

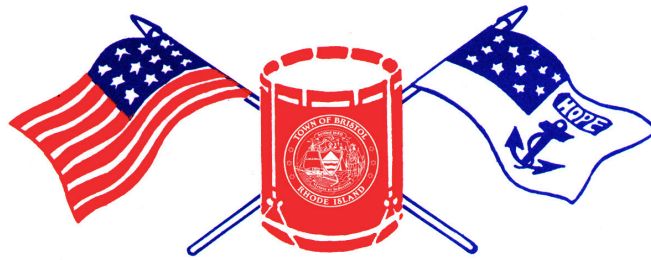
CHUCK MacDONOUGH  
GENERAL CHAIRMAN

CAMILLE TEIXEIRA  
VICE CHAIRMAN/PARADE CHAIRMAN

DUDLEY HALLAGAN  
TREASURER

DEBORAH RAINEY  
RECORDING SECRETARY

MARIA CESARIO  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY



## BRISTOL FOURTH OF JULY COMMITTEE 1776

Dear Friend,

The Bristol Fourth of July Committee cordially invites you to apply for participation in the Parade Float Competition of the 238th Annual Fourth of July Celebration in Bristol, Rhode Island on Tuesday, July 4, 2023.

The first official Bristol Independence Day Observance was celebrated in 1785. The parade has continued with only six interruptions since 1834. The last interruption was in 1881 due to the assassination of President Garfield making it the oldest continuing Fourth of July parade in the United States. This year we hope the parade to be better than ever as it goes down the two and a-half mile parade route.

Over the years the Bristol Fourth of July Celebration has become quite famous and attracts hundreds of thousands of spectators. This year's parade will include bands and drum corps from all over the United States. We look forward to welcoming past supporters and new-comers alike to the float competition and the line of March for the 238th anniversary of our celebration of America's Independence.

We will be awarding prizes for the *Most Patriotic*, *Most Beautiful* and *Most Original* floats also *Top Military Honors* and *Best in the Parade* Awards.

The Float Preparation Requirements, 2023 Float Application Form, and Waiver of Liability and Float Judging Criteria, and Parade Rules & Regulations are enclosed. **Please complete the application and waiver of liability (must be filled out and signed by each participant) return them with fee and a sketch and /or photograph of your proposed float design postmarked no later than May 1, 2023 to:**

**Bristol Fourth of July Committee  
ATTN: Jim Tavares, Float Chairman  
11 Addy Drive  
Bristol, RI 02809**

Please note that incomplete applications and applications postmarked after May 1st may not be accepted, so we ask that you please plan accordingly. All applications will be acknowledged and acceptance will be made based upon your application and design.

If you have any questions or need assistance; please contact me at 401 253-4609 (home) or my cell 401 480-1608.

Yours in the *Spirit of the Fourth*,  
Jim Tavares  
Float Chairman

Enclosures: *Float Application, Waiver of Liability, Float Preparation Requirements, Float Judging Criteria, Parade Rules & Regulations*

**P.O. Box 561 • BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND 02809-0561**  
[www.fourthofjulybristolri.com](http://www.fourthofjulybristolri.com)

2023



BRISTOL FOURTH OF JULY COMMITTEE

# Parade Float Application

Application Fee **before May 1: \$25.00**

Application Fee **after May 1: \$50.00**

*Please make checks payable to: Bristol Fourth of July Committee*

Sponsor:

Address

City

State

Zip Code

Contact Name

Phone (Day)

Phone (Evening)

Email

Sponsorship of floats by commercial firms is encouraged and appreciated. However, it is important for such sponsors to design a presentation which relates to American Independence and its celebration. A approved float theme must appear on either side of the float and can be of any size. A sponsorship sign, if any, is only allowed to appear on the rear of the float. The Parade Chairman reserves the right to remove any float that the Parade Chairman determines to be in violation of the Float Preparation Requirements or the Parade Rules and Regulations, or a danger to other parade participants or spectators.

## SKETCH AND/OR PHOTOGRAPH MUST ACCOMPANY ALL APPLICATIONS

Float Theme

Description of float

Will music be a part of float?  If yes, explain in detail. Please include quantity and type of equipment/sound, location of equipment on float, and repertoire of songs

Number of participants **ON** float

Number of participants **WALKING** with float:  
*(We reserve the right to limit the number of walkers to 25)*

Type of vehicle

Height and Length of vehicle/unit

Insurance

Policy Number

Expiration Date

Judging Category: (check one)

Commercial

Non-Commercial (signifies non-profit organization)

Military

This is to certify that the above sponsor will enter the above described float in the Bristol, Rhode Island, Civic, Military and Fireman's Parade and also agrees to abide by the enclosed **Float Preparation Requirements** and the **Parade Rules and Regulations**.

Contact Name/  
Authorized Member  
(Please type or print)

Signature of Contact/  
Authorized Member



Bristol Fourth of July Committee  
P.O. Box 561  
Bristol, Rhode Island 02809

[fourthofjulybristolri.com](http://fourthofjulybristolri.com)

**FOR BRISTOL FOURTH OF JULY COMMITTEE USE ONLY**

Date application was received

2023



BRISTOL FOURTH OF JULY COMMITTEE

## Parade Floats

### Preparation Requirements

1. A completed **FLOAT APPLICATION** form must be received no later than **MAY 1, 2023**. An 8"X10" sketch and /or photograph of each intended float design **MUST** accompany the application. **WAIVER of LIABILITY** must be filled out and signed by **ALL PARTICIPATES** with the float including the **driver, walkers and riders on the float**. Applications received after **MAY 1, 2023** will be subject to an additional \$25 late filing fee. No applications will be accepted after May 31, 2023.
2. **ALL FLOATS MUST PROJECT A PATRIOTIC THEME** which relates to American Independence and its celebration. Floats which are determined to be solely mobile advertising displays for commercial and/or for-profit entities will not be accepted.
3. The patriotic float theme must appear on both sides of float and can be of any size. Sponsorship sign, if any, is restricted to the **REAR** of the float only. Not to exceed 3 X 5 feet.
4. All floats should measure no higher than 13 feet 6 inches from the ground and should be able to maneuver around sharp corners on the parade route without difficulty. (Note: segments of the parade route are only two lanes wide).
5. No one under (10) years of age may appear as part of any entry unless accompanied by an adult.
6. Sound equipped entries must specify type of equipment, sound and repertoire of songs to be used on Float Application Form. Music, or other sounds projected must be consistent with the parade's Patriotic Theme. Sound must be projected from sides only and maintained at a volume low enough so as not to interfere with bands and other marching units participating. The Committee has the right to reserve and limit the number of floats with sound.
7. Horns, Whistles and Sirens of any kind are **not permitted**.
8. There will be no distributions or fundraising by any float applicant. No objects of any kind may be thrown, sprayed or otherwise distributed to spectators from any entry (including, but not limited to candy, silly string, snappers, advertisements, pamphlets, etc.) Failure to comply will result in immediate removal from the parade.
9. **All floats must carry an approved, fully charged FIRE EXTINGUISHER that is easily accessible.**
10. **Drivers must be with vehicle at all times** prior to and during parade.
11. Floats **must** arrive at the Colt State Park float assembly area no later than 7 a.m. The **judging of floats** will begin **promptly at 7:30 a.m.** The parade will step-off promptly at 10:30 a.m. In planning for parade day, we encourage participants to bring coolers with an appropriate supply of snacks and beverages for your group.
12. All floats are limited to 25 walkers. Walkers may walk in front of or behind the float **ONLY**. Walkers are **NOT ALLOWED** to walk along the sides of the float.

**Non-compliance with the above requirements may result in disqualification from float judging and/or participation in the parade, at the discretion of the Float Committee Chairman, in consultation with the Float Committee. The Parade Chairman reserves the right to remove any float during the parade that the Parade Chairman considers to be in violation of these requirements or the Parade Rules and Regulations, or a danger to spectators or other parade participants.**

**2023**



**BRISTOL FOURTH OF JULY COMMITTEE**

## **Parade Floats**

### ***Float Judging Criteria***

#### **Float Inspection Rules**

- Application and sketch/picture of float entry submitted prior to May 1st
- Sponsorship sign must be located in rear of float, no larger than 3' x 5'
- Height of float not to exceed 13' 6"
- Certified fire extinguisher
- Vehicle pulling entry appropriately decorated
- Children under 10 years accompanied by an adult
- Volume check of sound
- No objects "to be distributed, thrown or sprayed" present on float
- No promotion of winners of pageants/contests/organizations

#### **All Floats**

- Neatly assembled and decorated
- Aesthetic quality
- Must display patriotic theme
- Costume uniform relating to theme of float

#### **Most Original (Commercial/Non-Commercial)**

- Unique Composition (type of material, shape of design, symmetry or contrast)
- Creative Design (juxtaposition of similar or different themes, humor)

#### **Most Patriotic (Commercial/Non-Commercial)**

- Should have red, white and blue
- Credit for flags, stars and stripes
- Emphasize independence, military, citizenry or firemen

#### **Most Beautiful (Commercial/Non-Commercial)**

- Outstanding color/shape combinations
- Vivid and striking colors
- Tells a story or evokes patriotic emotions

#### **Top Military Honor**

- Portrays military equipment or capability
- Portrays pride in service or dedication to country
- Credit for portraying current or historic military moment(s)
- Overall effect (inspires or evokes your pride in our military)

#### **Best In Parade**

- All categories included

**2023**



BRISTOL FOURTH OF JULY COMMITTEE

**238th Annual Fourth of July Parade**  
***Consent and Waiver of Liability***

**Tuesday, July 4, 2023**

I/We, the undersigned, hereby agree to accept all risks involved and to waive any and all claims or causes of action of whatsoever kind or nature arising from my/our participation in the 238th Annual Bristol Fourth of July Parade while at or within the jurisdictional limits of the Town of Bristol. I/We further agree to release, discharge, indemnify and hold harmless the Town of Bristol and the Bristol Fourth of July Committee, their representatives, agents, assigns, and volunteers (collectively “Bristol”) from any and all liability, loss, damages, costs, expenses and claims of whatever nature, including attorneys’ fees, past, present, and future arising out of or as a result of the acts or omissions of Bristol which I/we may incur, suffer, or sustain by reason of any matter or thing in connection with my/our participation in the 238th Annual Bristol Fourth of July Parade.

This waiver is executed the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2023.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Title

\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness name

2023



BRISTOL FOURTH OF JULY COMMITTEE

## Annual Civic, Military and Fireman's Parade *Rules and Regulations*

1. Participation in the Bristol Fourth of July Parade is by **INVITATION ONLY**. Any individual, group, vehicle, or float attempting to participate without the permission of the Parade Committee will be ejected by the Parade Chairman. This rule applies to uninvited guests who march or attempt to march in the Parade under the guise of a unit that has permission to march. Also, only clergy from religious organizations that are members of the United Council of Churches and that have received written invitation from the Fourth of July Committee may march in the Parade.
2. No entry, individual or organization, will be permitted to participate in the Parade without a **signed Waiver of Liability** being executed and returned to the Committee no later than May 15.
3. Only individuals who hold elective office in Federal, State, and/or Local government and have received a written invitation from the Fourth of July Committee may march in the Parade. Officers holding such position are also not permitted to advertise candidacy. **No handouts will be permitted.**
4. No one under the age of 10 years of age may appear as part of an entry unless accompanied by a parent/or designated adult.
5. All motorized vehicles are subject to inspection by the Bristol Police Department and must provide proof of valid insurance, copy of current driver's license, and updated registration (proof to be mailed to the Parade Chairman PO Box 561, Bristol, RI 02809 by May 1). **ALL VEHICLES MUST BE APPROVED BY THE PARADE CHAIRMAN AND ARE STRONGLY ENCOURAGED TO CARRY A "CERTIFIED" FULLY CHARGED FIRE EXTINGUISHER THAT IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE. PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL FLOATS MUST CARRY AN APPROVED, FULLY CHARGED FIRE EXTINGUISHER THAT IS EASILY ACCESSIBLE.**
6. **Drivers MUST always remain with their vehicles** prior to and during the parade.
7. Vehicles are limited to one sponsorship sign that must be in rear of the vehicle. The dimensions of the sign shall NOT exceed 3 feet by 5 feet. Only permanently affixed or painted signs, indicating ownership of the vehicle, may be on the side.
8. Control must be always maintained where approved entries involve vehicles or animals. **UNITS THAT INCLUDE ANIMALS MUST PROVIDE WASTE REMOVAL (POOPER SCOOPERS) AT THEIR EXPENSE.**
9. Sound-equipped entries must specify type of equipment, sound, and repertoire of songs on application. Music, or other sounds projected must be consistent with the Parade's Patriotic Theme. Sound must be Projected from sides only and maintained at a volume low enough so as not to interfere with bands and other marching units participating. The Committee has the right to reserve and limit the number of entries with sound.
10. **THE SHOOTING OF CANNONS, FIRING OF MUSKETS, AND OPEN FLAMES ARE NOT PERMITTED WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE BRISTOL FIRE CHIEF, BRISTOL POLICE CHIEF, AND PARADE CHAIRMAN.** Violators will be removed from the Parade.

2023



BRISTOL FOURTH OF JULY COMMITTEE

## Annual Civic, Military and Fireman's Parade *Rules and Regulations*

11. No entry and/or organization will be permitted to use their participation to promote the winner of a pageant/contest/organization. The current-reigning Miss Fourth of July, Little Miss Fourth of July and their respective courts are the only pageant winners allowed to participate in the parade. Any circumvention of the policy may result in the organization's invitation being withdrawn.
12. Horns, Whistles, and Sirens of any kind are not permitted. Candy or **items may NOT be thrown or distributed into the crowd.**
13. There will be **NO** unauthorized stops permitted in the Parade. There will be no stopping allowed for the purpose of performing at either the television cameras or the reviewing stand, unless requested by the Parade Chairman. No entry (musical, float, marching unit, etc.) will be allowed to stop and perform for any reason. Violators of this rule may be removed from the Parade line of march and may forfeit payment, if applicable. **PARADE CHAIRMAN AND DESIGNATED DIVISION COORDINATORS** will have authority to exercise this regulation.
14. The reviewing stand is at the end of the Parade route. Bands/drum corps may half-step through the Reviewing Stand area. Stopping to play or perform is **NOT** permitted by any entry. Only the Parade Chairman can make exceptions to the rule.
15. The official **END** of the **PARADE** route is at the corner of High and State Streets. Units must continue past State Street before coming to a halt.
16. Units must complete the entire Parade route or be disqualified. In the event of disqualification, awards, and/or payment may be forfeited.
17. The Committee will keep in mind the health, safety, and welfare of participants. The Bristol Fire Department has a Triage and Cooling station at the end of the parade, all participants are requested to stop and be checked by these professionals. Special considerations will be made when the heat index is above 90 degrees including, upon request, allowing vehicles to travel as the back-up with marching units. However, ultimate responsibility for the safety of participants, including the decision to withdraw from the Parade, if necessary, lies with the participants themselves.
18. All control of the Parade is vested in the Parade Chairman and Bristol Police Chief. Parade Committee personnel, Bristol Police, and Deputies authorized to enforce all Parade Rules, regulations, and noncompliance with Parade Rules, Regulations, and Orders. All regulations will be strictly enforced

**CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES IN THE PARADE  
FORMATION AREA AND ON THE PARADE ROUTE IS ILLEGAL  
BY ORDER OF THE BRISTOL POLICE DEPARTMENT.**

**AT THE END OF THE ROUTE THERE IS A COOLING STATION AVAILABLE.**