



Parade Guidelines

National Veterans Parade, Washington, DC
November 8th 2026 at Noon
Entry Qualifications and Standard Practices

The National Veterans Parade organizers prohibit any display of commercial, political, or religious messaging, as well as any sponsored units or banners that do not align with the mission of honoring our veterans.

- 1.** The parade is dedicated to honoring our nation's Veteran Community with positive messaging and conduct, respecting their military service. All branches of service (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, National Guard, Coast Guard, Merchant Marines, and Space Force) are recognized for their service and for upholding the Sacred Oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States.
- 2.** Requirements for Entry: Entrants must complete the Parade Entry Application in full. All entries are subject to approval by the National Veterans Parade Foundation. Accepted or declined, all entries will be notified on a rolling basis as applications are reviewed. Accepted units must agree to the terms of participation outlined by the parade organizers.
- 3.** Unit Size Limitations: Units applying may be subject to size limitations based on the information submitted.
- 4.** Age Requirement: The National Veterans Parade Foundation requests that all participants be 13 years of age or older.
- 5.** Clean-Up Responsibility: All units are expected to remove any trash generated by them from the staging area to the dispersal area.
- 6.** Safety: Parade participants on floats must be securely fastened with a safety harness. Random inspections by Parade Officials will occur. Float drivers must show a Certificate of Insurance or Insurance Card for their vehicles and have a valid driver's license. All drivers are asked to provide a drainage pan for under any motorized vehicle while in the staging area.
- 7.** No Throwing of Objects: Throwing objects into the crowd from the parade route is prohibited. No giveaways, handouts, or any solicitation to members of the crowd are permitted.
- 8.** No Stopping on Parade Route: No stopping or standing performances that interrupt the parade are allowed. In the event of an emergency, notify a Parade Marshal who will summon Emergency Services.
- 9.** Accepted Apparel: In keeping with the parade theme of honoring veterans, we recognize Department of Defense Standards for Active Duty, Reserves, and those in uniform. Other military-themed units should be recognized in attire appropriate to their theme. No part of the American flag may be worn as apparel in accordance with Flag Etiquette and Ceremonial Rules for the display of the American Flag.
- 10.** Music Bands: Bands playing music should perform along the entire parade route for the enjoyment of all spectators. Floats and Motorized Units: These should have a veteran connection or hold historic military significance. Parade sponsor floats shall be coordinated with the Parade Committee for theme approval.
- 11.** Animals: No animals of any kind will be allowed in parade units, as no sanitary clean-up will be provided. PTSD/Therapy Dogs with proper identification are the only exceptions.
- 12.** Parade Committee Discretion: The National Veterans Parade Committee reserves the right to select parade entries. No political messaging of any kind, including flags, apparel, or PA system announcements, will be permitted.

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