

Dear Float Builders,

We look forward to having you participate in this year's PA State Laurel Festival parade to be held on Saturday, June 15, 2023. This packet includes information regarding registration of Community Float and Professional Float Units.

**The Parade will begin forming at 11:00 a.m. at the Wellsboro High School, and will commence at 1:45 p.m. SHARP. Please check in with a member of the Parade Marshall's committee upon arrival at the school. Staging guidelines have been revised. We ask your consideration and cooperation during this time.**

By tradition, the Laurel Festival has celebrated the blooming of Mountain Laurel in Pennsylvania. The float designs for the parade should capture this festive spirit.

The theme for the 2024 Laurel Festival Parade is **"IN THE JUNGLE"**. The float design must represent the theme, be colorful and creative, and portray the beauty of the Laurel tradition. All floats/units should be non-commercial, non-political, and non-sectarian. All float entrants must be pre-registered. Floats/units should follow the theme guidelines and comply with the enclosed safety rules.

**Professional floats**, those being built for the scholarship candidates, must represent the parade theme in a colorful professional manor.

- Builders should plan on spending \$400-\$500 dollars on supplies.
- The seats should be fastened securely and comfortable for the school representatives.
- The float must have a back to display the sponsors. There should not be any additional advertising on the float or tow vehicle.
- Tow vehicles should be clean and in good working condition.
- Tow vehicles should not have riders in the bed.
- Do not make announcements or play music that can be heard by the public.

Please remember the professional floats should look professional. Their purpose is compliment the school representative and are the highlight of many watching the parade. They should complement the representatives that ride on them and the businesses that sponsor them. For additional information, construction ideas, materials purchase, please contact Julie Henry at 570-724-1926.

**For Community Floats**, the deadline for pre-registration for participation in the 2024 Laurel Festival parade is June 1st. Please complete and return the pre-registration form to: Float/Unit Entry, Wellsboro Chamber of Commerce, P.O. Box 733, Wellsboro, Pa. 16901.

**PA STATE LAUREL FESTIVAL PARADE COMMITTEE**



*Pennsylvania State Laurel Festival*  
*P.O. Box 733*  
*Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901*

**PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

OUR UNIT WILL \_\_\_\_\_ WILL NOT \_\_\_\_\_ PARTICIPATE IN THE 82<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL PENNSYLVANIA STATE LAUREL FESTIVAL PARADE TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 15, AT 2:00 P.M.

NAME OF ORGANIZATION \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_  
(STREET) (CITY) (STATE) (ZIP)

DIRECTOR/CONTACT: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE #: \_\_\_\_\_ \*EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_  
(AREA CODE)

**\*Please provide an email address that is checked frequently as all future correspondence will be done through email.**

NUMBER OR PEOPLE IN YOUR GROUP: \_\_\_\_\_

**FOR PUBLICITY:**

FLOAT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE PLANS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY FLOAT:

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OTHER INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR GROUP/FLOAT:

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**THERE WILL BE NO SMOKING OR DRINKING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES PERMITTED ON THE SCHOOL GROUNDS. VIOLATORS WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE AND NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE.**

# LAUREL FESTIVAL PARADE SAFETY GUIDELINES

The Laurel Festival Parade Committee asks that all floats entries adhere to the following guidelines so that a safe parade may be presented.

Floats/Units must be pre-registered by mailing an application to The Laurel Festival Committee, 114 Main Street, Wellsboro, PA 16901, faxing to 724-5084 or emailing to [julieh@wellsboropa.com](mailto:julieh@wellsboropa.com).

2024 Theme is: In the Jungle.

**SAFETY:** Pull along floats, trailers, hay wagons, etc., are to be constructed using building techniques that attach the tow frame and float decoration construction together as one strong unit. The generous use of bolts, nails, etc., to keep all parts of the float attached to the frame is very important. Older hay wagons showing structural frame decay will be turned back at the staging area.

Floats should not be higher than 12'4" due to wires and lights on the parade route.

No float should be so long or wide that it is unable to make the necessary turns along the parade route. Backing up is not permitted.

Drive at a slow, even speed and try to maintain at least a 35' distance between your unit and the unit in front of you.

Do not leave the parade route unless your unit breaks down. If that occurs, please pull to the far right of the roadway or make an attempt to remove the unit at the next intersection.

**TOW VEHICLE:** A tow vehicle in good mechanical condition with a clean cooling system is a must. Tow unit brakes are necessary as there are down hill sections on the parade route.

**HITCH ATTACHMENT:** The tow vehicle, hitch and float will be inspected for safety at the parade staging area. Ball and socket type hitches - the safety lock is to be in working order to prevent jump off. Bolting or safety wiring the locking latch down is required. **Safety chains are required.** Pin type - Pin is to be safety wired to prevent jump out, or a bolt with washers double nutted is required. Use a heavy size bolt or a draw pin and safety clips.

**MOVING:** When floats are moved to the parade staging area at the Wellsboro Area Senior High School, the pull vehicle shall have four-way flashers on or a lead vehicle traveling ahead of the float to act as escort. A slow moving vehicle sign (purchasable at hardware or farm stores) shall be on the rear of the float or a follow vehicle with flashing lights should be used as an escort during moving. **CAUTION:** the quality of float construction will be tested by travel at highway speeds on rough roads. Wind damage and potholes will reduce the best-made float into a sorry looking mess. **GO SLOW!** People and last minute items should be added just before the parade starts, not transported over the highway.

**PEOPLE:** Any area on a float that contains people must be constructed to prevent them from falling off. Arm rests, seating or grab bars are very helpful in keeping people on the float safely. A wet towel or water container is advisable on very hot parade days!

Cannons, guns, sirens, loud noisemakers or any object that might frighten children or animals are prohibited.

Throwing of candy is not recommended. Walkers who escort the unit may pass out candy at curbside. This is to prevent injury from tossed objects or by young children darting into the street.

The Laurel Parade is not a commercial event; commercial signage, other than a sponsor's name, is discouraged.

**THE CHIEF OF POLICE AND OUR PARADE MARSHALLS HAVE ASKED US TO ADVISE ALL PARADE PARTICIPANTS THAT SMOKING OR CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES WILL NOT BE ALLOWED ON SCHOOL GROUNDS. VIOLATORS WILL BE ASKED TO LEAVE AND WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE.**