



**September 15-16, 2017**

**FAQs**

#### **WHEN IS THE PARADE?**

- September 17, 2016, 10 am
- The parade will go on rain or shine. The parade will only be canceled due to severe or dangerous weather.

#### **ARE THERE RESTRICTIONS ON THE KINDS OF ENTRIES THAT ARE ACCEPTED?**

- No more than two (2) motorized vehicles per entry; must be driven by an adult. No exceptions
- No animals are allowed except dogs and cats, as long as they are on leashes. You are expected to clean up after your animals. Horses may be allowed by special request.

#### **ARE THERE OTHER RESTRICTIONS?**

- To avoid anyone being hurt or the Fall Festival being sued, you must bring people with you to walk along the side of the street and **HAND** out candy. There are no exceptions to this rule. Many first-time participants end up empty-handed by the time they reach Urbandale Avenue, so you need to bring **A LOT** of candy. Check with someone who's been in the parade before regarding how much. If you are walking, we recommend that you bring a support vehicle for your candy. (No, we are not kidding!)
- The Parade Committee accepts cash donations from spectators at the end of the parade. No one else is permitted to solicit or accept donations before, during or after the parade.

#### **WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I SUBMIT MY APPLICATION?**

Entries are confirmed by email once your entry has been received. If there is a problem with your entry, you are contacted as soon as possible.

#### **HOW IS THE PARADE LINEUP DETERMINED?**

- A lot of time and attention is devoted to lining up the parade entries. Care is taken that musical entries don't drown each other out, and entries are spaced so that no one gets bored. The Beaverdale Fall Festival has the most creative and fun parade participants in the state; our committee members are devoted to making each year's parade better than the year before.
- Usually, first-time entries and entries that missed the previous year are placed toward the back of the lineup. An attempt is made to move each entry up by at least one zone every year. Sometimes there are exceptions, but the goal is to be fair to all participants.

#### **WHEN DO I LEARN WHERE I WILL BE IN THE LINEUP?**

The parade lineup is posted online by Wednesday the week of the parade so that you can plan your arrival time accordingly.

#### **WHEN DOES THE PARADE START, END AND WHAT IS THE PARADE ROUTE?**

- The parade starts at 10 am, goes south on 48th Street to Franklin, then east on Franklin to Beaver, then north on Beaver.
- The parade officially ends at Beaver and Euclid.
- Vehicles connected with large groups, like bands, should wait near Iowa Realty on Beaver.
- Vehicles in the parade usually exit the parade route by continuing north on Beaver to Douglas.

#### **WHERE IS THE STAGING AREA?**

- Staging is in the north parking lot of First Federated Church, on the west side of 48th Street between Hickman and Franklin.
- Larger vehicles and some bands may be placed in other locations, but you will know ahead of time.



## WHAT TIME DO I NEED TO ARRIVE?

- Participants arrive at the staging area between 8 and 9:30 am, depending on their place in the line up.
- Those placed at the beginning of the parade, including dignitaries and banner carriers, need to arrive at the staging area no later than 9 am. Many people arrive early even if they know they are placed toward the back of the parade because they enjoy hanging out in the parking lot and visiting with the other entries. Nine AM is a good compromise.
- The first entry leaves the intersection of 48th & Franklin at 10 am; the last entry leaves First Federated's lot about 11:15 am.

## WHERE IS CHECK IN?

### If driving a vehicle in the parade:

- **You must enter 48th Street from Hickman;** this is the only route into the parking lot for parade vehicles.
- Vehicles are not be allowed in the staging area without a vehicle pass.

### If you're not driving a vehicle in the parade, but need to drive yourself to the staging area:

- **Park as far away from 48th & Franklin as possible.** On Franklin, between 44th & 48th, there is no parking because it is the parade route from 44th to 47th, and a drop-off zone from 47th to 49th. Parking is not permitted in any of the First Federated lots.
- There will be no parking on 44th or 50th between Franklin and Hickman, but there is parking on the surrounding side streets (45th, 46th, 47th, etc.).

### If you're being dropped off:

- **NO DROP-OFFS at 48th & Hickman:** It is dangerous, STAY AWAY FROM THIS INTERSECTION.
- **Official drop-off zone:** The Des Moines Police Department has designated Franklin Avenue, between 48th and 49th, as a drop off zone for parade participants. Your driver will only be allowed a brief period of time to let you out. Volunteers, in golf carts, will be available to transport parade participants to their zone.
- **Where do drop-offs check in?** See one of the volunteers on the north side of Franklin Ave between 48<sup>th</sup> and 49<sup>th</sup> Streets, to receive your zone numbers, entry numbers, and directions to your waiting area. Parade committee members will be stationed throughout the parking lot if you need help.
- **Need a ride back to the First Federated area?** It is your responsibility to figure out how to get back to your vehicle from the end of the parade route at Beaver & Euclid.

### Exceptions to the above rules:

- **Trailers and other non-parade vehicles:** Only vehicles in the parade can enter the staging area off 48th & Hickman, but we realize that occasionally a trailer or similar vehicle may need to stay in the First Federated parking lot during the parade. If this is your situation, arrive no later than 8:30 am. You will need to get your "parade vehicle" moved into the correct zone, and then park your trailer or other vehicle at the west edge of the parking lot, out of the way. Parade volunteers will show you where.
- **Bands:**
  - DO NOT TRY TO ENTER THE STAGING AREA FROM 48th & FRANKLIN OR 48TH & HICKMAN.
  - Enter 49th Street from Franklin (49th is the narrow street on the west side of the First Federated Church parking lot).
  - Vehicle passes are not needed; identify yourself to the police officer & parade volunteers; you will be directed to a place where you can drop the students and equipment off, then exit from the parking lot.
  - Band parents dropping off band members cannot drive into the staging area. Band members must be dropped off on Franklin; golf carts will be available.



### DO YOU HAVE ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR GROUPS WITH CHILDREN?

- Parents, you cannot leave your car in the drop-off zones on Franklin between 48th & 49th in order to walk your child to the parking lot. The drop-off area is for brief stops only. If you are concerned about your children finding their way to the parking lot, have someone waiting on Franklin to walk them to the lot, or park far enough away so that you can walk them to the lot.
- Volunteers in golf carts will give people rides from Franklin to the parking lot.
- Worried about young kids getting tired, lost or both? Think about having them ride in the parade rather than walk.
- Group members can meet somewhere away from the parade (e.g., the Franklin Library, Price Choppers, Westminster, Open Bible) and then drive to the parking lot as one group.
- Children dropped off at 48th & Franklin have a long walk to the staging entrance, and then another long walk to find their waiting area. There are only a few golf carts available; everyone cannot be transported at the same time. Each year, we encounter children who are lost and frightened because they were left to fend for themselves. It is your responsibility to insure that the children in your group arrive at the parking lot safely, and wait for an available golf cart. If you park your vehicle, it MUST be in a legal parking spot.

### PRICELESS ADVICE

- There are always bands practicing in the grass, and they deserve that area and time. Adults should plan something to keep kids busy, focused, and together.
- Get the music teachers involved so you can sing your school song several times during the parade, do some chants, etc. This will keep kids busy while waiting.
- Leave about a fourth of the decorating for the staging area to be completed by the kids alone.
- Put kids in charge of taking pictures, etc.
- **Print copies of the parade F&Qs to hand out to all families. Highlight the parts relating to kids and drop-off.**
- Decide what happens with children at the end of the parade.
- Have a sign-in sheet for each group with kids. Include the name of the child, name of a responsible adult (especially if that adult will NOT be in the parade with them), and a cell phone number, if possible, to be used if the child does NOT get picked up on time. Have each adult check their child out at the end of the parade. This way, there is also a record of who participates each year.

### WILL RESTROOM FACILITIES BE AVAILABLE AT THE PARKING LOT?

Portables toilets will be available in the staging area.

### WILL THERE BE PEOPLE ALONG THE WAY TO TELL US WHEN TO SPEED UP AND SLOW DOWN?

No. We count on you to be attentive and adjust your speed accordingly.

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