

## Categories and Award Criteria per

- **NOTE:** All Parade entries, tow vehicles, and support vehicles must be at least 75% decorated to either depict the Parade theme, or be decorated in red, white and blue, in keeping with the patriotic spirit of the Parade. Any entry, tow vehicle or support vehicle not decorated at least 75%, as outlined above, may be pulled from the parade lineup. Judges will take this into consideration when selecting winners among those wishing to be judged.

## Floats

### Float Rules

Floats may not exceed 50 feet in length including the tow vehicle.

Towing vehicles must be decorated. Points will be deducted for undecorated towing vehicles.

All floats shall have a skirt to cover the wheels within the bounds of safety.

Because of city code, no superstructure may exceed 14 feet from street level and must be wired or otherwise secured. It must be able to go under utility wires along the parade route.

Professionally Built Floats may not compete in any other category besides Professionally Built Floats.

### 1. Float Categories

- a. Novice Floats: for first time, non-commercial entries
- b. Non-commercial Floats: for non-commercial organizations
- c. Youth: for nonprofit service organizations for youth
- d. Commercial Floats: for commercial organizations—not professionally built
- e. Professionally Built Floats: may be any business or non-commercial organization; Application shall be signed by a legal representative of the organization.
- f. Small Business Floats: any business with less than 25 employees.

### 2. Judging Criteria for all Floats

- a. Theme 1-20 points

- b. Overall appearance 1-30 points
- c. Originality & creativity 1-15 points
- d. Music (canned: 1-10 points, live 10-20 points) 20 points
- e. Crowd appeal 1-15 points
- f. Possible total points 100 points
  - i. **Note: Points deleted for un-decorated tow vehicle**

3. **Vehicle Categories**

- a. Classic Car Club (25 to 50 yrs. old)-Clubs only; 8 cars per entry maximum.
- b. Antique Car Club (50+ yrs. old) - Clubs only; 8 cars per entry maximum.
- c. Classic Car (25 to 50 yrs. old) – Individual vehicle
- d. Antique Car (50+ yrs. old) – Individual vehicle<sup>SEP</sup>
- e. Decorated Vehicle(less than 25 yrs. old) Individual vehicle

**Judging Criteria for all Vehicles**

- i. Classic/Antique vehicles will be prejudged at lineup area by highly qualified judges.
- ii. Car club entries with less than 4 vehicles will not be judged.

4. **Cheerleaders – Judging Criteria<sup>SEP</sup>**

- a. Performance (partially pre-judged at lineup area) 1-60 points
- b. Jumps (15 pts.), motions (15pts.), spirit (15 pts.), performance<sup>SEP</sup>(15 pts.)
- c. Decorated support vehicle (1-10 pts.)
- d. Crowd appeal and Marching routine (1-30 pts.)
- e. Possible total points – 100 points
  - i. **NOTE: Any entry that stops to perform at the Review Stand or along the parade route shall be ineligible for an award.**

5. **Drill Teams - Judging Criteria<sup>SEP</sup>**

- a. Performance (partially pre-judged at lineup area) 1-50 pts.
- b. Overall appearance (1-20 pts.)
- c. Crowd appeal and Marching routine (1-30 pts.)
- d. Possible total points – 100 points
  - i. **NOTE: Any entry that stops to perform at the Review**

Stand or along the parade route shall be ineligible for an award.

6. **Marching/Walking Units** (Not Live Music) Categories: Youth and Adult<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> Judging Criteria
  - a. Overall appearance (1-30 pts.)
  - b. Precision<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub> (1-30 pts)
  - c. Special Effects (1-30 pts.)
  - d. Possible total points - 100 points
7. **Marching Bands** – Not affiliated with Arlington ISD; Live Music
8. **Marching Bands** – School<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
  - a. High School Bands are not judged for their Parade performances, per the request of the AISD.
9. **Musical entries other than Marching Bands** –Live
  - a. Music Only
10. **Mounted Units**
  - a. Will be judged by experienced Judges.
  - b. All horses are required to have a negative Coggins test within the past 12 months and have proof of test at the Parade.
11. **Clowns**<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
12. **Bicycle Groups – Youth and Adult**
  - a. Bicycle groups wearing appropriate safety gear are eligible for bonus points
  - b. All bicycle riders must adhere to City of Arlington bike safety rules. All riders under 18 yrs. of age must wear a helmet.

13. **Unique** – Commercial and Non-commercial<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
  - a. Any entry that does not fit in any other category. Divided into commercial and non-commercial entries, with trophies awarded in each category.  
Judging Criteria
  
14. **Dignitaries** – will not be judged<sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>
  - a. Elected officials, Sponsors of the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Association, Grand Marshal, Invited dignitaries
  
15. **Community Service** – will not be judged
  - a. This category is limited to the official vehicles of non-profit organizations (e.g.; Red Cross; Handitran; etc.)