



APPLICATION RULES & REGULATIONS

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The Jefferson County Watermelon Festival Parade is intended to be a celebration of Jefferson County's history and culture. Entries are approved by the committee based on quality and entertainment value. It is understood and agreed that all decisions by the Parade Committee to accept or decline applications are FINAL and that entry fees of declined applicants will be returned.

Parade commences at 10:00 a.m. Saturday June 15th, 2024. All decorated units must be in assigned position by 9:00 a.m. for judging to begin. This year's theme is "Homegrown Happiness". The six winning categories are: Best Merchant; Best Civic or Group; Most Unusual; Spirit Award; Best Theme and Best In Show. (Late arrivals are ineligible for prizes).

PRIZES

- Best In Show winner receives \$100
- All other winners receive \$40
- Framed certificates are awarded at the courthouse circle, with the check mailed.

RULES

- Units must be no higher than 20 feet from street level, no wider than 15 feet
- Motor vehicle drivers must have valid Driver's License & proof of current insurance as required by FL law
- All vehicle & trailer brake/headlight/tail lights must be in good working order
- All towed units shall be connected with safety chains consistent with Florida law
- It is recommended that a fire extinguisher be available on each float
- **Candy, toys, etc... CANNOT be thrown from moving vehicles. Items must be handed out by WALKERS**
- No fast or dangerous driving, 'wheelies' or tire spinning
- Units with multiple rows must keep safe distance between each row
- No tricks and/or stunts allowed at the courthouse circle
- Absolutely no firearms (real or fake) may be carried on floats, by walkers or mounted on parade units—exception: law enforcement officers carrying holstered, standard issue weapons.
- Audio, including bull horns are only allowed for music; no announcements are to be made.
- No small children are to walk directly beside, in front of or behind motorized entries, and must have transportation available to avoid delays.
- All minors shall be accompanied by adult at all times.
- Animal units must provide clean-up personnel to follow them, and must be available at time of judging. **Failure to supply clean-up personnel results in disqualification and forfeiture of entry fee.**
- No projectile launcher or other device commonly used to launch, hurl or throw any object, liquid, material or other substance, including "supersoakers" or water cannons may be used in the parade. **Three PRE-SELECTED/PRE-APPROVED entries will be allowed to use Water Misting or Dispersing Equipment (Low Force Soakers) in designated Splash Zones ONLY.**
- Line up areas **MUST** be clear of all trash or a \$25 fine may be assessed.

USE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES/ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES ARE NOT TOLERATED.

Parade Officials and Law Enforcement oversee parade activities and will escort any entry becoming reckless or in violation of these rules from the parade. The group or individual removed forfeits their entry fee, is ineligible to participate in the 2024 Watermelon Festival parade and only permitted under strict probation in future years.

Questions? Contact Parade Chair, Brenda Brown Wirick at 850-694-8508.

*****All applications subject to final approval of the parade committee*****