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King Apple Parade Terms of Participation

General Parade Information

- The King Apple Parade will be held on Labor Day Monday at 2:30 PM.
- The parade will take place rain or shine.
- All entries must be in place no later than 1:00 PM. Fire and Rescue apparatus must be in place no later than 1:30 PM.

Line-Up Information

- The parade lineup will be posted on the festival [website](#) by Friday of Festival weekend. ***Please do not call for lineup information.***
- Parade staging information will also be available on the website.
- Volunteers will be stationed throughout the staging area to assist participants in locating their assigned position.

Competitive Judging

Competitive judging is available for the Commercial/Business and Non-Profit categories.

- Judging will be conducted by Festival Board members, parade staff, and/or other community representatives.
- Entries must be in place by 1:00 PM to be eligible for judging.
- Judges' decisions are final.
- Awards will be presented to the winner in each category.

Judging Criteria

- Best Use of Apples
- Best Use of Theme (80 Years Strong –A Sweet Tradition)
- Originality
- Overall Appearance and Attractiveness

Rules for All Entries

- Throwing, distributing, or handing out items of any kind from parade entries is strictly prohibited.
- Participants may not distribute items to spectators along the parade route.
- Due to security concerns, enclosed box trucks and enclosed trailers are not permitted in the parade. Please contact the Festival office with any questions regarding this restriction.

- All vehicle operators, including drivers of automobiles, ATVs, golf carts, and other motorized vehicles, must possess a valid driver's license. Driver licenses may be checked by law enforcement prior to the parade.
- All parade units must exit the route only at the designated exit point.
- Commercial entries must pay all required fees before participating in the parade.
- Marching bands, dance teams, and performing arts groups must remain in motion throughout the parade route. Stopping to perform is not permitted.
- Individuals walking in the parade may not engage in physical contact with spectators, including handshakes.
- Floats may not exceed 12 feet in width or 13 feet 6 inches in height.

Professional Leased Floats

- Professionally decorated floats are leased by the Festival from a specialized float company.
- Participating organizations may lease these floats at cost, subject to availability.
- Each float includes identification signage and is pulled by a towing vehicle operated by a professional driver.
- Contact the Festival office for availability and pricing.

Commercial/Business Entries

- Entries may consist of floats, decorated vehicles, or walking units.
- All vehicles must be decorated. Displaying only a business sign does not constitute a decorated entry and will not be permitted.
- The name of the business or organization must be prominently displayed.
- Commercial entries are eligible for judging.
- All required fees must be paid prior to participation.

Political Entries

- Current elected officials at the local, regional, state, or national level may participate at no charge.
- Elected officials participating as dignitaries will be placed at the front of the parade, must ride in a vehicle, and may not campaign.
- Elected officials wishing to campaign will be placed within the general parade lineup and must pay the applicable \$100 entry fee.
- Candidates actively seeking election are eligible to participate and must pay the \$100 entry fee.

Non-Profit Entries

- Local non-profit organizations may participate at no charge.
- Non-profit entries are eligible for competitive judging.
- The organization's name must be prominently displayed on the entry.

Bands and Marching Units

- Local school bands are encouraged to participate.
- Parade placement for bands is rotated annually.

Fire and Rescue Entries

- Sirens, air horns, and other warning devices may not be used along the parade route.
- Fire and Rescue entries should arrive between 1:00 PM and 1:30 PM.

Antique Car Entries

- Antique vehicles must participate as part of an established car club and may not enter individually.
- Individual antique vehicle applications will not be accepted.
- Car clubs are responsible for ensuring all participating vehicles are capable of maintaining parade operations.
- There is no separate pre-parade section for antique vehicles.
- Vehicles that break down and significantly delay the parade may result in the associated car club not being invited to participate in future parades.

Right of Refusal

The North Carolina Apple Festival Board of Directors reserves the right to deny participation to any individual, group, or organization at its sole discretion.