

(Parade Rules and Guidelines)

***Special Safety Requirement *:** If any item(s) are to be distributed (candy, goodies, pamphlets, etc.), they **MUST NOT** be thrown into the street but **MUST** be distributed by hand by members of the unit walking along the street edge of the people viewing the Parade. (In the past younger children have become excited and anxiously have darted into the street for items thrown there.) This can create a very unsafe situation. Safety must come first, and this rule is to prevent any tragic incident and **must** be followed. At the tail end of the parade, please do not cross or walk in the parade route until our first responders and all their trucks have passed by.

* The person in charge of each parade unit will be responsible for informing all participants involved with their unit of all the rules and guidelines. Units failing to follow these rules may be subject to removal from the parade or a possible ban on future participation.

* Each unit participating in the Parade will be assigned to a **specific numbered pre-parade staging area** where you will wait to be placed into the parade. On the day of the parade the specific staging area numbers will be placed along Grow Ave. **Parade participants must be at your specific pre- parade staging area a minimum of ½ hour (10:30 A. M.) before the parade starts at 11:00 A.M.** Be sure to go to your specific assigned staging area number.

* The traffic on the morning of the parade will be considerable. You should allow extra time for this. The parades numbered staging areas on Grow Ave. start at Lathrop St. & Grow Ave. and continue until the last staging area near the lake. **The entire staging area will be closed to parking to only vehicles that will be in the parade.** Parade participants may be dropped off, but the any vehicle that will not be in the parade will need to park somewhere outside the staging area.

* The Parade Committee is responsible for the Order of March for the Parade and will direct each unit when it is their turn to enter the line of march. Each unit will march in their designated order throughout the Parade route and stay in that order until the completion of the Parade on Lake Avenue.

* Each unit **must keep pace and maintain a close distance with the unit directly in front of you.** There should not be any large gaps (25 ft. or more) between each unit. If your unit falls behind for any reason you must “catch up” to the unit in front of you. If your unit stops to perform it should be of a limited duration and at the conclusion of the brief performance the unit must proceed to catch up (**close the gap**) with the unit in front of them.

* Inappropriate behavior and the use of alcohol by units while in the parade is prohibited.

Thank you for following these rules and guidelines. Have fun and enjoy being an important part in celebrating, “America’s Spirit – Serving our Community.”