

2023 Bartow Community Parade Guidelines

Parade Fees

There is a fee for entry into the 2023 Bartow Community Parade that must be paid when the application is submitted. The fees are **\$25** for individuals, groups, and businesses; and **\$50** for politicians and political groups; *unless you meet one (1) of the below fee exemptions.*

PayPal is the application used to collect parade fees. You do not need a PayPal account to use the online system. All fees collected help to fund the Bartow Community Parade & Carnival.

Parade fees are only refundable with written notice by the parade entrant three (3) days prior to the event. Units that must leave the parade for any reason, including violation of the parade rules, will not receive a refund of their parade entry fee.

Parade Fee Exemption

The parade fee applies to all parade participants unless one (1) of the following conditions applies:

1. Your unit represents a non-profit organization
2. Your unit represents a city, county, state, or federal government agency
3. Your unit represents a public school or a group affiliated with a public school
4. Your unit represents a church

Parade Route

Beginning at First/Second Street, West along Main Street to Broadway Avenue and South along Broadway Avenue to Mosaic Park (carnival grounds).

Parade Lineup

1. Units line up on a first come basis within their assigned section. Please inform all participants in your unit of the assigned section number. Your section number will be assigned after your application is submitted and approved.
2. A map of the section placement will be provided once your section number is assigned.
3. All parade participants must be in line by 3:00 PM. After 3:00 PM, First Avenue and Second Avenue will be one-way traffic northbound only. The parade begins promptly at 4:00 PM.

Parade Rules

1. No tossing or throwing objects, such as candy or beads, from parade units. Items may be handed out by walkers who are 12 years of age or older. The penalty for anyone caught breaking this rule is ejection from the parade. **Those units seen throwing candy will not be allowed to participate in the 2024 parade.**

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2. All units shall be appropriately decorated. Your entry should be family-friendly and G-rated. Those entries deemed inappropriate will not be allowed to participate.
3. Maximum height of a unit is 16 feet; to allow passage below power lines and traffic signals.
4. No unit may pass another unit during the parade unless advised by a Parade Marshall. Keep a safe distance between each unit.
5. Units should keep moving along the parade route and not allow gaps to form. Units that hold back cause delays as well as allow general traffic to break into the parade which may cause dangerous situations. Units that cannot keep up with the flow of the parade may be asked to leave the parade route.
6. Only one vehicle per unit, unless prior approval received. This information should be included in your parade application.
7. Bicycles shall not move alongside parade units, to prevent accidental injury.
8. Parade unit drivers must be at least 16 years old with a valid driver's license.
9. Anyone operating a unit in an unsafe or careless manner will be told to leave the parade and will be held solely responsible for their actions.
10. Any person(s) causing a disturbance will be told to leave the parade and will be held solely responsible for their actions.
11. All participants must complete the entire parade route. Dropouts cause hazardous conditions.
12. The parade is rain or shine. In past years, the day of the parade had been hot and humid. Take precautions to avoid heat related injuries, including proper hydration before, during and after the parade.
13. Bathrooms are not provided at the parade staging area.

Parade Awards

Units are judged and awards are given in the following categories: Best Professional, Best Non-Professional, Most Original, Best Decorated Car/Truck, Best School Unit, Best Church Unit, and Best Marching Unit. Winners will be announced and awards will be displayed next to the stage at the carnival grounds until 8:30pm.

All units should be conspicuously identified, so Parade Judges know who you are and/or whom you represent.