



Maple Leaf & Torchlight Parades

Rules and Judging Information

info@oktoberfestusa.com • 608.784.3378

General Rules & Regulations

(page 1 of 2)

Please make sure all your unit's participants are fully aware of these rules and regulations.

Order of Appearance

- The Oktoberfest Parade Review Committee will determine the order of appearance for Float or Specialty Units in the Maple Leaf and/or Torchlight parades. The order is determined to establish variety, as well as best utilization of the participants.

Inclement Weather Policy

- The Oktoberfest Parade Review Committee plans to proceed with the parade, rain or shine. Should inclement weather occur prior to a parade, then the Festival Officials will determine if it is sufficiently severe to cancel or delay the parade.
- You may decline to march your Float or Specialty Unit when weather threatens to damage uniforms, props or instruments.

Vehicles

- Floats and tow vehicles cannot exceed height 20' from ground level.
- It is strongly suggested that all motorized units provide at least two volunteers to walk along side your unit. These volunteers should monitor the parade route to insure the unit can proceed safely without interference.
- Training - all drivers must be licensed and adequately trained to drive their assigned unit.
- At least one 4-pound dry chemical or one 10-pound carbon dioxide fire extinguisher must be placed within easy reach of the driver of the unit.
- No "go cart" type vehicle, miniature race cars, or school buses will be allowed in the parades without prior approval.
- Vehicles must be illuminated for acceptance in the Torchlight Parade.
- Schools are allowed one support vehicle following their marching unit and should visually represent their school and/or community.

Unit Appearance (Maple Leaf Parade only)

- All motorized units in the Maple Leaf Parade must incorporate the use of parade decorations on their individual unit as much as possible. Decorations include, but are not limited to, fringing, skirting, garland, etc.

Lighting (Torchlight Parade only)

- All units that appear in the Torchlight Parade must incorporate the use of lights wherever possible. This includes portable lights or lighting for costumed marchers and equestrian units as well as lighting for the vehicles.

Distribution of Materials from the Float / Specialty

- No samples or materials of any kind may be thrown, tossed, presented, given, or otherwise distributed from the float/specialty unit while on the parade route. Any and all items must be handed out from the sidelines. Any parade units found to have violated this regulation may be removed from the parade and may be prevented from participating in the parade. Units removed from the parade for rules violations are not entitled to a refund and may be banned from future parades.



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Code of Conduct

- Individuals and organizations participating in Oktoberfest parades are expected to perform courteously, in good taste, and with safety in mind at all times during the assembly, execution, and dispersal of the parades.

Alcoholic Beverages

- No alcoholic beverages of any kind will be allowed on or with the unit either in the staging area or along the parade routes. The consumption of any alcoholic beverage by any participant is strictly prohibited.
- Violators will be prosecuted by the City of La Crosse Police Department under Wisconsin State Statutes. If this happens, the unit will be pulled and towed from the parade, and the operator will also be arrested.
- The insurance company will be informed, and the unit will not be asked back by the Oktoberfest Parade Review Committee. (Please note: Oktoberfest will not issue any refunds if your unit is not allowed to participate or is removed from the parade route.)

Assembly Area

- Once the float or specialty unit is in position in the line-up area, the driver must be in attendance at all times and available to move the unit as necessary.
- Your float or specialty unit should report to the assembly area two (2) hours prior to the parade start time. This information will be mailed along with your acceptance notice prior to the festival as to the time and location for your arrival.
- Float or specialty support vehicles such as cars, buses, trucks, and trailers must be promptly unloaded and proceed to the dispersal parking area.
- First aid kits are accessible in the line-up area, as well as at dispersal.

Parade Movement

- The Oktoberfest Parade Review Committee works to ensure that the parade route is free of interruptions. Therefore, there will be no counter marching or maneuvering in any form by any unit which will create any type of gap.
- All maneuvering, choreography, and marching styles must be performed while moving forward. Any special effect drills that comply with the above statement must also be executed at a speed necessary to maintain the specified distances between parade units.

Dispersal Area

- Continue moving through the dispersal area until parade personnel show you where to stop. There are no exceptions for the dispersal process. Float or specialty members should not walk or march back through the parade route after disbanding.
- A First Aid tent will be on hand at the parade finish should any of your members require medical assistance.
- Water and Gatorade is available at the dispersal area for Marching Bands.
- Your cooperation in this busy area will be expected - thank you!



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Maple Leaf Parade **Parade Awards / Judging Categories**

*The Maple Leaf Parade float entries will be judged in the line-up area beginning at **8:30 a.m.**
Plaques will be awarded in the following categories:*

Mrs. Oktoberfest Award for Education

Miss La Crosse/Oktoberfest Award for Theme Music

Festmaster Award for Visiting Royalty & Festivals

Burgermeister Award for Service Organizations

President's Award for Commercial Units

Directors' Award - Awarded at the discretion of the Board of Director's

Parade Committee Award for Overall Theme

Parade Marshal Award for Community Spirit

Equestrian judging will take place on the parade route.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be awarded in the following categories.

Equestrian Riding

Equestrian Hitch/Wagon

Torchlight Parade **Parade Awards / Judging Categories**

Torchlight Parade judging will take place on the parade route for the following categories:

Best Lighted Overall Unit — \$100.00 cash award

Best Illuminated Float — Commemorative Plaque

Best Illuminated Marching Unit — Commemorative Plaque

Best Illuminated Critter Unit — Commemorative Plaque