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## **BRISTOL FOURTH OF JULY COMMITTEE 1776**

231st Celebration... "A Unique American Experience"

February 23, 2016

Dear Friend,

The Bristol Fourth of July Committee cordially invites you to apply for participation in the Parade Float Competition of the 231st Annual Fourth of July Celebration in Bristol, Rhode Island on Monday, July 4, 2016.

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.

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 231st anniversary of our celebration of America's Independence.

We will be awarding prizes for the *Most Patriotic*, *Most Beautiful* and *Most Original* floats in two categories: *Commercial* and *Non-Commercial*. There will also be a *Top Military Honors* and *Best in the Parade* Awards.

The Float Preparation Requirements, 2016 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 return them with fee and a sketch and /or photograph of your proposed float design postmarked no later than May 1, 2016 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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 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 and Regulations

**P. O. Box 561 • Bristol, Rhode Island 02809-0561**

**Bristol's Fourth of July Parade – 2016**  
**FLOAT APPLICATION**

<b>Application Fee: \$25 before May 1<sup>st</sup> please refer to fee changes on Float Preparation Requirements</b> <b>Please make check payable to:</b> <b>THE BRISTOL 4<sup>TH</sup> OF JULY COMMITTEE</b>
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**Sponsor** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Telephone:Day** \_\_\_\_\_ **Evening** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**

**FloatTheme:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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 & Length of Vehicle/Unit:** \_\_\_\_\_

**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**



**231st ANNUAL BRISTOL FOURTH OF JULY PARADE**  
**Monday, July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**WAIVER OF LIABILITY**

In consideration of the opportunity afforded to our organization to participate in the 231st Annual Bristol Fourth of July Parade, we hereby waive any right or cause of action arising as a result of our organization's participation in said Parade from which any liability may or could accrue against the Bristol Fourth of July Committee, the Town of Bristol, and all of its agents and volunteers. Our organization agrees that this waiver shall include any rights of causes of action resulting from personal injury to members of our organization or property damage sustained in connection with our participation in the Parade.

This waiver is executed the \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2016.

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Duly Authorized \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

**231st Annual 4th of July  
Civic, Military and Fireman's Parade  
Bristol, Rhode Island  
FLOAT PREPARATION REQUIREMENTS**

1. A completed float application form must be received no later than **MAY 1, 2016**. An 8"X10" sketch and /or photograph of each intended float design **MUST** accompany the application. Applications received after **MAY 1, 2016** will be subject to an additional \$25 late filing fee. Applications received after **May 15, 2016** will be subject to an additional \$50 late filing fee. No applications will be accepted after May 29, 2016.
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 either side of float and can be of any size. Sponsorship sign, if any, is restricted to the **REAR** of the float only.
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.*

# **Bristol Fourth of July Committee**

## **Float Judging Criteria**

### **Float Inspection Rules**

Application and sketch/picture of float entry submitted prior to May 1<sup>st</sup>  
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

**BRISTOL, RHODE ISLAND'S  
231st ANNUAL CIVIC, MILITARY AND FIREMAN'S PARADE**

**PARADE RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**July 4, 2016**

1. Participation in the Bristol Fourth of July Parade is by invitation only. Any individual or group attempting to participate without the permission of the Parade Committee will be ejected by the Parade Chairman. This rule also applies to uninvited guests who march or attempt to march in the Parade under the guise of a unit that has permission to march.
2. No entry and/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 1<sup>st</sup>.
3. 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.
4. 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. Officials holding such position are also not permitted to advertise a candidacy.
5. Political candidates for elective office shall not use the Parade as a means of promoting their candidacy or that of others. Any electioneering materials may only be distributed before the Parade begins or after it ends, and not while any candidate is participating in the Parade.
6. Only clergy from religious organizations that are members of the United Council of Churches and that have received a written invitation from the Fourth of July Committee may march in the Parade.
7. No one under age 10 years of age may appear as part of an entry unless accompanied by an adult.
8. All motorized vehicles are subject to inspection by the Bristol Police Department. 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 are required to carry a "certified" fire extinguisher.
9. Vehicles are limited to one sponsorship sign that must be located 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.
10. Drivers must remain with their vehicles at all times prior to and during the Parade.
11. Control must be maintained at all times where approved entries involve vehicles or animals. UNITS THAT INCLUDE ANIMALS MUST PROVIDE WASTE REMOVAL (POOPER SCOOPERS) AT THEIR EXPENSE.
12. Sound-equipped entries must specify type of equipment, sound, and repertoire of songs to be used. Sound must be maintained at a volume low enough so as not to interfere with bands/drum corps and other

marching units. The Division Coordinators will determine appropriate volume.

13. THE SHOOTING OF CANNONS IS NOT PERMITTED WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE BRISTOL FIRE CHIEF AND BRISTOL POLICE CHIEF. Violators will be removed from the parade.
14. THE SOUNDING OF HORNS, WHISTLES, AND SIRENS IS STRONGLY DISCOURAGED.
15. There will be no distribution or fundraising by any entry. 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. POSSESSION OF OR USE OF “CANNED CONFETTI”, “SILLY STRING” or similar products on the Parade route is also a violation of the Bristol Town Code and could result in arrest, conviction, and/or fine.
16. There are no authorized 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 or Reviewing Stand Coordinator. 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. All Division Coordinators will have authority to exercise this regulation. There will be no exceptions.
17. 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 or Reviewing Stand Coordinator can make exceptions to this rule.
18. **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.
19. Units must complete the entire Parade route or be disqualified. In the event of disqualification, awards and/or payment may be forfeited.
20. The Committee will keep in mind the health, safety, and welfare of all participants. Special considerations will be made when the heat index is above 90 degrees including, upon request, allowing vehicles to travel as 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.**
21. Failure to observe the above Parade Rules and Regulations may result in denial of future marching privileges and immediate removal from the Parade Formation Area and/or Parade route.
22. All control of the Parade is vested in the Parade Chairman and the Bristol Police Chief. Parade Committee personnel, Bristol Police, and Deputies are authorized to enforce any and all Parade Rules, Regulations, and Orders. The Parade Chairman has absolute authority to deny entry and/or remove a unit from the Parade for non-compliance with Parade Rules, Regulations, and Orders. All regulations will be strictly enforced. The Parade Chairman has the last word in interpreting the Parade Rules, Regulations, and Orders.

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