
2. Best non-commercial entry
3. Best Youth entry
4. Grand Marshal Award
5. Mayor's Choice Award

GENERAL: The parade is open to all and are subject to approval of the Parade Committee. Safety precautions and polite behavior by the participants will be observed at all times. Failure to comply with these rules will result in expulsion from the parade. Positions will be assigned and all participants agree to keep to their assigned position with the line of march. Participants agree to maintain parade spacing and must not slow down the parade. All large entries (tow trucks, buses, etc.) must have a safety walker on all four corners of the entry. Entries will be limited to 100 feet or less.

CHECK-IN AND FORMATION: Parade line-up begins at 7:30 am. All groups are to report to the Check-in table on 5th AV between 7:30 - 9:00 am. Check-in will close at 9:30 am to allow spectator traffic into town. Entries must come in from west on Pioneer and turn right on 5th AV. You will not have access to parade staging from Main. (Please remember under what name you registered!) There will be an assigned staging spot for you in Abrams upon registering.

PLEASE ADHERE TO THE STAGING CREW'S DIRECTION AND OBEY THE PARADE MARSHALS ON THE COURSE.

ENTRY FEE: Private and Commercial: \$40.00 per parade entry. Fee exceptions will be at the Festival Director's discretion. Please call our parade director for details.

JUDGING: Begins promptly at 9:30 am. Each entry wishing to be judged must be present and in line prior to 9:30 am. Late entries will not be eligible for judging. All entries will be judged on appeal, originality, color, and/or interpretation of the parade theme. Dogs and other small pets may be entered, provided they are on a leash and under full control at all times. Owners are responsible for their animal's safety, comfort, water and sanitation. All horse group entrants must provide their own pooper scooper. Please anticipate hot weather and give consideration to your pet!

AWARDS CEREMONY: All awards, will be presented prior to or at the start of the parade. They will also be announced by the parade emcee during the parade route.

CANDY: No candy may be thrown during the parade route.

FLYERS: No flyers or loose paper may be handed out on or during the parade route.

PROJECTILES: No water guns, water balloons, silly string or other material that pose a potential danger or exhibits obnoxious behavior will be allowed. Removal from the parade will be at the Festival Directors discretion.

DUM-DUM Clause: Operators of motorized vehicles must stay in vehicle while operating vehicle on parade route and when in motion. If your entry is too long to turn the corners without running over the curb, get a shorter entry.

DISBAND AREA: The parade ends at the corner of Pioneer and 8th. If you are a float or vehicle with passengers turn Right at 8th and Pioneer and park behind the Nazarene Church to disembark people. **DO NOT STOP IN THE ROAD TO LET PEOPLE OFF. If you are headed out of town, continue on Pioneer back to I-5.** Please remind all parade participants that we need full cooperation for litter control, both at the formation and disband areas. Restrooms will be available at the staging area. Please provide water for your riders in case of extreme weather. Please help us make this a wonderful, fun-filled event for everyone.

Any and all individuals or organized groups who enter this parade do so fully at their own risk. The City of Ridgefield, its agents, or any of the event's sponsors and volunteers are not liable in any way for injury or damages.