



SHREWSBURY STREET ITALIAN HERITAGE PARADE

PARADE STANDARDS

AND REGULATIONS

ESTABLISHED JANUARY 2023

RULES GOVERNING PARTICIPATION IN THE

SHREWSBURY STREET ITALIAN HERITAGE PARADE

Please carefully read the following information. It is basic information for parade participants.

These rules are necessary for the Parade Committee to present the best possible viewing event for the audience on the street. Because of this each participating unit must adhere to the regulations of the Parade Committee and to directives given by the Parade Committee Marshals on the day of the Parade.

As a condition of participation in the Parade, your unit must sign the participation agreement indicating that you have read this information and agree to abide by these Parade standards. *The “Responsible Person” signing the agreement takes on the responsibility of informing all persons associated with the unit of the rules, and regulations and that person should be present at the parade.*

I. AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PARADE FOR PARTICIPANTS

The purpose of the Shrewsbury Street Italian Heritage Parade is to provide:

- 1) A traditional forum for the Shrewsbury Street Italian Heritage Parade Community to honor and demonstrate its Italian Culture, heritage, and contributions to the United States as a part of its multi-cultural community.
- 2) Entertainment for the Citizens of Worcester County Massachusetts.
 - a) To be considered family oriented and
 - b) To be exclusive of social and political protest, except for matters pertaining to the reunification of Italy and then such an entry must be peaceful.
- 3) A forum for other ethnic communities to participate
- 4) Participation only by invitation of the voting members.

Over the years, the size of the Parade has grown, and the quality of the participating units has increased. Each year more and more units have sought to enter the Parade. With the Parade's increased popularity and with beginning of live television coverage of the Parade the timing of the Parade's movement and limitation of the number of participating units has become necessary. The quality of each participating unit's presentation to the audience is both the key to a successful Parade and to selection for participation. We invite what our viewers want – the best units!

You have been invited based on the anticipated quality of your unit's participation.

II. RELATIONSHIP OF PARTICIPATING UNIT TO THE PARADE COMMITTEE

2.1 Role of Parade Operations Director(s) – As director(s) of operations has final decision on acceptance of participants in this Parade and may eliminate participants for failure to meet and adhere to the rules governing participation in the Shrewsbury Street Italian Heritage Parade.

2.2 Who can Participate?

- a) The Parade is the exclusive property, activity and presentation of the non-profit corporation, Shrewsbury Street Italian Heritage Parade. The names of events, symbols, emblems, and designs pertaining to the Parade and the logo of the Parade Committee may be registered trademarks and may not be used by any participating organization or other organization or individual except with the prior permission of the Parade Committee.
- b) Participation in the Parade is only by invitation from the Shrewsbury Street Italian Heritage Parade via its Chairman. Units invited are those that have an entertainment value to the viewers because of the float of the participants.
- c) Only those invited units that have submitted a signed, written Parade Participation Agreement to the Parade Committee by the deadlines specified each year are eligible to participate.

2.3 Invitation to Participate.

- a) Invitations to participate are extended to marching and musical units and floats sponsored by the Chairman and the Parade Committee with a deadline for acceptance within thirty days. If vacancies occur, additional invitations may be sent at the discretion of the Parade Chairman with thirty days response deadlines. Uninvited units that attempt to march will be ejected immediately.
- b) Organizations interested in participating in the Shrewsbury Street Italian Heritage Parade must write a letter stating their interest and describing their unit to – Parade Committee Chairman
Shrewsbury Street Italian Heritage Parade
P. O. Box 4462
Shrewsbury, MA 01545
- c) Organization information regarding eligibility for participation. If the organization is still interested, the Parade Participant Agreement is reviewed by the invitations committee.
- d) The Parade Committee reviews all applications and recommends those who further the purpose of the Parade as stated herein and whose presentation reflects the high standards of quality of the Parade. The Parade Chairman then sends invitations to recommended applicants
Acceptance is required within thirty days.

3.9 All musical units are responsible for their own transportation from the end of the Parade back to the beginning of the Parade.

3.10 The right is reserved to remove any participating unit from the line of march at any time for safety reasons, indecorous behavior, or noncompliance with the Participation Agreement.

IV. GENERAL

4.1 All decisions regarding compliance with the Parade Participation Agreement will be made on the day of the Parade by the Operations Chairman or by the Parade Chairman at any time before the day of the Parade. No one else on

the Parade Committee is authorized to waive or modify these rules or agree to any variance. Any exceptions or variance must be in writing and approved in advance.

- 4.2 There is to be no drinking of alcoholic beverages or unlawful use of controlled or illegal substances in the staging area or in the line of march. There is to be no eating or drinking or any beverages in the line of march. Violators will be immediately evicted from the Parade and future participation.
- 4.3 All units are expected to immediately follow the directions of the Parade Committee Marshals.
- 4.4 Any Parade participant arriving at the staging area in other than a bus will have to unload and leave his/her vehicle outside the staging area.
- 4.5 There is no parking in the staging area. Vehicles in the staging area will be towed away at the owner's expense.
- 4.6 Only buses will be permitted into the staging area. Buses upon arriving at the staging area entrance will be directed by Parade Committee Marshals to the unit's assembly point. Before arriving at the staging area, bus drivers should be familiar with the staging area map sent to each unit. Buses must be immediately off-loaded and leave the staging area. Buses will be directed to the post parade assembly pick up location. Buses are not to be used in the staging area for dressing or for lounging.
- 4.7 Failure to follow the directions of the uniformed Parade Committee Marshals or interfering with the Parade is a breach of the Parade Participation Agreement.
- 4.8 If a unit is directed to leave the line of march or the staging area, the participating unit agrees to do so immediately.

A REMINDER

The Shrewsbury Street Italian Heritage Parade Committee is trying to present the best quality event possible for the viewers watching on the street. These rules are intended to serve that purpose. That is the only reason for them. They should be considered – as they are named – “standards” of quality. We seek a quality event in its entirety.

The Parade Committee is delighted that you share this objective and are interested in participating in the presentation of one of the finest annual Parades held in the Northeastern United States. We look forward to the “March”.

V. FLOATS

5.1 Definition. A float is a decorated vehicle designed and built to reflect the theme of the Parade and which is capable of being judged.

5.2 All floats must be approved by the Float Committee before entering the line of march. The Parade Committee retains the right to reject float designs that in its sole opinion do not reflect the theme of the Parade or does not meet the definition of a float.

5.3 Each float must always adhere to one of the four themes symbolic of the Parade, Religious, Italian, Patriotic and Open Class.

5.4 for safety reasons, floats are not to exceed 14 feet in height. The driver and/or assistant must always stay with the vehicle.

5.5 At no time shall a float enter the line of march until ordered to do so by a properly identified member of the Parade Committee Marshals in the staging area.

5.6 The right is reserved to remove any float from the line of march at any time, for safety reasons, and indecorous behavior, or for structural instability.

5.7 Samples of merchandise, candy or other articles are prohibited from being thrown from floats or distributed by other persons associated with the float and unit while the Parade is in progress. Float themes, riders and out walkers may not solicit anything from the Parade viewers.

5.8 (a) No person is permitted to ride on a float in the Parade other than those selected and designated by the sponsor to appear thereon, and the drive of the float.

(b) Float riders are to be used only when they serve a useful function to the overall theme of the float and must be costumed appropriately to fit the theme.

c) Although it is the policy of the Parade Committee to discourage out walkers and more than seven riders on a float, consideration will be given to the use of out walkers and expansion of float rider count where it is deemed vital to support the theme of the float. Out walkers must be uniformly costumed, and the costume must be appropriate to and coordinated with the theme of the float.

(d) No person may leave or climb off or climb on to a float during the Parade or after the float has left the staging area.

5.9 Safety precautions: Law requires that the tail pipe of each float must be a fireproof extension to extend at least 6 inches (6") beyond the float skirt.

5.10 Judging:

(a) All floats may be previewed by judged prior to the Parade in the forming and staging area – and must be at the staging area in the slot assigned to you at the time designated.

(b) Some awards designations may be made prior to the start of the Parade. If this happens, the Award designation will be placed in front of the float at the start of the Parade.

(c) Otherwise, judging will take place at some point along the parade route and awards will be presented later and location.

5.11 Post Parade; Float builders are responsible for delivering and removing their floats to and from the Post Parade area within the time constraints established by the Parade.

5.12 Security: The Parade Committee takes no responsibility for security in the staging area or post parade area or for losses. The builder is responsible for security of floats, equipment, and material always.

<http://www.shrewsburyitalianheritageparade.com>