

# BATTLE OF FLOWERS<sup>®</sup> ASSOCIATION

## GENERAL INFORMATION

FOR

## BATTLE OF FLOWERS<sup>®</sup> PARADE

Friday, April 27, 2012

Vanguard: 11:30 a.m.

Parade: 12:30 p.m.

Parade Length - 2.6 miles

Parade Travels at 2.5 mph

Marching Time - 1 hour 10 minutes



## RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR COMMERCIAL FLOATS

1. Complete the Entry Form and return original (keep one copy for your records) together with the non-refundable Entry Fee of \$500.00 (\$100.00 for small businesses - less than 100 employees) and a drawing (no larger than 8 x 11 inches and in color, if possible) of your float and description of your costumes to the Section Chair **BEFORE JANUARY 13, 2012**. Incomplete Entry Forms will not be processed.
2. We can accept only a limited number of entries in the Commercial Floats Section, and the acceptance of any entry is subject to approval by the Parade Board. No political entries will be accepted.
3. To keep the Parade different and exciting each year, we rarely accept a float which has been used previously or a float of the same basic design as one previously used; however, under certain circumstances, exceptions may be made by the Parade Board whose decision is final.
4. **THEME:** The Battle of Flowers<sup>®</sup> Parade is a theme Parade, and each entry is accepted as an integral part of the plan or design of the Parade. Participants must choose a theme (subject and/or descriptive title) for their entry which fits into this overall plan and which must be adhered to in decorations, costumes and routines, ensuring that the composite design for the Parade is achieved.
  - a. The title of the float is to be placed along the lower edges of both side aprons. Lettering should be no higher than 14 inches nor longer than 12 feet, proportional to the size of the float.
  - b. Commercial entries may not to be used to sell a product or service. Only the name or logo of the organization entering the float may be displayed on the front and back aprons of the float. Lettering should be no higher than 14 inches nor longer than 12 feet, proportional to the size of the float. Additional signage must be approved by the Parade Board, whose decision is final. Company mascots may be used if they are integrated into the theme of the float.
  - c. All participants, including anyone walking beside the float, must be in costume appropriate to the theme of the float. Crowns, sashes, scepters, trophies and other adornments which do not pertain to the theme are not allowed. Remember that San Antonio can be hot in April. The Parade moves rain or shine, so come prepared!
  - d. Music, appropriate to your theme, is encouraged, but radio programs may not be used. The speakers and wiring must be hidden in the construction of the float. Plans for music or animation should be included with the drawing that is submitted with the Entry Form.
  - e. In keeping with The Battle of Flowers<sup>®</sup> tradition, the abundant use of flowers is encouraged.
  - f. The Battle of Flowers<sup>®</sup> Association wants to work with you to develop an entry which will bring attention to your business as well as provide enjoyment to hundreds of thousands of parade watchers.

## 5. FLOAT SPECIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

- a. Overhead clearance and street width along the route dictate the size restrictions for floats. Floats may be a minimum of 30 feet and a maximum of 50 feet long, 14 feet wide, and 13 feet high, including riders. Most organizations find 30 to 40 feet the most manageable and effective length.
- b. The driver's compartment must be secure, well lighted and well ventilated and must offer good forward and peripheral visibility. The vehicle and driver's compartment must offer quick entry and exit routes.
- c. Framework and decorations must be designed so that the driver's compartment is well camouflaged and the driver is unobtrusive.
- d. Wheels and tires must be completely concealed. Failure to comply will mean removal of entry from the Parade.
- e. The driver must be a responsible adult and experienced float driver.
- f. Two walkers in costume are required to accompany the float along the Parade route in order to guide the driver. No more than two walkers are allowed, unless permission is granted by the Parade Board.
- g. San Antonio City ordinance requires all floats to be flameproof. Either the material used in construction must be flameproof, or the float must be sprayed with a flameproof material recommended by the San Antonio Fire Department. Each float must carry a fire extinguisher (Type 2A 10BC-5 pound all purpose—inspected within the past twelve months) within easy reach of the driver. The San Antonio Fire Department will inspect all floats in the Forming Area on Parade Day at the Battle of Flowers® Association's expense.
- h. Float construction must comply with the Float Mechanics Requirements provided on a separate sheet in your information packet.

## 6. PARTICIPANTS:

- a. A Commercial Float may have no more than 8 participants, besides the driver, riding on the float, unless special permission has been granted by the Parade Board.
- b. Each entry must have an adult supervisor whose responsibility is to see that all Parade rules are understood and followed. The supervisor must be present in the Forming Area on Parade Day.
- c. Parade participants may not leave the float prior to reaching the Disbanding Area. They are not permitted to slow or stop the forward movement of the Parade in any way. There will be no exceptions.
- d. **THE WEATHER FOR THE PARADE CAN BE UNPREDICATBLY HOT. THEREFORE, EACH PARTICIPANT MUST BEGIN THE PARADE ROUTE WITH, OR HAVE ACCESS TO, AT LEAST A FULL PINT/HALF-LITER WATER BOTTLE.** Water to replenish water bottles is the responsibility of the participant and/or the participant's group. The Battle of Flowers® Association strongly encourages each group to provide a Water Wagon, or another source of water, to replenish the water bottles for their participants. Very limited supplies of water, for emergencies only, may be available in the Forming Area and in the Disbanding Area. No food is to be consumed by participants while on the Parade Route. **PLEASE COME PREPARED!** No drinking cups, food, or personal items are allowed on floats.

## 7. JUDGING:

- a. Judging will take place along the Parade Route.
- b. The following criteria and point system will be used: Presentation of Theme - Creativity and Overall Effect (0-25); Spectator Appeal (0-25); Costumes (0-20); Use of Flowers (0-20); Animation (0-10).
- c. To be considered for a ribbon, participants must be on the float at time of judging.

8. GENERAL:

- a. All United States flags will mass at the beginning of the Parade. No U.S. flags are permitted as props or decorations; however, a replica of a flag, used as an integral part of the float design and appropriate to the theme, is permissible.
- b. In memory of the heroes of the Alamo, each entry will carry a bouquet or wreath of fresh flowers furnished by the participants. (Please do not bring artificial flowers.) The Honor Guard will be waiting to receive the flowers and will place them in front of the Alamo. Please do not stop or leave the vehicle to present the flowers.
- c. Parade Day instructions, including maps, position sheets and timetables, will be email to you the first part of April. PLEASE BE CERTAIN THAT YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS IS CORRECT AND THAT YOU NOTIFY THE SECTION CHAIR IF IT CHANGES.
- d. Floats must be ready for the Section Chair to inspect by Monday, **April 23, 2012**. If the float is coming from out of town and not available for inspection, pictures showing front, both sides and back of float, must be sent to the Section Chair by that date.
- e. Proof of insurance and/or signed release of liability forms will be required from each entry in the Parade and due no later than **March 1, 2012**, or your entry may be withdrawn from the Parade. Insurance is available for purchase through the Fiesta Commission.
- f. The use of cellular telephones during the Parade is forbidden.

THE BATTLE OF FLOWERS<sup>®</sup> PARADE BOARD RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REFUSE ENTRY TO ANY PARTICIPANT WHO DOES NOT COMPLY WITH THE RULES OR WHO DOES NOT MEET THE STANDARDS SET BY THE ASSOCIATION. RULE VIOLATIONS MAY DISQUALIFY THE ENTRY AND JEOPARDIZE PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE PARADES.

- ★ All participants are expected to arrive in the Forming Area on time may be disqualified and/or forfeit a future Parade appearance.
- ★ The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages, by Parade participants or workers in the Forming Area or on the Parade route before or during the Parade, is EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN.
- ★ San Antonio City Ordinance prohibits the throwing or distributing of candy, tokens, gifts, advertisements or any other object from a Parade unit. Violation of this ordinance will result in immediate removal of the entry from the Parade.

THE BATTLE OF FLOWERS<sup>®</sup> ASSOCIATION ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ACCIDENTS. IN ALL EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY THE BATTLE OF FLOWERS<sup>®</sup> ASSOCIATION, THERE SHALL BE NO DISCRIMINATION ON THE BASIS OF RACE, ETHNIC ORIGIN, SEX OR CREED.