



2023 San Marcos Veterans Day Parade Rules & Guidelines

This parade is dedicated to military veterans who have served the United States of America. Entries and decorations should represent the parade theme with dignity and respect to our veterans and the United States Flag.

The Parade Committee reserves the right to reject any entry that is not in good taste, inappropriate, or not in the best interest of the parade.

The parade line-up will take place from 8:30 AM – 9:45 AM with the parade starting promptly at 10:00 AM. Parade staging instructions will be sent to entrants via email the week of the parade.

General Rules

- No political candidacy signs, banners, or t-shirts. Current offices held may be identified. No “vote for”, “elect”, or “support” signs allowed.
- No 18 wheelers or tractor trailers.
- Throwing candy or other items from the float is NOT permitted.
- Unless there is an emergency, entrants must remain in their vehicle or on their float for the duration of the parade route. Entrants are not allowed to ride on top of vehicles.
- This is a forward-motion parade. No backward motion is permitted during the parade. Brief stops during the parade for dance routines and/or band maneuvering are acceptable. A Review Stand/Announcement Booth will be placed along the parade route for recognition of parade entries and brief performances.
- All units must keep pace with the units in front of them, as led by the San Marcos Police Vehicle.
- All units should leave appropriate interval between themselves and the next unit (3 to 5 car lengths), neither should intervals be too large (over 5 car lengths).
- Vehicles must proceed all the way, safely, past the end of the parade route before stopping and unloading.
- All vehicles must be operated by a licensed driver over the age of 18 and provide documented proof of liability insurance prior to check-in at the parade. Email to cmurillo@sanmarcostx.gov
- Children riding on a float/trailer/vehicle must be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- Animals must be kept on a leash or other restraint. Entrants are not permitted to allow animals to have any contact with parade spectators. Liability for animals’ actions is the responsibility of the animal owner.
- All parade participants are required to conduct themselves in such a manner as to not infringe on the rights of those people living in and along the staging areas and parade route. Please be respectful of neighborhood staging areas, including leaving the area free of debris or trash.
- There will be no visual obstructions to tow vehicles. An observer other than the driver is required with all towed entries. The observer can walk or ride next to the tow vehicle.

Floats and Vehicle Decorations

- Decorative materials must be flame retardant.
- You can decorate your float/vehicle on-site AFTER you have checked in.
- Use of the United States Flag as a decoration must follow the Flag Code. Visit www.legion.org for information regarding this topic.

Amplified Sound and Public Address Systems

- Use of a Public Address System is prohibited in the parade. All announcements will be made from the official announcing stand.
- Vehicles and Floats with amplified sound systems must adhere to the City of San Marcos noise ordinance. Failure to comply will result in removal from the parade.

Equestrian and Animal Entries

- Equestrian and animal entrees are responsible for removal of all animal waste from the parade staging area and parade route.
- All equestrian and animal entrees are required to provide the Coggins Report and proof of insurance for parade participation when submitting a parade application.

Important Safety Notice

Activities which draw parade attendees, many of whom are children, into the parade route are very serious and can create liability for all parade entrants and sponsors. The parade rules include a provision that there shall be NO throwing, distributing or handing out of any type of item to parade observers. For the 2023 Veterans Day Parade, we will allow items to be handed out along the perimeter of the parade route only. It is important that parade entrants understand the danger of distributing items during the parade which can create personal liability. This 'trial' is done at the request of parade entrants and is not recommended.

If your group decides to hand out candy or other items along the perimeter of the parade route, you need to follow these strict guidelines to ensure safety of all participants and spectators along the parade route.

- Throwing candy or other items from the float/vehicle is NOT permitted as it entices parade participants, many of whom are children, into the path of the parade.
- Anyone handing out candy along the parade route must walk the entire parade route. Under no circumstances shall observers be drawn into the parade (into the street).
- Anyone handing out candy or other items is not allowed to get onto the float/vehicle for the duration of the parade.
- Anyone riding the float/vehicle is not allowed to get off of the float/vehicle for the duration of the parade.
- The driver of the vehicle must exercise extreme caution while on the parade route.