



SPECIAL UNITS APPLICATION

2027 BLOSSOMTIME FESTIVAL

121st GRAND FLORAL PARADE

May 8, 2027

"Blossomtime...Under the Big Top!"

Parade starts at 1:00 p.m. Main Street closes at 10:00 a.m.

- **No one is allowed on Main Street after 10:00 a.m.**

Application Deadlines:

March 5, 2027 - Deadline – Sections 1 thru 3 must be signed, completed & submitted to Blossomtime by this date

May 1, 2027 – Marshaling/De-marshaling information will be emailed to you. We will only mail the participant car passes. We will only mail the participant passes via USPS to your Primary Contact.

This is an application to participate in the Blossomtime Grand Floral Parade. This form is designed to provide the Blossomtime Festival with important information about your participation.

The Blossomtime Festival reserves the right to review and accept/deny any special unit entry request in accordance with the Festival's rules and regulations.

- Please note that there is no third-party sponsor identification permitted on any part of the special unit entry.
- The Blossomtime Festival Grand Floral Parade does not sponsor or accept as a special unit "Issue Advertising". This includes: those groups who support candidates; groups who support or oppose any question that would be the subject of a referendum; legislative, executive or judicial determination of a public question. Political candidates will be approved by invitation only.

Section 1: Rules, Requirements and Reservation Agreement

1. Vans, Trailers, Go Carts, ATV's, etc. and equipment trucks are not permitted.
2. All entries that are not non-profit or a current Blossomtime Sponsor will be subject to an entry fee, which will include an ad in our parade souvenir program.

3. **All accessory vehicles including, but not limited to, busses, trailers, transportation of any kind may NOT ride in the parade route, a map will be provided to assist with getting to the demarshalling area. Please plan on drivers to move vehicles if need be.**
4. **No sirens or horns may be used by any units.**
5. Political figures designated Honorary Grand Marshals will be limited to those invited guests of the Board of Directors.
6. **No objects of any kind (including autographs & candy) may be distributed or thrown to Parade spectators. No throwing candy out of a car. Failure to comply, could result in disqualification of the parade the following year.**
7. **No burnout are allowed. Failure to comply could result in disqualification of the parade the following year.**
8. Public address systems with use of a microphone for speaking purposes are not allowed.
9. Amplifiers to play family friendly music are allowed as long as music doesn't affect surrounding units.
10. Entries must not stop forward motion in order to perform. Those doing so may result in being removed from the lineup. You are to keep the proper **75 feet** interval between units at all times.
11. The use of convertibles is generally restricted to those carrying dignitaries, Honorary Grand Marshals, politicians and costumed characters. **All politicians and costume characters must provide their own car to ride in. All riders will be limited to one person in the convertible unless a handler is needed.**
12. Antique vehicles must be entered as individual units and must display a current license. Enclosed antique cars: Driver and one passenger in front seat, only 2 passengers in the back seat. Antique convertible cars: Driver and one passenger in the front seat, only 2 passengers in the back seat. It is suggested those entering antique cars consider dressing in clothing appropriate to the period the car was manufactured. If you and your passenger/s choose not to follow that suggestion your attire may be casual. Please NO jeans, cutoffs, tank tops or jean jackets. Remember, dress for the weather. All drivers must hold a valid operator's license and must be at least 18 years of age.
13. **Identification of sponsorship is limited to 4" letters.**
14. Animal units will be approved by the Parade committee. Equestrian units and/or horse drawn wagons MUST provide a cleanup unit. **A Negative Coggins Test dated December 2013 or later is required to transport equine in the state of Michigan. A copy must be included with your application before any equine exhibitor's application will be approved.**
15. **The use of alcohol by Parade participants before or during the Parade is strictly prohibited. Those doing so will be asked to leave the Parade.**
16. If you are a first-time entrant, you must submit a photograph of your unit. Approval may not be considered granted until it is received in writing.

17. NEW AS OF 2027: All dignitaries, state champions, and award winners of any kind must adhere to a business casual (no jeans) attire.

**A request for any variation from these rules must be submitted with your application
No later than March 5th, 2027**

WEATHER POLICY: The parade will proceed, rain or shine. However, in case of severe weather (thunder and lightning), the parade officials will institute a 20 MINUTE DELAY. Each instance of thunder or lightning will reset the 20 minute clock. There must be a complete 20 minutes without thunder or lightening for the event to continue. If the weather does not look to be clearing after multiple delays, the parade organizer will make the decision to cancel. Please plan on being at your post as scheduled.

RESERVATION STATEMENT

All entries are subject to approval by the Blossomtime Parade Committee.

Exception to any rule contained herein requires approval of the Blossomtime Parade Committee. Violation of any rule contained herein may result in the immediate removal of a unit prior to or during the parade and render the unit ineligible to participate in future parades.

In consideration of the acceptance of our Special Unit entry in the 2026 Blossomtime Grand Floral Parade, we hereby release the Blossomtime Festival from any and all liability, as well as, any and all injuries or damage whatsoever arising from our participation in the aforementioned parade.

I have read and agree to the above Reservation Statement. *

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YES

Section 2: Special Unit Contact Info

If this is your first appearance in our parade, you must submit a photograph of your unit for parade committee approval.

*Please note that if any information packets that require mailing via United States Postal Service will be sent to **Primary Contact Only**. We contact via email or have forms available on our website (office@blossomtimefestival.org) for all other communications.*

*** Required Field**

Name of Organization/Sponsor * _____

Primary Contact First * _____ Last * _____

Primary Contact Mailing Address *

- Street _____ City _____
- State _____ Zip _____

Primary Contact Phone # * _____ Primary Contact E-Mail * _____

Secondary Contact:

- Secondary Contact Name * First _____ Last _____
- Secondary Mailing Address* _____
- Secondary Contact Phone # * _____ Secondary E-Mail * _____

Section 3: Type of Special Unit and Media Info for TV Commentary

TYPE Of Special Unit: (**Example:** Political Dignitary, Group, Former Royalty, Parade Dignitary , Costume Character(s), Clowns, Horse Drawn Wagons, Animals, Musical Units (other than High School Bands), Mascot, Equestrian Teams, Precisions Drill Teams (no one under the age of 14, no stopping and dancing/performing), Antique Vehicles (Prior to 1970) , Specialty Vehicle, Commercial Venue, Novelty Units or Other. Please describe:

TYPE of Entry: _____

Your Title, Entertainment Name, or Group Name _____

Number of Persons in Your Unit: _____

Car/Driver Information:

Name of vehicle Owner: _____

Make/Model of Vehicle: _____

Is vehicle owner also the driver? Yes No

Email Contact for owner/driver: _____

Mailing address: _____

Do you need a Magnetic Name Sign for Your Vehicle? _____

If yes, there will be a \$130 fee for magnetic name sign, you may also provide your own (**must be a 24in x 10in sign, white background with red lettering**) Magnets will include: Name of organization and name/title of rider/s

Describe Your Entry for Publicity Purposes (This will be read word for word on the TV Broadcast) :

If you charge an appearance fee for your unit you must send your performance contract with the fee clearly stated along with this application. We will review the contract and return a signed copy to you if we agree to your fee and terms.

Please attach additional information to describe your entry for the television and radio scripts.

PLEASE RETURN TO:

Blossomtime Festival ~ 2330 S. Cleveland ~ St. Joseph, MI 49085
Phone: 269-982-8016 Fax: 269-982-8018 Email: parade@blossomtimefestival.org
