

April 2008

Dear Potential Parade Entrant:

Summer is quickly approaching and now is the time to make arrangements for your participation in the Champaign County Freedom Celebration's 4th of July Parade!

We hope that you plan to join us as we celebrate this year's theme, "Honoring our Military Heroes" with Marty Conaster, National Legion Commander, as our Grand Marshal. We encourage band and parade entrants to keep this theme in mind during your planning.

If your organization would like to be represented in this year's parade, please complete the enclosed participation application and mail to:

**Eileen Morris, Parade Chair
Champaign County Freedom Celebration, Inc.
P.O. Box 452
Champaign, Illinois 61824-0452**

The entry deadline is June 20, 2008. Entries postmarked after this date must include a late fee. Although parade entries are generally placed in the line-up according to postmark date, it is logistically necessary for us to disperse units throughout the entire line-up (which may consist of 75-120 total units).

The Champaign County Freedom Celebration Committee is excited about this year's parade; we hope that you and your organization will be able to join us and contribute your talents! If I can be of further assistance, please call me at (217) 355-2076 or email me at parade@july4th.net. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,
**Eileen Morris,
Parade Chair**

“Honoring our Military Heroes”

2008 FREEDOM CELEBRATION PARADE APPLICATION

INSTRUCTIONS: Type or legibly print all sections (both sides) of the application; no attachments, please. Incomplete applications cannot be processed. The information contained on the application will be provided to local media organizations that will be covering the parade. Send completed parade application to **Eileen Morris, Parade Chair, P.O. Box 452, Champaign IL 61824-0452**. Please direct questions regarding parade application and rules to Eileen at (217) 355-2076 or parade@july4th.net

DEADLINE: The parade line-up is generally determined by the postmark date on the envelope, with exception to the first 15-20 units that are reserved for dignitaries, Veteran groups, etc. **Parade line-up and staging assignments will be sent out at the end of June. No line-up requests will be accepted. Late entries postmarked after June 20, 2008 will be subject to double entry fee** and placed toward the end of the line-up. The fee must be included with the application. The Parade Chair has the discretion of whether or not to accept entries at all after June 27, 2008.

FEES: Make checks payable to: *Champaign County Freedom Celebration, Inc.* and include late fee, if applicable. Returned checks will be subject to a \$25.00 returned check fee.

	BEFORE JUNE 20	AFTER JUNE 20
Business & For-Profit Organizations	\$50.00	\$100.00
Non-For-Profit Organizations	\$25.00	\$50.00
Individual Entry	\$20.00	\$40.00

Organization: _____
 Contact Person: _____
 Street address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 Daytime Telephone: (____) _____ Evening Telephone: (____) _____
 E-mail Address: _____ Fax: (____) _____

Type of Entry (Please Check All That Apply):

Commercial Float (Limited To 2 Units)	Marching Unit
Not-For-Profit Float (Limited To 3 Units)	Horse Or Horse-Drawn
Antique Vehicle (1981 Or Older)	Semi-Truck Flatbed
Collector, Decorated Or Other Vehicle	Other: _____

Would You Like Your Entry To Be Judged? No Yes

If yes, please select one category in which you would like to be judged:

Non-Professionally Built Float	Equestrian
Antique Class Vehicle	Judge’s Choice: All Other

Categories

Will your entry have music? No Yes

If yes, will the music be amplified? No If yes, describe:

Please complete reverse side

MEDIA INFORMATION
PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY

Please provide a detailed description of your entry or organization to be broadcast by media:

How does your entry depict this year's theme?

Describe the background or history of your organization:

How many years has your organization participated in the parade?

Share any noteworthy or humorous facts about your organization's involvement in the parade:

The Champaign County Freedom Celebration committee thanks you for your participation in the Fourth of July parade. Please review parade rules and regulations. Parade line-up and staging assignments will be sent out at the end of June. Direct questions to:

Eileen Morris, Parade Chair telephone (217) 355-2076 parade@july4th.net

2007 FREEDOM CELEBRATION PARADE RULES

The Champaign County Freedom Celebration Committee has established a set of rules that will be strictly enforced. Our primary concern is the safety and well-being of all participants and spectators of the Fourth of July Celebration. The committee reserves the right to remove any entry or person who does not comply with the following rules:

1. Throwing and/or distributing any items along the parade route is prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, candy, brochures, key chains, etc.
2. Children under the age of 12 are not allowed to walk or roller blade along the parade route. The only exception is if a decorated vehicle large enough to accommodate all such children is part of the entry. In such case, the children must remain with the entry at all times.
3. Entries should depict this year's theme in some manner.
4. All vehicles and floats must be decorated. The maximum height of a unit is not to exceed thirteen (13) feet without duly written permission from the Parade Committee prior to the day of the event.
5. All floats and entries must be constructed of fire-retardant materials and be equipped with at least one (1) fire extinguisher. No unit will be permitted to have an open flame of any type.
6. All vehicles should be checked thoroughly for gas, water, oil, etc. prior to the start of the parade.
7. Entries listed as "antique vehicle" must be manufactured prior to 1981 model year.
8. As a courtesy to other participants in the parade, horse units must designate an individual from your organization to clean up after your horses at the staging area AND during the parade. Horse units without such a designated person will not be allowed to enter the line-up.
9. Commercial entries are limited to two (2) vehicles. Non-for-profit vehicles are limited to three (3) units. Organizations exceeding the respective limits will have to make additional entries, pay the appropriate fees and would, more than likely, be placed in a different location in the parade lineup. In an effort to be considerate and fair to all entrants, there will be no exceptions to this rule.
10. To reduce gaps, vehicles should limit their speed to the pace of a slow walk (approximately 2 miles (per hour) and stay within two car-lengths of the preceding entry. Please take into consideration that marching bands may move at a slower pace due to hot and humid weather.
11. Marching units should conform to a uniform dress code. Bands may wear matching t-shirts and shorts, if desired, and must play a musical selection at pre-designated points in the parade route.
12. Parade marshals have the authority to remove any entrant from the parade for failure to comply with these rules, inclusive under the direction of the Parade Chair.
13. The Champaign County Freedom Celebration Committee assumes no responsibility or liability in the event of injury or accident. The aforementioned rules are in place to provide a safe and enjoyable parade experience for everyone. Please do your part in complying with these rules and safety provisions. **The parade line-up and staging assignments will be distributed at the end of June.** Please direct any questions to:

Eileen Morris, Parade Chair telephone (217) 355-2076 e-mail: parade@july4th.net