



2023 Deer Festival Parade Application Information and Guidelines

“The Buck Stops Here”

Pope County has a fall parade with that quintessential small town feel!

The 63rd Annual Pope County Deer Festival Parade returns to downtown Golconda, Illinois on Saturday, November 18th at 2:00pm. The parade proceeds down Main Street, beginning on Water Street at the levy all the way down to Franklin Street.

The Pope County Deer Festival Parade is coordinated by Mainstreet Golconda in partnership with the Rotary Club of Golconda. Main Street is closed during the parade so that spectators can enjoy the parade in a safe, car free environment. For a full schedule of activities visit www.mainstreetgolconda.org

Using the theme “Early Mornings & ‘Star’ Bucks” as your inspiration, tailor your entry to what makes you or your group excited to achieve. This theme could be open to many interpretations. Maybe it’s about the prized whitetail buck that causes so many to flock to our woodlots and fields in search of a hunting experience of a lifetime. Maybe it’s about the goals or dreams you or your group is trying to achieve and that strange feeling of expectation combined with a little bit of fear as we become caught up in the “hunt.”

You can show off your creativity and how you interpret the theme with humor, advocacy, or collaboration. The goal is to really move the judges!

PARADE CATEGORIES

Marching Band - Jr High, High School, or College band programs along with their drill/flag teams/Cheerleaders/sports team members

Non-Profit/Civic Organization - Any and all not-for-profit businesses and organizations. This includes churches, schools, community organizations, non-profit agencies, neighborhood groups, and government agencies.

For-Profit Business - Any and all for-profit businesses and organizations AND any entry that displays an advertising message.

Dance/Drill Team - non-school related (High School/College) choreographed and costumed participants performing (marching, dancing, twirling, roller-skating, etc.) consistently throughout the parade. Sound may be incorporated and props carried.

Animal Units - Groups with animals - large or small groups or clubs with large animals - horses, llamas, etc. Participants must be in costume and provide their own pooper scoopers, removing all animal waste in the staging area and along the parade route, NO EXCEPTIONS. All animals must be on leashes or contained for the safety of animals, participants, and audience members. Please make sure you have water on hand for your animals. There will be a station where you can refill water along the parade route.

Antique/Show Vehicles - Just that! Antique or Show ready cars, tractors, or any other motorized vehicle. Golf carts also welcome!

Political Candidate/Group - Any and all candidates running for political office or currently holding office, in any parade unit.

Application Deadline

Applications must be submitted by **Friday, November 10th, 2023** complete with payment to avoid late fees. No applications will be taken after November 17th, 2023.

Application Criteria

The Pope County Deer Festival Parade is limited to a maximum of 75 entries.

Mainstreet Golconda reviews all applications and reserves the right to choose only those entries that meet the criteria established in this application.

Please complete your application with as much detail as possible, as acceptance of your entry is based only on the information you provide to us.

Design Concept

Entry is well-designed and has an exceptional theme or idea. We get your message in 20 seconds!

Adherence to Theme

Entry uniquely incorporates the parade theme "The Buck Stops Here"

Entertainment Quality

The entry is fun, clever and well-received by an audience. You make us want to stand up and cheer!

Technical Design

Entry easily travels the parade route and meets size restrictions.

Use of Sound

Recorded or live music, use of instruments, chants/singing or other audio is effectively used by your entry.

Choreography/Marching

There is an interesting and exciting routine performed consistently throughout the parade route.

Costuming/Props

Costumes are original in nature and well designed and creative. Props are inventive and are large enough to be visible to the audience.

MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS FOR ROUTE

SAFETY

Max width: 16 feet

Max height: 13 feet

Max length: 60 feet

Minimum frame clearance to ground: 10 inches

What is Pomp(ing) vs. a Float?

Pomping is the action of rolling sheets of tissue paper into tiny balls that are then glued one by one onto cardboard to create an elaborate mural OR creating a frame with wood and chicken wire then you layer pieces of tissue paper and use a

pencil to stick them through the holes in the chicken wire to create a mural. Once the mural is complete you then mount it on a trailer or in a truck bed and display it during the parade.

A float is typically built on a trailer and can include pomping but also some sort of structure that promotes the parade theme. Sometimes floats have moving parts, music, people in costume, floral sheeting, streamers, fringe, signs, marquees, and just about anything that your imagination can dream up.

There are many videos on YouTube that describe pomping and floats - search your ideas today!

AWARDS and PRIZES!

The Pope County Deer Festival Parade will be judged by an exceptional panel of community members of all ages.

Prizes will be awarded in the following categories to formally registered parade entrants that are highly entertaining and best represent the parade theme and award category. Entries are judged on entertainment value to the audience, creativity and concept, adherence to theme, and audience reaction.

BEST OF SHOW: \$200 + Traveling Trophy

BEST BAND: \$200

BEST FLOAT: \$100

BEST POMP: \$50

MOST CREATIVE: \$50

PARADE POLICIES

All applications must be received by Friday, November 11th, 2022 or you will be charged a late entry fee of \$25.

Entries must observe all applicable rules, regulations, and policies or be barred from the parade. Mainstreet Golconda reserves the right to remove from the parade, either prior to assembly, at assembly or any time during the parade, any entrant not conforming to the rules, regulations and policies, or any entrant refusing to follow instructions of police or parade officials. Parade officials must approve all entries before entering the parade route. Failure to adhere to the rules, regulations, and policies may result in a one-year suspension from participation in the Pope County Deer Festival Parade. Mainstreet Golconda reserves the right to deny participation on the day of the parade if entry details vary from original accepted application.

**DISTRIBUTIONS ARE ALLOWED FROM
PARADE FLOATS OR VEHICLES AND
ENCOURAGED**

Upholding the tradition of Pope County Deer Festival Parades in years past, distributions (candy, stickers, flyers, etc.) and intended for the parade audience are allowed but must be made without encouraging spectators to approach your vehicle or float. Items may be cast outward with safety in mind so that spectators are not injured by flying items. For the safety of our spectators, there absolutely cannot be any type of motorized vehicle near the curbsides of the parade route.

All vehicles and floats **MUST STAY STRADDLING THE CENTER LINE** of Main Street until a parade official directs you off of the parade route. No vehicle, motorcycle, float, bike, moped, scooter, etc. is allowed to stray from the center line of Main Street. This is for the **SAFETY** of the audience.

PARADE DELAY CAUSED BY AN ENTRY MAY RESULT IN A DEDUCTION IN JUDGING OR DISQUALIFICATION FROM AWARDS. Any entry stopping in front of the judges to specially perform will automatically be disqualified from competition for awards. All entries must maintain forward motion during the parade.

PARADE PARTICIPANTS ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE POPE COUNTY DEER FESTIVAL PARADE IS A FAMILY ORIENTED EVENT. Mainstreet Golconda and Parade Officials reserves the right, in its sole discretion, and at any time, including the day of the parade, to disallow parade entries that it deems offensive. Entries may be historical, humorous, or modern in design. Those planning entries should remember a large part of the audience will be children.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND OTHER CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ARE FORBIDDEN IN ANY ENTRY OR ON THE PERSON OF ANY ENTRY PARTICIPANT.



IN ORDER TO BE ACCEPTED YOU MUST COMPLETE THE ENTIRE APPLICATION INCLUDING THE DESCRIPTION SECTION. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED.

CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS BY EMAIL: GOLCONDAPARADES@GMAIL.COM
OR CALL MAINSTREET GOLCONDA OFFICE AT (618) 683-6246