



4th of July Parade Judging Criteria

Welcome to the Ames Main Street 4th of July Parade! We're excited to celebrate Independence Day with our community and appreciate your participation in making this event memorable. Our judging criteria are designed to be fun, fair, and encouraging, ensuring all entries have an opportunity to shine. Below are the key areas that will be evaluated by our judges:

1. Patriotic Spirit

- **Theme:** Does the entry clearly represent the spirit of Independence Day, celebrating American values, history, and pride?
- **Color and Design:** Is the red, white, and blue color scheme used creatively and effectively?
- **Symbols:** Are patriotic symbols (flags, stars, eagles, etc.) incorporated in an exciting and meaningful way?

2. Creativity and Originality

- **Unique Concepts:** How original is the entry? Does it stand out among the others?
- **Design Innovation:** Is the float, vehicle, or group design unique, interesting, and visually appealing?
- **Creativity:** Does the entry present an imaginative or fun twist on traditional parade floats or costumes?

3. Community Involvement

- **Local Connection:** Does the entry reflect Ames, Iowa, or a specific local theme?
- **Group Participation:** Is the entry the result of teamwork or community collaboration?
- **Engagement:** Does the entry include people of all ages or engage with the audience in a fun and interactive way?

4. Entertainment Value

- **Energy and Enthusiasm:** Does the entry bring excitement and joy to the parade?
- **Performance:** If applicable, is there a musical performance, dance, or other lively activities that enhance the parade experience?
- **Audience Interaction:** Does the entry make the crowd smile, clap, or cheer?

5. Overall Presentation

- **Polish and Neatness:** Is the entry well-constructed and visually clean?
- **Organization:** Is the entry organized, and does it flow smoothly during the parade?
- **Safety and Compliance:** Does the entry comply with safety regulations and respect other participants?

Thank you for making Ames' 4th of July Parade an exciting celebration! We look forward to seeing your creativity and spirit shine through. Happy Independence Day!