

**Washington Parish Fair Parade
Rules and Guidelines
2018**

The Washington Parish Fair begins with a parade that highlights the creativity and talent of our parish. This year's theme is "Let Freedom Ring." The parade is a fun and family friendly way to start the largest free fair in the United States. The 2018 Parade will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, October 17, 2018. It will begin at the East Gate Shopping Center, follow the prescribed route through town, and end at the Washington Parish Fair Grounds. In order to protect the entrants and spectators, and to make sure that the parade is in keeping with the spirit of the Fair, the following rules and guidelines are submitted.

1. General Information

a. Applications

1. All Entrants must register with Parade Committee before October 10, 2018.
2. All entrants can register by filling out an online form at <http://thefreefair.com/fair-parade/> or email their registration form to the Fair Parade committee at freefairparade@gmail.com.

b. Route

1. The parade will begin at the East Gate shopping center on the Bogalusa Highway. (This is where Dirt Cheap is located.) The route is 2.5 miles long, will travel west towards the Courthouse, turn right towards the Fairgrounds, travel through the Fairgrounds and finish in the field east of the Livestock Barn.
2. All entrants will familiarize themselves with the route and will ensure their pace over the route helps the entrants behind them.
3. **All entrants will travel the entire route and will not disband prior to the end of the route.** The end will be clearly marked and will give enough space for all entrants to safely disband and dismantle their entries.

c. Staging

1. All entrants must be lined up and prepared, in parade order, no later than 8:00 a.m. on October 17th.
2. Judging and inspection of entries will begin no later than 8:00 a.m.
3. In order to help all entrants meet the Parade timeline, entrants will be allowed to stage their entries and construct their floats beginning at 8:30 p.m. on October 16th. Overnight security and portable toilets will be provided for all entrants who stage the night before the parade.

4. Entrants will be held accountable for the cleanliness of their areas during the entire staging process.

d. Judging

1. Judging and inspection are necessary to ensure the quality and content of all entries.
2. All float entries must be decorated to incorporate the theme of this year's Fair, "Let Freedom Ring."

e. Behavior and Content

1. Music will not be excessive in volume or content. The parade committee will decide if music violates the parade standards regarding volume or content.
2. All entrants are expected to conduct themselves in a manner in keeping with the high standards of the Washington Parish Free Fair and will not be allowed to participate in the Parade if those standards are violated.

2. Specific Information

a. Marching Groups, Dance Teams, Bands

1. Groups will be allowed one support vehicle to follow their group along the parade route.
2. Groups will be dropped off at Jack Brown's then cross the highway to the Farmer's Market area for performance judging and parade placement.

b. Horses

1. Horse entries must sign in no later than 9:00 a.m. on October 17th.
2. Horse entries will stage next to the Chevron Station across from Sunshine Equipment.
3. Horse entries must have proof of Coggins when they register.
4. Riders younger than 18 must have a parent or guardian signature.
5. **Any rider wishing to be judged must pre-register prior to October 10th.** Pre-registration may happen through the website at <http://thefreefair.com/fairparade/> or through the Parade committee at freefairparade@gmail.com.
6. Judging for horses will take place during the parade, along the route.
7. All horses must proceed at a slow walk during the parade. Any pace other than a slow walk may result in immediate expulsion from the parade.
8. Riders will not purposefully stop their horses or lag more than 5 yards behind other riders.

9. All horses will be directed to a side street before entering the Fair Grounds and will not travel on the main street of the Fair Grounds.

c. Floats

1. Floats will be decorated according to the theme of this year's Fair, "Let Freedom Ring."
2. Float entries will ensure their floats are safe and are able to travel the entire route.
3. Float entries will not allow large gaps to develop in the parade route.

d. Vehicle entrants

1. Tractors

- a. Tractors are not required to submit an entry form.
- b. Tractors must be staged and lined up no later than 0900 am on the 17th.

2. Fire Trucks

- a. Fire Trucks will stage in the East Gate Shopping Center near Dollar General.
- b. Fire Trucks will be limited to one truck per district.

3. Cars and Trucks

- a. Entries will be limited to vehicles more than 20 years old.
- b. Group support vehicles are not considered a vehicle entrant.

4. Prohibited vehicles

- a. Motorized vehicles not allowed on Louisiana highways will not participate in the parade. This prohibition includes vehicles such as golf carts, ATVs, go-carts. An exception will be made for the Shriners.
- b. Eighteen Wheelers will not be allowed to participate in parade.

e. Elected Officials

1. Elected public officials representing Washington Parish residents will be invited to participate in the parade as a representative of their current office. This includes officials who were elected but are not yet serving.
2. People seeking public office will not be allowed to enter the parade.

f. Community Entrants

1. Schools

- a. Will be limited to 3 entries.

b. Schools will select one person to serve as a point of contact with the parade committee and all communication regarding the parade will be conducted with that point of contact.

2. Other Community Entrants

a. Communities are limited to 2 entries.

b. Communities may request additional entries through the Parade Committee.

g. Business and Commercial Entrants are prohibited from advertising and must represent the fair theme "Let Freedom Ring."

h. Royalty

a. Queens and royalty from other Parish and Statewide Fairs, Festivals and Pageants may ride on a car or a float that they provide.

b. Only one car or float will be allowed per Fair, Festival or Pageant.

3. Logistical Information

a. All entrants will be responsible for their own hydration and nutrition during the staging, parade, and disbanding processes.

b. Portable toilets will be located at the staging area, the disbanding area, and every half mile during the route.

c. All entrants are responsible for picking up their own trash during staging, parade, and disbanding processes.

4. Administrative Information

a. In addition to registration, entrants must check in with the parade committee prior to the start of the parade.

b. The parade committee will have a check in table at the East Gate shopping center on the morning of October 17th. The table will be manned starting at 0600 on the 17th.

c. Parade Marshalls and committee members will wear green smocks and be located throughout the route and staging areas.

d. Any questions, comments, concerns or suggestions can be made to the parade committee at freefairparade@gmail.com.