AUBURN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE FAMILY 4TH OF JULY PARADE

GENERAL RULES AND GUIDELINES

Effective May 5, 2023

(Please read the rules and guidelines carefully before signing the parade entry application)

**THE AUBURN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE’S FAMILY 4TH OF JULY PARADE** celebrates our country’s Independence Day with a parade that provides entertainment, community spirit, and fun for all to enjoy.

**ENTRY REQUIREMENTS AND SELECTION:** ALL PARADE ENTRIES MUST SHOWCASE ELEMENTS OF THE PARADE THEME AND/OR INDEPENDENCE DAY. The parade is a “family friendly” celebration and parade participation must be appropriate to be seen by all ages. The parade will not be used as a platform for special interests in any way, shape or form. The rules and guidelines are for the safety & quality of the parade. Entry applications are subject to approval by parade organizers. All application decisions made by the parade organizers are final. Failure to abide by these rules and guidelines may result in the entry's removal from the parade & future parades.

**ENTRY APPLICATION FORM:** The entry application form must be completed and signed with the understanding of the general rules and guidelines. The parade organizers reserve the right to reject any entry at any time. Applicants will receive notification of their acceptance. Staging instructions will be emailed or mailed prior to the parade & will be available on the day of the parade at check in.

**PERSONAL/PRIVATE/COMMERCIAL/BUSINESS ENTRIES:** A fee is required to participate in the parade (check, made payable to the Auburn Chamber of Commerce or credit card). Fee structure is available online at auburnchamber.net & on the parade entry application. Applications will not be accepted without payment.

**FORWARD MOTION PARADE:** All entries are required to maintain a continuous forward motion during the parade. No stopping to perform anywhere along the parade route.

**HANDOUTS, CANDY OR FAVORS**: Handouts, packaged candy, and favors may be distributed directly by volunteers that are walking with the float or entry. Volunteers must walk up to the sidewalk to distribute materials; no patrons may enter the street along the parade route. Nothing can be thrown out along the parade route, curbside or behind the crowd due to littering and liability policies. Throwing any items from or along the parade route is a serious safety factor; one that has resulted in injuries in other parades.

**IDENTIFICATION SIGNS:** Identification banners are encouraged for entries in the parade. Signs must be for identification purposes. Phone numbers, addresses, websites or other contact information on identification signs are allowed. Signs for special interest purposes are not permitted.

**CANCELLATION POLICY:** Only a significant act of nature or circumstance beyond the control of organizers will cancel the parade, of which all units would be notified. If, for any reason, your unit is not able to participate in the parade after being accepted, you must contact the parade staff, prior to the parade date. Entries absent on parade day without proper notification will not receive a refund & could be removed from future parades.

**PARADE JUDGING:** A panel of community judges will judge all qualifying entries. Judges' decisions are final. Parade award winners will be announced shortly following the parade and posted on the Auburn Chamber of Commerce Family 4th of July website.

**TYPES OF ENTRIES CONSIDERED FOR THE PARADE**

**MARCHING MUSICAL UNITS:** School Bands, Drum Corps, Independent Bands, etc. Marching musical units are requested to perform on the parade route. Unit members are required to be in uniform attire. Summer attire is allowed.

**FLOATS:** We recommend floats for this parade or decorated trailers. A description of the float design with size dimensions must be submitted with the parade application. Floats should not exceed 80 feet in length (including tow vehicle) or more than 14 feet in height and 10 feet wide.

**MARCHERS / SPECIALTY UNITS:** Clowns, Color Guards, Marching Groups, Scouting Groups, are encouraged. Entries requiring vehicles to carry sound systems must notify parade organizers on the application. Carts or vehicles accompanying the entry must be decorated.

**VEHICLES:** Vehicles considered for entry must be decorated. Vehicles such as oversized vans, tankers, farm machinery, tractor-trailers and other large vehicles are not encouraged due to liability and safety concerns. Vehicles permitted in the parade will be restricted in numbers (example - car clubs may be limited to 8-10 cars). No commercial or private vehicles are allowed in the parade without an approved application by the parade staff.

**EQUESTRIAN / ANIMAL UNITS: ANIMAL MUST PRODUCE THEIR OWN LIABILITY INSURANCE** Equestrian riders should be at least 8 years of age and accompanied by an adult. Any animal deemed unsafe in the parade will be removed. All animal units must provide their own clean-up crew and equipment to follow their unit in the parade. Failure to provide clean up for animal units will result in removal from future parades.

**DRILL / DANCE:** Dance Troupes; Drill Teams, Baton Groups, etc. should consist of as many members as possible. Routines must be choreographed for forward motion.

**SPECIAL GUESTS / DIGNITARIES / POLITICAL CANDIDATES:** Special guests, dignitaries or candidates running for political office are allowed to be in the parade, but must showcase elements of the parade theme or Independence Day as part of their entry. Signs or marketing pieces defaming or disparaging individuals, groups, beliefs or initiatives are not allowed in the parade. The special guest/ dignitary/ political candidate must appear in the parade.

**PARTICIPANT AGE RESTRICTIONS:** Walking participants must be at least six years old or older. There must be at least one adult escort for every six children under the age of 13 years. Young children riding on a float must have adult supervision on and around them at all times.

**HAVE FUN:** Auburn has a long history of celebrating the 4th of July with a parade. This event is a family friendly event & is for all to come & enjoy celebrating our country’s Independence Day.