



YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO BE A PART OF THE **FUNFEST 2017 PARADE!**

Please plan to join us as Funfest celebrates our 39th Annual Funfest Parade! Funfest is one of the biggest parades in Northeastern Pennsylvania, attracting musical and other units from throughout the state. This year's parade is set for Sunday, September 10, and this year's theme is "CommUNITY Progress Through Learning." This theme was selected by the committee to recognize the importance of lifelong learning, sharing, and working together to build a stronger community. As a parade participant, you can join in the fun, or choose your own theme. Please plan to be a part of the excitement. We have a wide array of award categories, and trophies will also be presented to the entries which best represent the theme. Nonprofits, schools, and charities; your entry in the parade is **free**, and can give your organization a tremendous amount of exposure to the estimated 70,000 people along the parade route. Businesses are also welcome to participate as a Parade Sponsor (see below).

IMPORTANT:

PARADE START TIME is 2:30 p.m.

- **Sidewalks on BOTH SIDES of Broad Street in the Funfest Street Fair Area, from Church to Cedar Streets, are COMPLETED. Because of the new make-up of the street, vendors on both sides will be on the street instead of the sidewalk. This means that the Parade will be restricted to approximately 35 feet wide within the Funfest Area.**

In keeping with our ongoing effort to provide the most entertaining, exciting, and safe parade possible, Funfest institutes the following rules and policies. Please read all of the policies carefully and be sure that everyone in your entry is aware of our rules.

Enclosed is a parade application form. To be considered as a participant, simply complete it and return it to Funfest as soon as possible. Be sure to complete it in full, and to sign it. Each application will be reviewed by the Parade Committee. Should your application be approved, you will receive other details concerning the parade registration and line-up, most likely in late August. Those whose applications are rejected will receive notification, along with the reason for the rejection, immediately.

We are most grateful to any group, business or individual who chooses to take part in our parade, and hope you understand that the following rules are necessary to assure the safety and enjoyment of our audience, as well as the participants. We look forward to seeing you at FUNFEST 2017.



FUNFEST PARADE POLICIES

AWARDS

All participants in the Funfest Parade are eligible for several awards in specific categories. The following awards will be presented to Funfest Parade entries who excel in their fields, as determined by our panel of judges. Cheerleaders will be categorized as marching groups.

Outstanding Use of Theme
Outstanding School Band
Outstanding Independent Band
Outstanding Float
Outstanding Marching Group-Junior-School Organization
Outstanding Marching Group-Senior-School Organization

Outstanding Marching Group-Non-School
Outstanding Drum Major
Outstanding Percussion
Outstanding Parade Participant-Curtis Mattern Mem. Award
Best Appearing Emergency Unit

COMMITTEE MONITORS

Representatives of the Funfest Committee will be stationed throughout the parade route, from West Hazleton to Pine Street as Parade Monitors. Monitors will be given the task of ensuring that parade policies are adhered to. If a monitor finds any unit in violation of our rules, that unit will be notified that they have been "flagged." The violation will be reported to the judges, who will then determine whether the unit should be disqualified from award contention. The Funfest Committee will determine whether the group should be asked not to return to Funfest in the future. Serious infractions may result in immediate ejection from the line-up.

MUSICAL AND PERFORMING UNITS

All parade entries are encouraged to perform as much as possible while marching in the parade. However, DO NOT hold up the parade at ANY time to STOP AND PERFORM...especially within the judging area. Any unit found to be holding up the parade for the purpose of a performance will be flagged.

Performance Area: Although units are NOT ALLOWED TO STOP TO PERFORM, you will be judged based on your performance while marching/riding through the "Performance Area." This will be an area of approximately one block, and will be in the same area as LAST YEAR, between Church and Laurel Streets. It will be clearly marked with signs saying "you are now entering the judging area." Our judges will judge your performance within that area, but judges will be located near Laurel Street. You will be automatically disqualified from award eligibility if you STOP to perform! You must continue moving at all times. All units entered in the parade will be eligible for awards unless they are disqualified for breaking our rules.

Judging Criteria: Bands will be judged on precision, ranks, files, starts & stops, turns & technique, as well as showmanship, theme, originality, music execution, repertoire, and expression. Non-musical marching units, including cheerleading groups, will also be judged based on precision, ranks, bearing, etc.

FLOATS

Definition: For Funfest's purposes, a float is defined as "any mobile unit the major portion of which is decorated to reflect the theme of the event, or another theme which, in the opinion of the committee, is entertaining, informative, or educational." Most vehicles will not be accepted unless they can be designated as a float.

Judging Criteria: Floats are NOT permitted to stop to allow performances. Riders should at no time dismount from a float. Floats will be judged based on effective use of materials, effort in construction, theme, color harmony, use of special effects and crowd appeal.

COMMERCIAL ENTRIES

Commercial enterprises are welcome to take part in the parade, but only if their entry falls into one of these categories:

1. *Corporate Sponsor:* Commercial enterprises which contract with Funfest as an "official Funfest sponsor" (Gold, Silver or Bronze) may enter up to two vehicles/entries which promote their business and/or a particular theme relating to that business or to Funfest itself.
2. *Commercial Vehicle.* Funfest welcomes Commercial Entities to be a part of our Funfest Parade. Non-Corporate Sponsor Companies are allowed to place one vehicle of their choosing in the parade to advertise or promote their business. The cost for participation is \$300, and businesses interested in entering under this category must pay prior to parade day. Trades for in-kind services are considered on a case by case basis. Contact Funfest for further details.

FIRE, EMERGENCY & RESCUE VEHICLES

1. *Fire, Rescue:* Each company is limited to TWO vehicles, regardless of whether they are fire, emergency, or rescue vehicles.

2. *Emergency, Ambulance.* Each company is limited to one vehicle.

A special award is presented to the Best Appearing Unit. As Funfest's "Host Municipalities," Hazleton and West Hazleton Fire Departments are allowed to bring additional units, but they will not be eligible for the award.

V.I.P.'s

The following V.I.P.'s are invited to take part in the Funfest Parade.

1. *Elected officials:* Incumbent federal, state, county and local elected officials who currently represent the people of the Hazleton Area will be permitted to ride in the Funfest Parade. In order to make the parade more entertaining to our spectators, the following rules will be applied to political participants:
 - a. Only ONE vehicle from each governmental entity may be entered in the parade. Members of that entity should either choose a representative to ride in the parade, or arrange for all those interested to ride in the one vehicle. It is the responsibility of the elected officials to provide their own vehicles, however, Funfest expects the vehicles used to be automobiles, and preferably convertibles. If the vehicle does not fall into that category, Funfest should be notified, and the vehicle will be subject to Committee approval.
 - b. Elected officials' vehicles may be placed throughout the parade line-up, at the beginnings of each division. Location in the line-up is at the discretion of the Funfest Committee. The Committee reserves the right to arrange for elected officials' vehicles to ride side by side.
 - c. Only elected officials and their drivers should ride in the vehicles.

- d. The Funfest Committee will provide two uniform signs to identify each incumbent and list his position. No other signs are allowed.
- e. It is prohibited for any political candidate, whether seeking office or incumbent, to distribute or display campaign material in any form during the Funfest Parade.
2. *Titlists or Pageant Winners* will not be accepted, unless they are part of an approved entry (such as riding on a float.)
3. *Grand Marshal*. As determined by the Funfest Committee.

CAR, TRUCK AND OTHER VEHICLE CLUBS

The maximum number of automobiles, trucks or 4x4's per club allowed entry into the parade is SIX. Vehicles must ride in the formation designated by Funfest; that is, in a maximum of two rows, three vehicles per row. Unregistered vehicles must be trailered, and engines of trailered vehicles must be off at all times during the parade. All vehicles must obey all traffic safety laws, and must be driven with the safety of spectators in mind. Squealing of wheels, vehicular stunts and other reckless driving is prohibited.

OTHER PARADE RESTRICTIONS

1. *Product/Goodie Distribution*. For the safety of spectators, Funfest insurance regulations strictly PROHIBIT throwing, handing out, or in any other way distributing items from the line of march. This rule applies whether items are thrown from a vehicle or distributed by participants walking along sidewalks. ALL distributions are prohibited.
2. *Alcoholic beverages*. Absolutely no alcohol is permitted within the parade or at Funfest in general. Violators will be dealt with to the fullest extent of the law by the Hazleton and West Hazleton Police Departments.
3. *Sound Effects*. Sirens and horns should not be sounded during the parade.
4. *Animals*. Horses are welcome, but must be diapered, or must have their own clean-up crew. All other animals must gain specific committee approval.
5. *Excessive Noise*. You must indicate on your application whether your unit will feature amplified music, sound systems, bullhorns, etc. But in any event, the volume must be controlled, so as not to conflict with other parade entries.
6. *Chaperones*. Parade entry sponsors are responsible for all those involved in their unit at all times throughout the parade. Adults must assure that children are met at the parade end and escorted back to their families.

PERTINENT INFORMATION

Kick off for parade is 2:30 on Sept. 10. All entrants must register at CITIZENS BANK (McKenna's Corners – Broad St at Winters Ave.) in West Hazleton. ONE representative of each entry should be sent to pick up a registration number. Other group members should meet at the line-up area for your division (Line-up will be posted on our website, hazletonchamber.org/funfest, the week before the parade)

The parade will begin in West Hazleton and proceed east on Broad St., then turn north onto Pine St., and disband north of Green St. Reload areas will be along N. Pine St. between Green & Holly. Participants who have completed the line of march should NOT walk back up Broad Street while the remainder of the parade is in progress.

Parade registration forms must be signed by an authorized official of the organization, who will serve as pre-event contact person. If a different person will be responsible for the group on the day of the parade, that person must sign as well. It is the responsibility of the site contact person to see to it that all group members are made aware of and abide by the above rules. Additional information concerning the line-up and registration will be forwarded to accepted parade entries several weeks before Funfest.

VIOLATORS OF ANY FUNFEST POLICIES OR RULES MAY BE FLAGGED, DISQUALIFIED FROM AWARD CONTENTION, OR ASKED NOT TO RETURN TO FUTURE EVENTS. SERIOUS INFRACTIONS WILL RESULT IN IMMEDIATE REMOVAL FROM THE LINE-UP. FUNFEST RESERVES THE RIGHT TO INCLUDE ITS OWN ENTRIES IN THE FUNFEST PARADE. APPLICATIONS WITH DETAILED DESCRIPTIONS OF PARADE ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY THE DEADLINE OF AUGUST 25 OR THEY WILL BE REJECTED!

**Contact the Funfest office with any questions at: 570-455-1509
Or: funfest@hazletonchamber.org**