

26th Villages Independence Festival

Villages Independence Festival Float Contest

July 4th, 2018

Parade Theme: "Celebrate 4th of July"

Parade Colors: Red, White & Blue

Date & Time: The Parade will begin promptly at 9 am on Wednesday, July 4th, 2018, rain or shine. Schools who wish to be judged as part of the Float Contest should plan to line up no later than at 8 am and be ready by 9 am. For any additional information visit:

<http://www.vifhouston.org>

Staging: At Memorial Church of Christ parking lot, located at Gaylord/Echo lane. The time of arrival will determine your place in the parade order; no pre-assigned numbers will be issued. VIF parade officials will be there to assist you.

Parade Route: Length 1.7 miles. Exit Memorial Church of Christ parking lot to the right (East) via Gaylord until N. Piney Point and turn right (South). Parade ends at ECLESIA (Memorial Drive Baptist Church), 325 N. Piney Point.

Disbanding: Parade ends at Memorial Drive Baptist Church do not stop, keep moving.

Eligibility for contest: The Mayors of each of the following villages will designate one official float to represent their village in the contest:
Bunker Hill, Hedwig, Hilshire, Hunters Creek, Piney Point, Spring Valley.

Judging: Judges Panel will begin reviewing floats at staging area. There will be a Judge panel along the parade route.

Award: Overall winner trophy will be presented to the winner village during the VIF Festival at Memorial Drive Baptist Church. The trophy will be engraved with the year and the village name. Trophy will remain in custody of the winning village until surrendering it to the next year parade winner. The best float in the churches and in the schools category will be awarded \$500.

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Float Contest Rules:

1. A float is defined as either a flatbed trailer which is pulled by a tow vehicle or a truck with a flatbed.
2. Floats may not exceed 40 feet in length, including the tow vehicle.
3. Towing vehicles must be decorated. Points will be deducted for undecorated towing vehicles.
4. All floats shall have a skirt or fringe to cover the wheels within the bounds of safety.
5. No float structure may exceed 14 feet high from street level. It must be able to go under utility wires and traffic lights along the parade route.
6. Riders on the float must have a secure way of holding themselves to the vehicle.
7. Music and amplifying devices are permitted.
8. No commercial or political advertisements will be permitted on the vehicle or clothing of riders.
9. Float entries must be in place at the staging area no later than 8 am on parade day.
10. The float must travel the entire parade route, 1.7 miles.
11. Only floats will be considered for the contest.
12. Each village, school or church participating in the float contest must clearly display the identity of the organization on the float.
13. All details and decorations must be completed by 9 am, when judging starts. This would include all riders in costumes.
14. Judging will be based upon originality, float design, use of color, use of music, and use of theme, overall appearance and the effect of riders/costumes on the float.
15. The decision of the Judge's is final.
16. All float entries must follow the parade rules and regulations.

Judges Criteria:

1. Only floats from the villages, churches or schools will be judged
2. There will be a panel of judges along the parade route.
3. Judges decision is considered final.
4. Floats will be scored from 1 to 10 (high) in each of the five presentation criteria:
 - a. Overall Appearance
 - b. Depiction of parade theme "Celebrate 4th of July"
 - c. Originality of design
 - d. Creativity in the utilization of materials
 - e. Decoration of tow vehicle
4. The floats with the highest score will be declared the winners.