

# 2024 DR. MARTIN L. KING, JR. PARADE

## RULES – REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

**\*\*PLEASE READ AND INFORM ALL PARTICIPANTS\*\***

Revised September 27, 2023

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The intent of the MLK Day Parade is for participants of all ages to have fun, remember Dr. King’s legacy and show how they can be part of keeping his dream alive. The floats and various entries should convey the theme and be appropriate for viewing by children and adults. Parade Marshals, Law Enforcement and Security Personnel and Super Volunteers will be posted along the parade route to ensure the safety of the parade participants and guests, as well as ensure continual forward movement and proper spacing between entries.

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**All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and three-wheelers are STRICTLY PROHIBITED from participating in the parade -- NO EXCEPTIONS.**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

1. Parade start time is 11:00am January 15, 2024 at the corner of N. Detroit Ave. and John Hope Franklin Blvd. Units will keep straight for the entire parade route, loop at the Greenwood Hook and end at Archer and Elgin to disperse. **Forward motion MUST be maintained at all times unless instructed by a parade official and/or law enforcement.** You must remain in your designated waiting area until your group is directed to the parade line-up. If you cannot be found in your designated waiting area, you will forfeit your position.
2. Any person or primary contact/applicant for an entry that is responsible for submitting and/or signing the required acknowledgment forms, shall advise **all** entry participants of these rules and regulations.
3. **The primary contact/applicant shall be responsible for the conduct of all its participants and agrees to notify all participants of the rules and regulations.**
4. **All vehicles and floats must be in the formation area by 8:30am. No exceptions.**
5. **ALL** units admitted to the staging area must have properly designated staging credentials/passes and the assigned number card issued by the MLK Commemoration Society. Units arriving at the staging area without proper credentials and/or assigned number cards will **NOT** be allowed to participate in the parade.
6. **Parade packets, with all credentials, will be available for pick-up prior to parade day on: Saturday, 1/06/24 – OSU Auditorium - 8:00am-12:00pm**
7. Packets not picked up prior to parade day will be at the Command Tent on parade day, but **must be picked up prior to judging start (8:30am).**
8. You are responsible for your entry numbers. If lost prior to parade day and replacement is requested, you will be charged \$5 for re-issuing your number(s). If on parade day you don’t have your officially issued number, you will NOT be admitted into the staging area & report to Command Tent.
9. All parade units/entries must comply with the maximum number of participants per entry.

## PARADE DAY INFORMATION:

1. All units should park at their designated spot/number; we will come by and check you in.
2. All units admitted to the staging area without proper passes or assigned number cards will not be allowed to participate in the parade.
3. **Judging begins at 8:30am.**
4. The entry number must be clearly displayed in the **UPPER RIGHT-HAND** corner of the windshield or on the banner in front of your entry.
5. All entries involving children will inform parents or guardians that they **CANNOT** drop children off and/or leave them unattended in the staging area. The MLK Commemoration Society, and parade committee cannot be responsible for getting participants to the entry they are affiliated with.
6. **Absolutely NOTHING can be thrown from vehicles or floats,** or by any parade participant for public safety, littering and health regulations. Items can be handed to parade watchers, however riders on floats and vehicles **CANNOT** exit the vehicle while in motion to distribute the information or products.
7. Entries who distribute any campaign and/or advertising materials, or any items which may become litter to the area, must take full responsibility for any claims, objections, disputes, etc., which may arise. By signing the Rules and Regulations acknowledgement form, entry gives permission to the MLK Commemorations Society to release entry contact information should a claimant request same. A clean-up fee may be assessed to your entry and you are subject to a littering citation and fine by the City of Tulsa.
8. **ALL UNITS MUST MAINTAIN FORWARD MOTION** unless directed otherwise by the official MLK Parade Staff and/or Law Enforcement. Doing so eliminates or lessens the gaps between the units. If stops do occur, move forward at a walking pace by a safe distance from exhausts until the gap is eliminated. Do not speed up to close a gap as this could create a cascading effect on your float or entry that could potentially become dangerous.
9. All routines are limited to **one (1) 45 second (maximum) demonstration in a forward motion,** through the TV area. There will be a sign indicating **"Play for TV Now"** which will start your demonstration appearance on TV. **THERE ARE NO EXCEPTIONS!! YOU WILL BE ASKED TO STOP YOUR ROUTINE AND CONTINUE MARCHING THROUGH THE PARADE. ALL UNITS MUST MAINTAIN FORWARD MOTION.** Counter marching, reverse marching, and/or stopping the forward motion of the parade without specific instruction to do so **will not be permitted.** **Entrants may only perform at the designated TV area. Should your group/entry stop and delay the parade at another point, and refuse to move along when asked to do so, any awards that you may have won will be forfeited and you will forfeit your participation in future parades.**
10. Once the parade begins, all children **UNDER 12 YEARS OF AGE** must be on a float or in a vehicle with adult supervision, except for those performing in drill team/dance ensemble routines or carrying banners. Children cannot choose to get on and off a float/vehicle as they please. We want to avoid any mishaps that might occur from this.
11. **The parade ends at Archer & Elgin – Do not stop, disband or exit parade until reaching this point and following Parade Officials' direction to proper location.**

## PARADE DAY JUDGING INFORMATION

1. **Judging begins at 8:30am for any entry being judged.**
2. **Entries competing for awards must be made up of representatives from within the registered company, organization or group name on the entry. Family members, friends, etc. of employees of the aforementioned are not eligible to participate in judging, but can be part of the entry afterwards once the parade has started. Company identification may be required.**
3. Float entries being judged must have a representative present to explain to the judges how their float reflects/represents and/or shows their interpretation of the theme, method of construction, etc.
4. All bands and drill team units that wish to be judged will limit their routine/act to a period of 90 seconds. A signal will be given at the 20-second mark and any group/individual exceeding the designated time will be disqualified for awards.
5. Judging will end at 10:15am and awards presented.

## FLOAT INFORMATION:

1. **All floats must be in the formation area no later than 8:30am.** Those arriving after that time may not be allowed into staging area and/or will be admitted, if convenient, at the Parade Officials discretion.
2. Float entries being judged must have a representative present to explain to the judges how their float reflects/represents and/or shows their interpretation of the theme, method of construction, etc.
3. **Float judging begins at 8:30am.**
4. Maximum length of float entries and tow vehicle is 50 feet. Maximum width is 20 feet. Maximum height is 15 feet.
5. A fire extinguisher and first aid kit must be aboard each vehicle and easily accessible.
6. All drivers must have a valid/current driver license and have proof of liability insurance in each vehicle at all times.

## VEHICLE INFORMATION:

1. **All vehicles must be in the formation area no later than 8:30am.** Those arriving after that time may not be allowed into staging area and/or will be admitted, if convenient, at the Parade Officials discretion.
2. All-terrain vehicles (ATVs) and three-wheelers are STRICTLY PROHIBITED from participating in the parade.
3. All drivers must have a valid/current driver license and have proof of liability insurance in each vehicle at all times.
4. A copy of the driver's valid insurance certificate must be on file at the Command Post **no later than 8:30am on parade day**, or the vehicle will not be allowed to participate in the parade.
5. **All vehicles MUST be decorated**, which can include balloons, streamers, flags, bunting, flowers, fringe, tassels and other materials. Decorations **MUST** be appropriate for public display utilizing the parade theme. Current MLK theme posters will be available at the Command Tent for purchase. If not decorated, will not be allowed in the parade.
6. Drivers must maintain a minimum of 6-8 feet (approximately 1 ½ car lengths) from the preceding unit, unless they are a music car for a drill team or marching group.
7. Car clubs will be limited to a maximum of 10 vehicles, and must be decorated.

### **MARCHING/WALKING GROUP INFORMATION:**

1. Marching and walking groups must be preceded by a banner or sign to indicate the name of the organization.
2. If your marching/walking group has a performance routine, it can **only be performed one (1) time for a maximum of 45 seconds in a forward movement through the TV area.** There will be a sign indicating when the routine can begin (**"Play for TV Now"**) and your group **must not impede the flow of the parade or create a gap.** Counter marching, reverse marching and/or stopping the forward motion of the parade without specific instructions to do so will not be permitted.

### **BANDS / DRILL TEAM INFORMATION:**

1. **Bands / Drill team units will be judged at 8:30am in a designated area by the Hospitality Tent.**
2. During the parade, entrants may only perform **one (1) time, for maximum 45 seconds in a forward movement** through TV down the parade route. There will be a sign indicating when the routine can begin (**"Play for TV now"**) and your group **must not impede the flow of the parade or create a gap.**
3. Counter marching, reverse marching and/or stopping the forward motion of the parade without specific instructions to do so **will not be permitted.** Should your group/entry stop and perform and not move along when asked to do so, any awards that you may have won will be forfeited and you will forfeit your participation in future parades. Your cooperation will assist in reducing delays and gaps along the parade route and ensure all entries get an opportunity to be on TV.

### **HORSE INFORMATION:**

1. All units involving horses will be the **last parade entries,** unless otherwise designated by parade officials.
2. All horses and handlers will be "parade ready" and will have prior experience.
3. All horses will have proper shoes to safely walk on the parade route.
4. Horse entries must have pooper scoopers that follow immediately behind their horses.
5. Horse riders MUST ENSURE that their horses have tail bags or have an officially designated **check-in scooper** who trails and cleans behind their animal the entire route. **The scoopers must check in at the Command Post** and will receive credentials for admittance into the parade area. Horse units without tail bags and/or officially designated scoopers will not be permitted to participate in the parade.

### **MOTORCYCLE INFORMATION:**

1. All motorcycle drivers must have a valid/current driver license and proof of liability insurance with them at all times.
2. Motorcycles must keep both wheels on the ground at all times.
3. Motorcycle entries will not make unnecessary noise, will not "pop wheelies" or do any unsafe stunts or routines.
4. Riders agree to straight, street riding only.

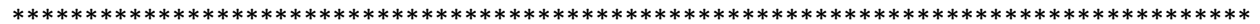
**TENT INFORMATION:**

1. The MLK Commemoration Society must approve the set-up of any tent at the parade site no later than one (1) week prior to parade day.
2. All requirements from the City of Tulsa must also be met, including permits.
3. The MLK Commemoration Society takes no responsibility and/or liability for the tent, occupants or items inside.



All performances must be in good taste. This is a family event that is being televised locally and possibly nationally, therefore routines and/or expressions of a lewd, obscene and/or sexual nature are expressly prohibited and likewise actions portraying violent, abusive and/or offensive behavior are not permitted and will be grounds for removal. Please see the official Rules and Regulations for any additional information for performances during the parade. Please adhere to these Rules and Regulations.

The MLK Commemoration Society, parade committee and parade officials reserve the right to disqualify any entry not complying with these rules-regulations and guidelines and/or the spirit of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemoration festivities.



I hereby acknowledge, accept and will abide with the Rules and Regulations set forth for the MLK Parade and will advise all other participants in my entry of the same.

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PRINT/SIGN NAME

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GROUP ENTRY NAME

**PLEASE KEEP THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE**

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Commemorations Society, Inc.

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