

2024 Band Guidelines



GENTEX
CORPORATION
KINDERPARADE

Thursday, May 9, 2024, 2:00
Street Scrubbing 1:15 lineup



VOLKSPARADE

Saturday, May 11, 2024
Parade 2:00

The Tulip Time Board and Staff invite you to apply for participation in the 2024 Festival parades. The Parade Committee selects both local and national talent to "show their stuff" during our unique parades.

Additionally, both parades feature floats and many unique entries; our Volksparade (formally known as Muziekparade) is THE largest parade in Michigan with over 160 units and draws an average audience of over 100,000 spectators! We offer one of the most organized and professional parade experiences in the country, with well-trained and highly qualified personnel, staff, and Parade Marshals.

BAND 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 band applications is April 15, 2024.

Tulip Time Festival reserves the right to make decisions regarding band appearance and compliance with the following guidelines prior to and during the Parade. Bands are expected to comply with the instructions of Tulip Time Staff in addition to Parade Marshals.

Band Uniforms

- Bands must be in matching professional uniform. Any insignia, images, additions or alteration of band uniform will not be allowed.
- The Red Cross requests that band members wear a T-shirt or tank top under their uniform to allow for faster treatment in case of injury or heat exhaustion.

Non-Band Members

- Each band director may have no more than three additional people accompany the band in any capacity (assistant director, first aid, water carrier, etc.).
- These persons must be dressed to match the band, i.e., band uniform or school clothing matching in color to the band uniform such as a School T-shirt.
- Any additional person or persons will be removed from the route by the Parade Marshals.

Chaperones

- Chaperones are not allowed to walk the parade route, or walk in front of observers.
- Arrangements should be made for chaperones to meet the band at the end of the parade route.
- Reserved premium and general bleacher seat tickets are available through the Tulip Time office beginning November 15th, 2024 (www.tuliptime.com).

Pre-Parade Care

- **Band directors are responsible for the proper hydration and nutrition of band members prior to the parade, even beginning as early as the day before.**
- The parade route for the Saturday Volksparade is 2.4 miles long; and Thursday parade is a bit shorter at 1.5 miles approximately.
- Hydration and nutrition recommendations are available online at websites such as www.redcross.org. You may also want to consult medical personnel in your area for additional recommendations.
- We will allow and recommend up to two water carriers per band (see above) if all other guidelines are met and the director feels it is necessary. Tulip Time will do their best to provide water via water stations but there is no guarantee that the water will not run out so please be prepared to supply your band with water during and after the parade just in case the water runs out.

Cadence

- Bands are expected to use a cadence of MM 120-132.
- Our parades maintain a fairly **brisk pace**.
- Gaps pose a serious threat to safety as people, especially children, will attempt to cross the parade route in these gaps.
- Gaps also slow the parade, making media coverage very difficult.
- Bands that do not keep pace with the rest of the parade may not be invited back.
- Each unit must **maintain a forward momentum**, and may **not slow or stop** the parade in any way. This means that there should be **no stopping and playing along the parade route**.

Parade Route Performance

- Bands are expected to play as much as possible throughout the entire parade route, and specifically at times when in front of television cameras, large crowd sections such as the bleachers, etc.
- Cameras are typically set up on 8th Street. Bands should begin playing by the middle of the block between College and Central, but without slowing or stopping the progression of the parade.
 - The Volksparade will go on “rain or shine.” Be prepared for hot, cold or rainy weather. This parade will only be cancelled if weather is life-threatening.
 - The Kinderparade will go on “rain or shine” and will only be cancelled if weather is life-threatening. If the parade is cancelled, it will not be rescheduled to Friday! This is new for this year.

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 Policy

- In order to promote the safety and well-being of parade attendees, firearms in the parade will be for ceremonial purposes only, and ***will not be loaded***. Rifles must be carried in an “over the shoulder” position only.
 - 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.
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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.
