

2022 MARYLAND STEM FESTIVAL

PARADE RULES AND REGULATIONS

Participation in the Maryland STEM Festival Parade is by acceptance of application only; not all applicants may be accepted.

We, the members of the Maryland STEM Festival Committee, have a vision of how our parade should look and feel. Participants in our parade are required to present themselves in a manner that is consistent with this vision.

First and foremost, we encourage all parade applicants to consider in advance how to "decorate" or craft their entry to conform not only to the general theme of a STEM Parade.

We hope that parade applicants will find ways to illustrate this in what they plan to do. The 2022 theme is **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics**.

Any parade applicant and most especially all parade participants (whose applications have been accepted), are cordially invited to ask any member of the Maryland STEM Festival Committee for ideas or suggestions about this. We love creativity and we applaud those who exercise it!

In addition, it is also important to understand that our parade rules are intended to help participants understand what is proper parade. These rules are not all-inclusive. Consequently, parade participants may be given instructions by parade officials in the staging areas or during the parade, and participants must comply with such instructions immediately and completely, or they may be ejected from the parade, and will certainly not be invited to participate in future parades.

I. OVERALL DETAILS

A. Date and Time of Parade: Saturday, November 5, 2022, 10:00 am - 11:00 am. Note: information on this page was accurate as of October 1, 2022 and is subject to change without notice. Applicants to the 2022 parade should be aware that 2022 rules, regulations, details of staging, parade route, dispersal, etc., are subject to change or revision with or without notice.

B. Theme of 2022 Parade: Honoring Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)!!!

C. Description of Applicants: The Maryland STEM Festival Parade is pleased to invite many different sorts of units, including but not limited to color guards, floats, marching units, wheeling or riding units ("scouts on bikes"), motorized units, emergency vehicles, military vehicles, comic acts, car clubs, novelty units, commercial or business entries, equestrian units, etc., to apply to participate in our parade. SEE BELOW FOR DEFINITIONS AND LIMITS APPLYING TO THESE UNITS.

D. Parade Route: The "Starting Point" for the Parade is the Frederick High School Parking and the "Ending Point" is Baker Park. The Parade will leave the Frederick High School, parking lot, go down Carroll Parkway, turn left on College Ave, turn right on 2nd Street and end at North Benz.

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E. Parade Formation: All units in the parade should report to the Frederick Hight School parking lot where they will be directed by parade marshals; specific instructions will be e-mailed to participants, following their acceptance by the Committee. These instructions also include dispersal information. The Parade Committee will assign each participant to a staging area. The Parade Committee may also confirm or change (if necessary) the category of the participant; this is to help in the organization and management of the parade, and also reflects the width of the streets, turning radius, and space requirements of each participant.

F. Formation Times: Staging is from 10:00 am to 11:00 am on the morning of November 5. Specific locations for various units, how the parade is organized, and other important information will be e-mailed to the person submitting the application, following acceptance by the Committee of the participant.

II. RULES FOR APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE INTO THE PARADE:

A. How to Apply:

1. **ENTRY APPLICATION FORMS** are to be sent in by e-mail, from the official Committee web site, using the On-Line Entry Application Form available by [selecting this Link](#). DO NOT PRINT OUT APPLICATIONS.
2. **An Application Form** can be provided if you are not able to use the on-line form. Please call 410-627-1074 and leave full details on how to contact you, or send an e-mail.
3. **DEADLINE:** ALL ENTRY APPLICATION FORMS MUST BE RECEIVED by October 22 2022. The Committee reserves the right to CHANGE this deadline if, in the sole opinion of the Committee, such a CHANGE is warranted.
4. **Incomplete or late Entry Application Forms** are subject to rejection.

B. Acceptance and Entry to the Maryland STEM Festival Parade

1. **Participation in the Maryland STEM Festival Parade** is by acceptance of application only.
2. **The Maryland STEM Festival Committee, Inc.**, reserves the right to invite, reject or accept any parade participant for any reason whatsoever, and to determine participation based on diversity, suitability for the occasion and the experience related to prior participation.
3. **Parade Officials or Parade Marshals** may deny any participant entry to the parade on the day of the parade if, in the sole opinion of the Parade Officials or Parade Marshals, entrant has misrepresented any information on its Application Form, or if the entrant is deemed obscene, dangerous, provocative or in any way unsuitable for the parade, at the sole interpretation of Parade Officials and Parade Marshals.
4. **Response to Application:** A response to your application will be made as soon as possible after your application is received, by e-mail, to the e-mail address included in your application. Phone calls may also be made, especially if there are questions about your application. If you do not receive a response within a few days of your application's

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presumed receipt, you should follow it up at once by calling 410-627-1074. The Committee is not responsible for incomplete, non-delivered or misfiled applications.

III. PARADE PARTICIPATION RULES AND REGULATIONS

A. PARADE MARSHALS MUST BE OBEYED

1. **The parade marshals** control the units, enforce parade rules and will arrange participants to pace the parade in a manner deemed most suitable; their instructions **MUST** be obeyed at all times.
2. **Failure to obey a parade marshal's order** will result in immediate ejection from the parade and may possibly subject the offender to arrest.

B. ADDITIONAL ENTRANT CONDUCT RULES

1. **NO THROWING or HANDING OUT ANYTHING:** No entrant is permitted to throw or hand out any item to spectators. **THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.** Anyone spotted tossing anything from a vehicle or while walking will be removed from the parade lineup and will not be able to participate in future parades.
2. **NO PHYSICAL INTERACTION with the CROWD:** No unit is permitted to take or bring any spectator out of the crowd up, into or around the unit, or up on a float, or to entice or take any crowd member to participate in any dance or performance routine. No person in any unit should mingle or physically interact with the seated or standing crowd members. See above about all persons in units needing to keep a reasonable and clear 6-foot minimum distance between themselves and all members of the crowd.
3. **KEEP MOVING AT ALL TIMES:** Stopping to perform (at any place!), pausing to "work the crowd," or anything other than a regular moving progression down the parade route, is not allowed. **THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.**

C. THE PARADE IS A NON-SECTARIAN, NON-PARTISAN EVENT; therefore:

1. **No elected official** will be permitted to display material advertising any candidacy for public office, nor shall there be any campaigning along the parade route. **THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.**
2. **Elected officials** may be accompanied only by immediate family members such as spouses, parents and children, and by the driver of their vehicle.
3. **Political clubs or Organizations such as Central Committees** are not invited and may NOT participate, since they are by definition partisan.
4. **Candidates for elected office** are not invited and may not participate as such.
5. **No unit in the parade** may display any signage of a political nature such as "vote for" or "elect."

D. DECORATION GUIDELINES INCLUDING SIGNAGE RULES; HEIGHT AND WIDTH RULES

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1. **The Committee strongly encourages** all applicants and entrants to DECORATE their unit in accordance with the parade theme. Creativity is strongly endorsed! Also, all units are encouraged to have SIGNAGE front, side and rear of their unit, whether it be marching or mobile: this will greatly enhance the visibility of your unit!
2. **Signs or banners are NOT required** for entrants in the parade, but are encouraged in that they help spectators identify the entrant.
3. **Signs or banners** may carry the name of the unit, sponsor, patriotic statement or title, preferably in keeping with the theme of the parade.
4. **Units and marchers** may not display signs or banners which in the judgment of the Committee or the parade officials and marshals are inappropriate for this community event or for the vision of the event conceived by the Maryland STEM Festival Committee.
5. **In the case of the above**, Parade Officials or Parade Marshals may direct participants not to display such signage or to cover them up; these directions must be obeyed as a condition of participation in the parade.
6. **Height Restriction:** no unit and no part of any unit may be higher than 14 feet from the pavement. Parade Officials or Parade Marshals are authorized to make units conform to this necessary restriction.
7. **Width Restriction:** All units must be able to fit inside one standard traffic lane. Parade Officials or Parade Marshals are authorized to make units conform to this necessary restriction.

E. FIREARMS PROHIBITED: No participant or vehicle is permitted to display, hold, carry or have attached any side-arm, pistol, machine gun, rifle, shot-gun, grenade launcher or similar firearm, concealed or visible, or any replica of same, even if inoperable, as part of any parade unit. The exceptions to this rule are: (1) COLOR GUARDS and ACTIVE MILITARY UNITS are allowed to carry or contain their weapons as part of their full-dress participation; (2) HISTORIC RE-ENACTMENT GROUPS are allowed to carry historic reconstruction model weaponry; however, these must be shouldered at all times and may not actually be functional, and the holders thereof MUST NOT simulate using them at any time during the staging and parade; (3) this rule does not apply to law enforcement personnel who are tasked with helping stage, deploy or protect the parade. THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED.

F. DESCRIPTION OF SPECIAL GROUPS

1. **Bands, Drum & Bugle Corps, Majorette Corps:** These are understood to be organized, named units (e.g., Frederick High School Marching Band) that deploy on foot, playing music and sometimes performing to it. Motor vehicles sometimes follow these units for necessary reasons; however, no motor vehicles will be permitted to accompany these units down the parade route without notice and specific approval in advance.
2. **Color Guards:** These are understood to be units that deploy on foot. No motor vehicles will be permitted to accompany these units down the parade route without specific approval in advance. A color guard must consist of at least four persons and must carry a National Flag and one other flag.
3. **Floats:** The term "float" refers to a display of some sort that is either towed by a separate vehicle, or self-propelled, and which is decorated with crepe paper, flowers, bunting, structures or pictures, etc., to effect a unified theme and design theme, and which generally

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also includes people either performing or related to the subject of the float. Floats may be musical in nature, or not, but it is important to SPECIFY on the application whether or not music is included in the float. THE JUDGES' DECISION AS TO WHAT CONSTITUTES A FLOAT IS FINAL. All floats are STRONGLY encouraged to decorate or structure themselves in accordance with the specific parade theme. **Float or tow vehicle driver must remain with float at all times.** All float decorations must be flame resistant and conform to the Fire Department Regulations. Each float and each tow vehicle must carry at least one ABC fire extinguisher. 2-A:10-B:C, with current certification or purchased within the last 90 days of Parade, receipt required day of parade.

4. **Mobile Vehicle-** Safety is to be #1 in every driver's mind. Drivers need to watch the road at all times. Please do not allow yourself to be distracted by waving to friends and spectators. The parade constantly stops and starts. Keep a safe distance between you and whatever you are following (at least 50 to 100 feet). Watch for people (especially children) running across the street thru the parade. If you are following marchers, please allow some additional space. Also, no sirens, horns, or loud speakers will be permitted on the parade route. We have spectators on the parade route that are sensitive to loud noises and we ask that you adhere to our request.

F. ACTS OF GOD

Acts of God and Government: Both Parade Entrants and Maryland STEM Festival Day Parade Committee, Inc. recognize that Acts of God (including weather & pandemics) and Acts of Third Parties are beyond the control of these parties. To the extent that actions by third parties beyond the control of these parties (including but not limited to Acts of God/weather & pandemics or Government or terrorist acts) preclude or limit the operation of the Parade, or its participants, neither party will hold the other responsible for said actions.

We look forward to receiving your application to participate in the Maryland STEM Festival parade! Now that you have read the Parade Rules, please go to the [On-Line Parade Application Form](#).