

2024 Parade Guidelines



GENTEX
CORPORATION
KINDERPARADE

Thursday, May 9, 2024, 2:00
Street Scrubbing 2:00/1:30 lineup



VOLKSPARADE

Saturday, May 11, 2024
Parade 2:00

GUIDELINES AND APPLICATION

Please review the guidelines below and complete an online application at www.tuliptime.com/parades. Applications are open now. The deadline to submit applications is April 15, 2024.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

- Each unit must maintain forward momentum with no slowing, stopping or performing in route. **Parades maintain a brisk pace;** your group must be prepared to maintain that pace for the duration of the parade.
- Entries are required to incorporate one or more elements of Tulip Time's mission statement: to **Welcome the world to our community by celebrating tulips, Dutch heritage, and Holland today while developing the fun when the tulips bloom. This year's theme is Bikes and Blooms! We would love to see something that represents the theme!**
 - Exceptions for unique entries with strong visual appeal **OR** for entries which engage with and entertain spectators are made by the Parade Committee.
 - All persons participating **MUST** be in uniform dress, Dutch costume, or match the theme of the entry. Type of dress must be outlined on the application.
- To ensure the safety of our parade participants and spectators, Tulip Time and the Holland Police Department have decided that **NO HANDOUTS and NO ITEMS thrown along the parade route or in the assembly/dispersal areas are permitted. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS.****

- Identification banners/signage **with a salute to Tulip Time** (EX: Quality Car Wash Welkoms you to Tulip Time!) must accompany each unit. Each entry is responsible for their own banner and signage. Banners are limited to one per group with the exception of the Parade Sponsor.
- Issue oriented entries will not be accepted. The parade committee reserves the right to determine whether an entry is in the best interest of the Festival.
- Riders/mascots must remain in their vehicle throughout the entire parade or keep fast pace, no stopping or holding up the parade! Be prepared for convertible tops to be put up if poor weather conditions arise.
- Applicants hoping to participate in the Kinderparade must be child or family-oriented organizations.
- When applying you MUST indicate if you will be having music with your entry. IF you say NO then you can NOT have music the day of the parade. We place you according to if you have music or not!!
- Animal units must have prior parade experience, verification that the animals are parade safe, and a **clean-up crew**. Participating dogs must be up-to-date on their Rabies vaccine, licensed, and on a leash.
- Helium parade balloons must not exceed 30 feet long/high by 15 feet wide.

WALKING UNIT GUIDELINES

- The maximum number of walkers on the parade route with each entry should not exceed 30; exceptions will be made by the Parade Committee.
- Walking participants must have the ability to walk the entirety of the parade route (up to 2.4 miles).
- Walking units may include wagons, strollers, scooters, etc with **prior permission** from the Parade Committee. This does include Street Scrubbing and Dutch Dogs.

VEHICLE GUIDELINES

Note: Entrants should make arrangements for obtaining an appropriate vehicle prior to submitting their application.

- Vehicles in the parade are restricted to those used for pulling a float, convertibles (five years old or newer), or antique/classic cars (20 years old or older). If you have a vehicle that does not fit these guidelines, please contact the parade manager to discuss.
 - **Corporate vehicles are not permitted unless they meet the above criteria. Please check with parade committee with any questions. They must also incorporate one or more of Tulip Time’s Mission Statement. It cannot be just for advertising!!**
- Participating in a parade often means that your vehicle will be “idling” for many minutes at a time. This can be difficult for motorcycles, classic cars, etc. and should be considered when deciding to enter the parade.

FLOAT GUIDELINES

- Tulip Time will provide 2 10" diameter pots of live tulips (subject to availability). Applicants are encouraged to supply additional tulips if the size of the entry allows it.
- Floats must be skirted, and all objects should be completely decorated in floral sheeting or its equivalent. Creative Floats West is available to build floats: www.creativefloats.com. DeFrell Builders in Hamilton also builds floats. www.defrellbuilders.com. 269-751-8758. Float supplies can be found on www.theparade.org.
- Floats should not exceed 12.5' in height
- Each float must have its own driver and own tow vehicle; no riders will be permitted in the back of the tow vehicle.

Media Guidelines

- • **HAVE YOUR MEDIA NOTES READY!** Entries who leave this section blank will not be accepted. When writing your notes, write them from the perspective of the TV announcer (3rd person) and not your organization (1st person). Make it brief because the announcer will cut pieces out if it is too long!

FIREARMS GUIDELINES

- Firearms permitted in the parade will be for ceremonial purposes only, and **will not be loaded**. Rifles must only be carried in an "over the shoulder" position.
- Only active police personnel may be in possession of live firearms.
- **Entries that include firearms will be inspected prior to step-off by the Holland Police Department.**

***The Parade Committee reserves the right to accept or deny any and all applications based on Tulip Time's mission statement. Any parade-day deviations from the originally accepted application, violations of the stated guidelines, or inappropriate behavior could result in your entry's exclusion from any of the 2024 parades.**

If you have any questions about the guidelines or application process, please contact Kim Vandermolen at kim@tuliptime.com or 616-396-4221 ext. 104.