

## **SPECIAL UNITS**

### **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

#### **INFORMATION**

1. Special units will be considered in the following categories:
  - a) Motorized
  - b) Non-Motorized (clown, color guard, unicycle/bicycle, special music corps, drill team and equestrian). Groups of walkers are not allowed.
2. A Special Unit may not participate without a letter of acceptance. Applications will be considered on the basis of entertainment value. **The Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival® reserves the right to reject any application that does not fit the needs of the parade(s) or that it deems to be offensive to a general audience. Any unit deemed on parade day by parade officials to be substantially different from the description on its application or to display behavior, signage, or dress offensive to a general audience may be denied entry into the parade or be removed from the line of march and barred from participation in future parades.**
3. Parade entries are limited for certain categories and will be reviewed on a first-come, first-serve basis. You'll be notified if your category is already full.
4. Grand Feature Parade pre-parade entries will be limited. Motorcycle clubs may include up to 20 bikes per unit, while car and jeep clubs are capped at 12 vehicles per unit. All car/jeep/motorcycle clubs are limited to 20 vehicles in the Firefighters' Parade. Acceptable units are on a first-come, first-served basis.
5. All applications **must** include:
  - a) A specific brief description of unit's activities.
  - b) A color photograph that may be attached to the online application or emailed to [hwaugh@thebloom.com](mailto:hwaugh@thebloom.com) in jpg form or mailed with application.
  - c) All Special Units by signature to the application must agree to have general liability insurance in effect on the day of the parade. This insurance may be either one of the two types listed below. The Special Unit must specify on its application which type of liability insurance coverage it has.

Type I – Special Unit has a group insurance policy covering the Special Unit as a whole and all participants within the Special Unit. It shall be the responsibility of the Special Unit to ensure that its group insurance coverage extends to its participation in the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival® parade(s) and covers its use of motor vehicles (either on or off road), non-motorized vehicles, wagons, trailers, other equipment, horses, or other animals should any such listed items be part of the Special Unit. It shall be the responsibility of the Special Unit to ensure that all participants and equipment (if any) comprising the Special Unit on the day of the parade(s) are authorized under its group policy.

Type II – Each participant comprising the Special Unit has his or her own individual liability insurance policy. It shall be the responsibility of the Special Unit to ensure that each participant in the Special Unit on the day of the parade(s) has a current liability insurance policy that covers his or her participation in the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival® parade(s). Should any participant in the Special Unit make use of a motor vehicle (either on or off road), non-motorized vehicle, wagon, trailer, other equipment, horse, or other animal, the Special Unit shall require that participant to have insurance coverage extending to said use.

- d) **All motorized units and equestrian units with type I group insurance must provide a certificate of insurance with the application naming the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival® as an additional insured party on their policy.** See Item 3 (c) for definition of Type I insurance.
- e) **All motorized units and equestrian units with type II individual insurance policies must provide a separate certificate of insurance for each policy.** See Item 3 (c) for definition of Type II insurance. This requirement applies to Special Units without a group policy where each participant is individually insured. It is not required that each participant's policy name the Festival as an additional insured party.
- f) Diagram(s) (Motorized Units Only) required for each maneuver that will be performed in the parade.

**GENERAL INFORMATION**

- 1. The Firefighters' Parade steps off at 5:30 p.m.  
(Line-Up – Cameron Street)
  - DIVISION I - Report at 4:30 p.m.
  - DIVISION II - Report at 5:30 p.m.
  - DIVISION III - Report at 6:00 p.m.
- 2. The Grand Feature Parade steps off at 1:30 p.m.  
(Line-Up – Cameron Street)
  - DIVISION I - Report at 12:15 p.m.
  - DIVISION II - Report at 1:15 p.m.
  - DIVISION III - Report at 2:00 p.m.
  - DIVISION IV - Report at 2:30 p.m.
- 3. **Units showing up before their appointed time will be asked to leave and return at the time appointed. This is crucial to the staging of our parade. Please do not come to the staging area early.**
- 4. Units not in place when a division moves out will be placed at the end of the parade. Please make sure all your participants are aware of your report time.
- 5. Units who cannot attend as scheduled must notify the festival office in writing as soon as possible. On the day of the event please text **540-550-1518** if you will not be participating, failure to do so may result in not being accepted into next year's parade.

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**

- 1. Stopping during the line of march is prohibited. Forward motion, equivalent to the pace of the parade, must be maintained at all times.
- 2. **Children under the age of eight (8) years on the day of the parade are not permitted to march in either parade and children under the age of six (6) on the day of the parade are not permitted to ride in either parade.**
- 3. **The throwing ~~or handing out~~ of objects from floats and vehicles (candy, promotional items, etc.) to spectators is strictly prohibited. You may have NO MORE THAN 6 walkers alongside your vehicle handing out (not throwing!) items. This is a safety precaution mandated by law enforcement. They must keep pace with your entire unit.**

4. The discharge of any type of firearm in the line-up area or during the line of march is prohibited.
5. The American Flag and Stage Flags are the only flags permitted in the parade. Other flags as approved by the Festival.
6. All participants of an entry must participate for the entire length of the parade. Substitutions or additions to the unit may not be made during the line of march.
7. A spacing of 50 feet between each unit will be enforced. Within an entry, the interval between units may not be greater than ten (10) feet.
8. When turning onto Handley Boulevard (this is near the end of the parade with the Judges Stand, Queen's Reviewing Area, our announcers and is filmed for broadcast.) please make sure you maintain the distance behind the unit ahead of you. And please make sure you use the center lines on the road to center your unit.
9. **All musical units are to play while passing the Judges Stand and Queen's Reviewing Area on Handley Boulevard.**
10. Parade Marshals are located along the parade route and are clearly identified with yellow safety vests and yellow identification ribbons, for Grand Feature, yellow safety vests with red ribbons for the Firefighters' Parade. Entrants must cooperate with the Parade Marshals.
11. Marching units must use a cadence of at least 120 beats per minute.
12. Wheel, gate or flank turns should be used. **Any turn, which reverses the direction of a unit or individual or stops the forward motion is prohibited.** If a minstrel turn is used, cadence and step size must be maintained so as not to slow the line of march.
13. No unit will be permitted to have any type of vehicle following them for the purpose of providing artificial sound accompaniment/or amplified sound or any person carrying sound equipment for that purpose. **Requests for exceptions when submitted in writing with the special unit application will be considered on a case-by-case basis.**
14. Participants of any unit are prohibited from walking or marching back through the line of march after disbanding.
15. Motorized units shall limit their speed and type of maneuvers so as to ensure the safety of spectators. Revving of motors and weaving back and forth are prohibited. During inclement weather, Motorized units shall reduce their speed as necessary to ensure public safety. Drivers should be cautious of children running in front of vehicles and keep speed under 5 mph.
16. Equestrian units shall refrain from inducing their horses to rear.
17. A Special Unit by its signature to the application attests that the individual members comprising the Special Unit have been trained in the proper and safe use, control, and/or operation of any motorized vehicles and/or animals used by the members of the Special Unit during its participation in the Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival®.
18. **ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES ARE FORBIDDEN!** Participants consuming alcohol prior to or during the parade will be removed from the line-up.
19. Riders on motorized vehicles shall be seated in original equipment seats or replacement seats for original equipment seats. Riders on tractors or other farm machinery shall be seated and shall not be standing. Standing on tractor drawbars or standing and leaning against fenders are not allowed. Riders on trailers or beds of vehicles, whether seated or standing, shall be provided with safety devices to prevent them from falling.
20. Should mechanical problems arise, the unit is to be removed from the line immediately, and the issue addressed off the parade route with no readmission to the parade.

## **PENALTIES**

Any unit violating the rules as presented here or in subsequent literature or disregarding the direction of a Parade Marshal shall be subject to disqualification, and /or removal from the line of march.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival® considers itself to be completely neutral in the areas of politics, religion, commercialism, social issues, et cetera. We want our parades to exist for their entertainment value; and, to offer that entertainment value at a professional level of performance and appearance. We do not condone what we define as “special parade units” that make self-promoting political, religious, commercial or social statements. If we feel that a “special parade unit” will be attempting to make a self-promoting political, religious, commercial or social statement rather than simply entertaining the crowds, we reserve the right to refuse to allow that “special parade unit” in the parade. Entertainment value shall be determined at the sole discretion of the Festival.

Questions or additional information about your participation in either of the parades should be directed to the office.

The Shenandoah Apple Blossom Festival® is not liable for injury to spectators, persons participating in the parade, or damage to vehicles and/or personal property.