



# 2023 Parade Rules

September 28 – 30, 2022

Commercial, Political, and Non-Commercial

office@oktoberfestusa.com | 608.784.3378

## About Our Parades

### Torchlight Parade

Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 7 pm

Oktoberfest’s illuminated event, the Torchlight Parade, brings sparkle and lights to La Crosse’s northside. Fantastic floats, marching bands, and unique specialty units combine to transform the quiet northside neighborhood into a magical showpiece of color and excitement. The Torchlight Parade is limited to 75 units.

### Maple Leaf Parade

Saturday, September 30, 2023, at 10 am

The crisp, fall air and the turning of leaves brings a Coulee Region tradition...the Oktoberfest Maple Leaf Parade! 60 years later, thousands of families and friends get together, lining the two-mile route in La Crosse with their lawn chairs, snacks, and refreshments as the 2-hour parade winds through the city. The Maple Leaf Parade is limited to 100 units.





# Torchlight & Maple Leaf Parades

## Rules & Regulations

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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 alongside your unit. These volunteers should monitor the parade route to ensure 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 (prior approval required).
- 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 of materials of any kind can be thrown, tossed, presented, given, or otherwise distributed **from the float/specialty unit** while on the parade route. **If you have paid the dispersal fee, those who are walking alongside the float/specialty unit may hand out materials.** Compliance is very important for the safety of all parade attendees and the other parade units. Units that are non-compliant will be addressed by the Parade Committee.

### 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 emailed 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 is available at the dispersal area for Marching Bands.



# Torchlight & Maple Leaf Parades

## Judging Information

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### 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

### 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	Education
Miss La Crosse/Oktoberfest Award	Theme Music
Parade Marshal Award	Community Spirit
Festmaster Award	Visiting Royalty & Festivals
Burgermeister Award	Service Clubs
President's Award	Commercial Units
Directors' Award	Board's Choice
Parade Committee Award	Overall Theme