Revision: September 17, 2026

FIESTA FLAMBEAU® PARADE ASSOCIATION, INC.

"AMERICA'S LARGEST ILLUMINATED NIGHT PARADE"

"Cosmic Nights - A Universe of Lights"

Saturday, April 24, 2027

PARADE POLICIES & GUIDELINE

Preparations for the Fiesta Flambeau Parade are well under way and next year's parade will take place on April 24, 2027. The 2027 parade theme is "**Cosmic Nights- A Universe of Lights**".

The Fiesta Flambeau®Parade Association, Inc. appreciates your interest in participating in "America's Largest Illuminated Night Parade". The parade travels through beautiful and historic downtown San Antonio. It is viewed by approximately 800,000 street spectators along the parade route. The syndicated parade is also broadcasted and livestreamed to over 1.5 million viewers. The Fiesta Flambeau® Parade has been named "Best Parade" by the Texas Festivals and Events Association and "Best in the World" by the International Festivals and Events Association. Fiesta Flambeau Parade is considered the premier event of the 11 days of Fiesta San Antonio.

Disclaimer:

Every effort will be made to ensure the safety of all participants. However, participants must understand the Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association, Inc., will not be held responsible for events beyond our control, such as, weather, civil turmoil, bomb threats, active shooter(s), natural disasters, pandemics, outbreaks, contagions, or acts of God, including theft of participant property.

Inclement Weather:

Be prepared as the Parade will go on rain or shine. If inclement weather occurs prior or during the parade, the Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association, Inc., President and Immediate Past President will consult with SAPD, SAFD, Parade, Marshaling, and Compliance Directors to determine if reports of severe weather shall initiate the cancellation or delay of the parade. Participants may decline to participate when weather threatens to damage uniforms, props, instruments, etc. We suggest that your organization have a weather plan in place should severe weather occur.

Cancellation:

The Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association, Inc., President and Immediate Past President will closely monitor and consult with San Antonio Officials, SAPD, SAFD, Parade Director, Marshaling, and Compliance Directors to determine any delay, postponement, or cancellation on or before parade day. The Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association, Inc., will not be held responsible for any monetary losses incurred by participants to participate in the parade**.** It is recommended that participants secure cancellation insurance through their insurance carrier, airline carrier, hotel, car rental agreement, credit card company, etc., to cover any cancellation expenses, fees, or penalties incurred to participate in the parade.

Parade Application:
Parade applications may be obtained by visiting **www.flambeau.org.** All applications must be completed according to application instructions. A $200.00 non-refundable application fee is required for each parade entry. Applications will not be accepted if incomplete, illegible, or without the $200.00 non-refundable application fee. All applications must be submitted no later than December 31, 2026. There will be no exceptions to the deadline date and submission of the application does not guarantee acceptance in our parade.

Multiple Groups:
Multiple entries will need to submit an additional $200.00 non-refundable application fee for each entry (i.e., a float and marching unit, a marching band and cheer team, etc.). Applications will not be accepted if incomplete, illegible, or without the $200.00 non-refundable application fee. All applications must be submitted no later than December 31, 2026. There will be no exceptions to the deadline date and submission of the application does not guarantee acceptance in our parade.

Commercial Entries:
Commercial entries will pay a $2,800.00 fee. A commercial product or service shall not be the theme or incorporated as a major prop on a float. The business or sponsor's name and logo must not exceed 18 inches in height.

Sponsorship logos are allowed exclusively on the front tow unit and back apron of the float. No sponsor logos or text may appear on the sides of the float. Sponsor logos should be no larger than 18" by 24". You may display lettering that reflects the float's theme on the sides. Any additional logos, advertisements, or self-promotional material are prohibited and will be removed before the parade; failure to comply may result in the float being disqualified from participation.

Float Entries:
All float entries will be charged an additional $125.00 (This fee is subject to change without notice.) for a San Antonio Fire Department (SAFD) Safety Inspection that is mandated by the City of San Antonio. Float entries will be required to submit a current copy of Certificate of Insurance naming the Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association, Inc. Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Charitable Corporation, Fiesta® San Antonio Commission, Fiesta Commission Foundation, and the City of San Antonio, as additional insured. The copy of certificate of insurance information must be made available by January 31, 2027.

All floats will be given a specific time to arrive at the forming area and SAPD will notify entry regarding police escort. Once settled in the staging area, entries will be inspected by the SAFD.

Floats are expected to complement the parade theme of "**Cosmic Nights"**

in a creative manner. A color sketch or photograph of your float must be submitted with your application. All floats must be brightly illuminated on all four sides with a substantial number of lights to enhance the appearance of the float. All electrical connections shall be enclosed in a UL listed electrical junction box.

The overall dimensions of the float must be provided as requested on the application form. The length of the float will be no longer than 45 feet *(with the exception of the Fiesta Flambeau floats)* or less than 16 feet. The width of the float must be between 6 and 12 feet. No segment of the float may extend higher than 13.0 feet. Flatbed trailers are not permitted.

All float decorative material shall be noncombustible or flame retardant and approved by the San Antonio Fire Marshal. The use of hay as decoration or prop is not permitted. Floats and towing apparatus shall be provided with a minimum 2-A 10-B:C or higher rating portable fire extinguisher readily accessible to the operator with a valid current (within a year) inspection sticker from a licensed extinguisher company or provide proof that extinguisher is new (store receipt). The fire extinguisher will be inspected by the Fire Marshal.

ALL float tow vehicles, including official sponsor vehicles, must be decorated and illuminated in a manner that completely covers the tow vehicle. The decorations themselves should also complement the float.

IMPORTANT: The make and model (brand) of the tow vehicles must also be completely covered at all times.

All tow units should be securely fastened with an appropriate safety chain to the chassis of the float. No more than two (2) persons will be permitted to ride in the tow vehicle.

Self-propelled floats shall be equipped with a quick escape hatch for the interior driver compartment. The exhaust pipe must extend past the exterior of the float by 6 inches and be clear of all decorative materials. This includes the exhaust of interior mounted portable generators. Portable generators shall be mounted in such a manner as not to pose a fire risk to the float, its decorations, or occupants and must be extended past the exterior of the float by 6 inches. Smoking is not allowed on the floats. Fuel tanks shall be of adequate capacity to permit uninterrupted operation during normal operating hours. Re-fueling is prohibited during the parade.

All float operators must provide a current valid driver's license and proof of liability insurance. Parade Officials will verify these documents prior to the start of the parade. Entries failing to provide these items will be disqualified and removed from participation.

All floats must remain in their assigned staging and parade lineup position. The float or float tow vehicle operator must always remain with the unit; there will be no exceptions. Once the parade has started, no one is permitted to disembark from the float or tow vehicle until they have reached the disbanding area.

Emergency Plan:
In the event of an emergency, the San Antonio Police Incident Commander will determine if the

parade will be delayed or cancelled. If the determination is made that the parade route needs to be evacuated for safety purposes, all participants will be directed to pre-identified safe zones by police officers. Only participants that are on foot and in vehicles other than floats will be directed to the safe zones. All floats will need to remain on the route; therefore, the drivers of the floats will stop their float as far right as possible and will leave the key in the vehicle. Float drivers and riders will need to dismount their float and will need to walk to the safe zone. Once the critical incident is resolved, coordination will be made to remove the floats from the route.

Helium Balloons:
There will be no parade helium balloons allowed in the parade.

Equestrian Units:
There will be no equestrian units allowed in the parade.

Walking Groups:
All participants must be 12 years of age or over. Walking groups are limited to 25 people only.

Vehicles:
There will be absolutely no vehicles allowed in the parade that are not towing a float. One of two exceptions is Emergency Management vehicles. All vehicle operators must provide a current valid driver's license and proof of liability insurance. Due to safety concerns, the other safety exception is motorized and other self-propelled vehicles such as golf carts and ATVs operated by Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Officials. All other vehicles (golf carts, ATVs, 4- wheelers, motorcycles or scooters etc.) will not be allowed on the parade route**.** There will be no exceptions. Support units such as carts, wagons and bicycles must be noted on the application to receive pre-parade approval and be completely decorated and illuminated.

Insurance Requirements:
All entries that have been accepted must be insured to include motorized vehicles, floats, towing vehicles and must have a copy of current liability insurance identification form(s). This must be made available for inspection upon request by Law Enforcement and Parade Officials. Failure to provide such proof will result in disqualification from the parade.

Tow vehicles, marching, dancing, cheer, pep and walker entries will be required to provide insurance as well. All entries will be afforded the same opportunity to purchase a User Insurance Policy through the Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association, Inc. Also offered is "Walkers Insurance Coverage" for those accompanying the float.

Note: Schools to include band, dance, cheer and pep may provide insurance from their respective district. Only one is necessary to cover the respective school. All Certificates of Insurance must name the Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association, Inc., Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Charitable Corporation and Fiesta® San Antonio Commission, Fiesta® Commission Foundation, and the City of San Antonio as additional insured as additional insured by January 31, 2027. Proof of insurance and signed **Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk, and Waiver of Claims & Indemnification Agreement** will be required from each entry in the parade.

NOTE: All participants on floats under the age of 12 must have parent and/or guardian sign the release of liability as well.

Non-Profit Entries:
All non-profit (501C designation) entries that request exemption from commercial fee must submit written proof of non-profit status from the IRS to the Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association, Inc. when submitting their application.

Entries that do not provide proof of their non-profit status must pay a commercial fee of $2,800.00. Entries will also be required to comply with $200.00 non-refundable application processing fee, $125.00 San Antonio Fire Department Safety Inspection fee. These fees must be received no later than January 31, 2027.

Selection of Entries:
Live TV coverage of the parade limits the number of entries we can accommodate. It is imperative to submit your application as early as possible; however, early submission does not guarantee parade acceptance. Acceptance to participate in the parade is determined by the Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association, Inc**.** Cause for non-acceptance of a parade entry does not have to be justified by the Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association, Inc. A notification email of acceptance or non-acceptance will be emailed by January 22, 2027.

Judging and Awards:
Judging for crowd reaction, enthusiasm and lighting will be judged along the parade route. Judging for "Adherence to the Theme" and "Appearance" will so be taken into consideration. Therefore, participants should perform at their best during the entire parade route. Information regarding the judging, criteria, categories and awards will be distributed in the parade participant information packet.

Participants:
The Fiesta Flambeau® Parade is a themed parade and reserves the right to refuse entry to any participant who does not comply with any of our requirements. All participants are expected to behave in an exemplary manner**.** Any rudeness, foul language or threatening behavior will be grounds for the removal of any individual and their group from the parade. It is prohibited to remove, discard or make available to anyone along the parade route any lights, parade props, medals or other miscellaneous items. Failure of participants and their support personnel to comply with these Parade Policies and Guidelines will not be tolerated. This will result in removal from the parade by San Antonio Police Department and will jeopardize future participation.

In addition, entries on parade day must appear as a fair and accurate representation of what had been submitted on the application. Any deviation, without the authorization of the Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association, Inc. may result in disqualification on parade day. All participants must be at least 12 years of age.

Due to safety and liability, no participant(s) under 12 years of age will be permitted, except on a float and must be annotated upon submission of application. Any float with children under the age of 12 must be chaperoned at all times. The person chaperoning must ride on the float and must be a representative of the respective organization and entry. Participants on floats under the age of 12 must have parent and/or guardian sign the **Release of Liability, Assumption of Risk, Waiver of Claims & Indemnification Agreement.** This form must be submitted well in advance of the parade.

Unless otherwise authorized, all Military, ROTC and LOTC units will be placed in the Vanguard.

The Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association, Inc. will not be responsible for any items left in buses, vans or cars. Participants should have a plan for personal items. Bus Drivers must remain near their buses.

Uniforms and Illumination Requirements:
Participants must wear full dress uniforms or costumes. All military marching units and bands should also use a creative form of illumination to enhance their appearance. If an entry has no illumination, the consequence could be removal from the parade. The illumination enhancement will be crucial not only to the judging category, but part of the Fiesta Flambeau® Parade requirements. Battery operated LED mini-lights are an excellent form of illumination. A minimum of twelve (12) mini-lights per person is recommended. The Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association, Inc**.** strongly recommends this form of lighting. All entry banners should also be illuminated. **Glow sticks will not be permitted** as a form of illumination and will be strictly enforced.

Statement of Nondiscrimination:
In the selection of entries by the Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association, Inc., there shall be no discrimination based on race, ethnicity, origin, gender, sexual orientation, or religious affiliation.

Alcoholic Beverages:
Consumption of alcoholic beverages by any person(s) in the forming area, parade route or disbanding area is strictly prohibited. All participants will be subject to a visual inspection by Parade Officials and SAPD. Anyone in an inebriated condition will not be allowed to participate in the parade and at the discretion of Parade Officials or SAPD; the organization will be removed from the parade and jeopardize future participation.

Music/PA Systems:
All entries with live music or sound enhancement systems must include the information on the application. Sound amplification must comply with the City of San Antonio Ordinance. The audio level will be set at a reasonable level as determined by the Parade Officials. All entries may be asked to reduce the volume of sound on their entry between the area of Houston and Crockett Streets while passing in front of the Alamo. Cooperation with directional signage is required.

Advertising/Banners:
There will be no political or religious advertising by parade participants while on the parade route, forming or disbanding areas. Anyone violating this policy will be asked to leave by Parade Officials or be removed by SAPD.

Elected Officials:
At the discretion of the President, elected officials may be allowed to participate in the Fiesta Flambeau® Parade. This policy shall be strictly enforced. The Mayor of San Antonio is allowed to be in the parade as a courtesy to the City of San Antonio.

Television Coverage:
The Fiesta Flambeau® Parade is televised locally and syndicated nationally. Upon your acceptance in the parade, your TV Script/Media information must be completed and submitted to the Parade Director with your application, for the television host to describe your entry. No parade entry will be allowed to intentionally stop and perform. Violation of this policy will result in a disqualification of the organization from the judging. At the discretion of the Parade Officials, violators may be removed from the parade route and eliminated from participation in future Fiesta Flambeau® parades.

Spacing of Entries:
All parade entries must stay within fifteen (15) feet of the entry in front of you in the forming area until the parade step-off where Parade Officials will space out the entries at approximately every twenty-five (25) feet and entries should maintain that distance throughout the parade route. Parade Officials will strictly monitor this spacing. While on the parade route, all entries must maintain a constant forward direction. Unnecessary delay or "gaps" created by the entries on the parade route will not be tolerated and may be subject to removal. Participants may not slow or stop the forward movement of the parade in any way. Entries that stop to perform along the parade route will be disqualified from the judging and eliminated from participation in future Fiesta Flambeau® parades. At the discretion of the Parade Officials and SAPD, any entries unable to start or maintain their assigned position on the parade route will be removed.

Throwing or distribution of items during the parade:
It is unlawful by City Ordinance for parade participants to throw, distribute, or give away any leaflets, coins, souvenirs, candy or any other items in the forming area and the parade route. No articles, materials, or candy of any kind shall be distributed in the forming area, along the parade route or in the disbanding area without the approval of the Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association, Inc. The discharging of firearms, cannons, fireworks and other loud devices is strictly prohibited.

Excerpt taken from **City Ordinance:**
ARTICLE XVII: Processions and Assemblies. Sec. 19-638. Public conduct during processions.

(d) *Prohibited substances.* It shall be unlawful for any person to sell, possess, or use a pressurized container of the substance commonly known as "liquid string," "silly string," or "super string," or any quantity of the small explosive devices commonly known as "snappers," "throw downs," "pop pops," or "popping match sticks," which are paper-wrapped wads of sand coated with a minute quantity of explosive powder and adhesive, producing a small report upon impact with hard surfaces, in any public place or private property.

(e) *Control of processions; restrictions.* The permitting official shall identify a point of contact or

liaison within the SAPD to facilitate coordination and communication during the procession. Once the procession starts, the SAPD will coordinate with the procession group to ensure safe and efficient movement of the procession in accordance with the parameters outlined in the permit. SAPD will provide clear direction and take appropriate action if the procession begins to go outside the parameters of the permit or if there is a situation that threatens individual or public safety.

(f) *Procession floats or vehicles.* No participant shall throw or give away candy, gifts, tokens, advertisements, or any other objects from any float or transportation vehicle while the float or transportation vehicle is on the procession route. Failure to observe these requirements shall constitute a violation of this article and the chief of police is empowered to remove this unit from the procession immediately.
(Ord. No. 2018-03-01-0151, § 1(Att. A), 3-1-18)

Disbanding Area:

All parade participants will disband under the direction of Parade Officials and SAPD. No participants should remove any illumination devices, costumes, or uniforms until they have reached their designated area. It is prohibited to remove, discard or make available to anyone along the parade route or disbanding area any lights, medals and parade props. Parade participants may not leave the float prior to reaching the disbanding area.

A final note:

Members of the Fiesta Flambeau® Parade Association, Inc are volunteers, just as parade participants are. Everyone gives many hours to produce a successful parade. Members are asked to sign a code of conduct pledging courtesy and respect for others toward each other and participants. By signing this document, your organization agrees to follow the same guidelines. Anyone violating this policy will be asked to leave by Parade Officials or be removed by SAPD.

Please retain a copy of these Parade Policies and Guidelines for your records and do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or need additional information.

Fernando Villarreal, 2027 Parade Director
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