

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ANNUAL REUNION PARADE

REVISED October 2009

Parade Lineup as follows:

State Association

Police Escort
Miracle Run Committee
Color Guard
State Parade Chairman
State Band
Grand Lodge Sponsor
Newly Installed State President
Retiring State President
Convention Chairman
Bikes with Past State Presidents and New State Officers
Host City Lodge

State President's Region Leads Parade, State President's District is first within region:

District Lineup:

1. District Banner
2. Car with the Vice President, State Trustee & District Deputy
3. District Lineup is arranged by mutual consent of the District and Lodge Chairmen.

District's rotate within their region each year:

Example (year one)

East
East Central
North Central
Northwest
Northeast
North

Example (year two)

East Central
North Central
Northwest
Northeast
North
East

The previous year lead off District drops to last position - all others move up one.

SECTION A

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

- 1.) Vice President's will be responsible for getting their own vehicle. A convertible is preferred. The State Trustee and District Deputy will ride in the same vehicle. The signs for the cars should be ordered through the District Parade Chairman so they are all uniform 18" long x 24" wide. The Vice President, State Trustee and District Deputy must review their District from the reviewing stand.
- 2.) A Lodge or Region that sponsors a poster child will be responsible for providing a vehicle and informing the District Chairman so that proper signs may be ordered.
- 3.) Each Lodge is allowed six (6) automobiles in the parade two (2) abreast. Their occupants are only counted as participants. The District chairman should be notified as to how many in each car. Each car must have a sign with Lodge Name and Number. If two (2) abreast sign must be on outside doors. If only one car, signs are required on both sides. They must be 18" long x 24" wide and can be purchased from the State Parade Committee.
- 4.) Buses are not permitted in the parade. They should discharge their passengers at least one-half hour before step-off time on Pacific Ave. and proceed to the bus parking area.
- 5.) To Keep the parade moving we ask you keep these distances:
 - 1) Between Districts – 100 Feet
 - 2) Between Lodges – 25 Feet
 - 3) Between Units in the Lodge – 15 Feet.These distances are required in order to assist with judging process. This will also avoid Lodges being split as police direct cross traffic.
- 6.) The use of "out men" to keep cadence is permitted as follows:
If the unit consists of 25 marchers, but not exceeding 50, one man is permitted at rank #7. This man does not have to fall-in at the judging area. If unit is over 50 marchers one man at every 7th rank is permitted.
- 7.) A Lodge leading a District is required to have music and must also have the required number of marchers for its membership category. A Vice President's Lodge must also conform to this rule.
- 8.) No band vehicles are permitted in the parade with the exception of handicapped bands. Special requests will be considered.
- 9.) Any Lodge musical unit that delays the parade for any reason will have 10% deducted from that Lodge's music score.

- 10.) The American Flag is not to be dipped; it should always be at the far right of all flags and have a guard. Any violations will result in a 10% penalty in Lodge appearance score.
- 11.) If a float arrives at the judging area at its scheduled time and has a problem, that Lodge will have fifteen (15) minutes to correct the problem, after which it will be judged as is.
- 12.) If a float breaks down on the way to the judging area, please send someone to the judging area to notify the committee of the problem. If not notified, committee will assume float is not coming to be judged.
- 13.) The theme of the parade must appear on the float exactly as presented by the State Parade Committee and as printed on the Parade Entry Form. Failure to comply will result in a 10% deduction on the final float score.
- 14.) If a float loses mobility it must be removed from the parade.
- 15.) If a float does not complete the entire parade route with its Lodge there will be a 10% deduction in the final float score.
- 16.) Sunglasses are permitted in the line of march.
- 17.) Sneakers are permissible as long as they are the same color and the same style.
- 18.) If a Lodge is not participating in the parade and a member of that Lodge wishes to participate, that member may march with another Lodge from that District. It will be necessary for the member to receive consent from the Lodge that he will be marching with and the State Parade Committee must be given a least 30 days notification in writing. It is further understood that the participation of that member will not add to said Lodge's percentage of marchers.
- 19.) If a Lodge or member thereof flagrantly breaks the published parade rules or behaves in conduct unbecoming an elk, this will be noted and that Lodge will be totally disqualified from that Parade. That Lodge will then be considered probationary and will remain as such indefinitely. If a probationary Lodge receives a second disqualification in a subsequent parade it will then be given a two-year suspension.
- 20.) All protests and/or complaints must be made to the State Parade Chairman or your Region Chairman no later than one-half hour after the finish of the parade.
- 21.) After completing the parade route and returning to your Lodge motel, please use the sidewalk so as not to interfere with those Lodges still participating in the parade.

- 22.) Trophies will be awarded early Saturday Evening and must be signed for by the Exalted Ruler or Parade Chairman. Duplicate awards will be given at a later date. Names inscribed on the awards are the names of the donor, not the winners.
- 23.) Anyone desiring to be a parade marshal should so advise the district chairman who will report this to the State Chairman for approval.

SECTION B

Governors Trophy (Best Overall – State Award)

To be eligible for this trophy a Lodge must have an entry in each of the following categories: **Banner Carriers, Color Guard, Esquire, Music, Exalted Ruler, Float**, Marching Unit which will be judged separately for **Marching Ability** and for **Appearance**. The total score of these eight (8) categories will determine the winner of the above named trophy.

Best Overall – Membership Group Awards

To qualify for this award a Lodge must have an entry in at least six (6) of the following categories: **Banner Carriers, Color Guard, Esquire, Music, Exalted Ruler, Float**, Marching Unit which will be judged separately for **Marching Ability** and for **Appearance**. The combined score of each of the categories entered will determine the total score.

Example:

6 Categories entered – add score from each of six categories

7 Categories entered – add score from each of seven categories

8 Categories entered – add score from each of eight categories

1. Number of Marchers required are:

Lodge membership under 200 – 15 marchers minimum

Lodge membership over 200 – 25 marchers minimum

Failure to comply is reason for disqualification.

2. The only riders that are counted are Grand Lodge Officers, State Officers and their drivers, float drivers and members riding on a float.

3. Other members who will be counted are Parade Marshals and members of the State Parade Committee.

Best Banner Carriers

1. Must be Lodge Members

2. Must be carrying Banner bearing Lodge Name and Number

3. Must be uniformly dressed same as Lodge Unit.

4. Must march the entire parade route.

Failure to comply is a 5% penalty.

Color Guard

1. Minimum of three (3) members, American Flag and a Guard on the right and left side of the flag bearer. (See Section A, #10).

2. A Color Guard entered as special dress (military style) uniform that does not in fact meet this description, or

A Color Guard entered and dressed the same as lodge marching unit, which in fact is dressed in (military style) uniform.

3. If a Color Guard wears a special (military style) uniform, they may bear rifles or side arm.
4. If a Color Guard does not wear special (military style) uniforms, they cannot bear rifles or side arm.
5. A Color Guard cannot be professional (Armed Forces) except if they are members of the Lodge on active duty, this is reason for disqualification.

Failure to comply with 1 thru 4 above will result in a 10% penalty.

Best Esquire

1. Duly appointed and installed for this fraternal year.
2. Must march the entire parade route.
3. Must carry in his left hand the Grand Lodge approved Baton.
4. Substitutes who have not been reported in writing to the State Committee will not be judged.

Failure to comply is a 5% penalty.

Musical Units

1. Band must play in the designated area and continue playing past the reviewing stand. Signs to alert the musical unit to play will be posted.
2. Elk sponsored units must carry a banner showing the name and number of the sponsoring Lodge. To be considered Elk sponsored, they must receive at least 51% of their income and be supervised by that Lodge.
3. Bagpipers must maintain at least 100 beats per minute.
4. Professionals will be disqualified. (Those who earn a living as full-time musicians).
5. Concerts or exhibitions anywhere along the parade route, or drilling not in a forward motion will result in a 10% penalty, unless requested to do so by State Chairman or Advisor.

Best Exalted Ruler

1. Must be duly elected for this fraternal year.
2. Must march the entire parade route.
3. Must wear mandatory sash with the Lodge number.
4. Substitutes who have not been reported in writing to the State Committee will not be judged.

Failure to comply is a 5% penalty.

Marching Unit – Ability

1. Marchers in step with music.
2. Eyes and heads looking straight ahead.
3. Straight line of march (vertically).
4. Straight line of march (horizontally)
5. Conducting self in ladylike or gentlemanly manner.

Marching Unit – Appearance

1. Minimum number of marchers required per membership (See Section B, Number 1).
2. All marchers uniformly dressed within the Lodge unit, unless a dress resume has been presented to conform to the theme. Written request to the State Chairman required at least 30 days prior to parade.
3. Female marchers will be permitted to wear a uniform equivalent to the men's uniform. Skirts should be knee length or longer. No shorts or culottes are permitted.
4. The only exceptions are the Color Guard, if in Military Style Uniforms, or people in costume with the Float.
5. Marching Unit minimum is 4 Abreast.
6. Exalted Ruler wearing mandatory sash.
7. Esquire carrying the Baton in the Left hand.

Floats

1. A typed and sealed resume along with three- (3) one-page highlight sheets must be in the hands of the State Parade Chairman by 10:00 A.M. Friday morning of the Convention. Check with your District Chairman for the date.
2. Floats must be at the judging area at the time that appears on the float-judging schedule.
3. Anyone assigned to the float must be there in costume for judging.
4. Three judges will evaluate the following points:
 - a.) Theme: Must be displayed either in the front, back or on both sides of the float. (Refer to Rule #13 in the General Rules and Regulations).
 - b.) Complexity & Completeness of workmanship.
 - c.) Originality
 - d.) Effectiveness & Appeal to the general public.
 - e.) Size: Height not to exceed 14 feet, not to interfere with overhead wires.
Length, no restrictions
Width not to exceed 12 feet.
 - f.) Display Lodge name and number either in Front, Back or on both sides. No political or advertising slogans permitted.
 - g.) No extra points will be given for self-propelled floats.
5. Reasons for Disqualification of the Float:
 - a.) If built by a non-member for a fee or donation, it will be considered professionally built.
 - b.) Resume not submitted on time and/or not having the required three (3) one page highlight sheets.
 - c.) Any interference with the judges performance of their duties.
 - d.) Horseplay by people on the float or persons not properly attired.

Oldest Marcher

1. Must march the entire parade route.
2. The form containing name, age and date of birth (example: John Doe, age 90, 5/1/10) must be turned into the District Chairman prior to the District stepping off.

Failure to comply is reason for disqualification.

Oldest Participant

1. May ride the entire parade route or partially march and ride whichever they choose.
2. Name, age and date of birth (example: John Doe, age 90, 5/1/10) must be turned into the District Chairman prior to the District stepping off.

Failure to comply is reason for disqualification.

Membership Group Awards will be presented for both **Highest Percentage of Marchers** and also for **Highest Percentage of Participants** in each of the following membership groups.

250 Members or less

251-500 Members

501 Members and above

SECTION C

General Reasons for Disqualification

1. Not returning questionnaires or revolving trophies, not answering correspondence by the required dates.
2. Drinking beer or alcoholic beverages in the line of march or concealing alcoholic beverages in vehicles. Drinking beer or alcoholic beverage at the beginning or end of parade.
3. Throwing any objects, candy, gum, balloons etc. from the ranks, cars or floats during the course of the parade.
4. Any actions or gestures which will reflect adversely on the order of Elks.
5. Solicitations of any kind by parade participants.
6. Wearing of Lodge jewels by the Officers.
7. Having non-members men, women or children in the marching unit. Non-members may only participate as part of the musical unit or be assigned to the float.
8. Lodge unit not uniformly dressed. Wearing T-shirts, or jeans without approval of the State Parade Committee.
9. Passengers not seated safely in vehicles.
10. Any Lodge unit that does not march the entire parade route from the assigned starting point to the finishing point and/or not dispersing where directed to do so by police officers or parade marshal.

SECTION D

Understanding The Parade Awards

The majority of our awards are presented as STATE AWARDS and MEMBERSHIP GROUP AWARDS.

STATE AWARDS

These awards are presented for the highest scores achieved throughout the parade. For example, we will use the State Award for Best Esquire. The Esquire who has achieved the highest score among all the qualified Esquires in the parade wins the State Award for Best Esquire. The 2nd place Best Esquire State Award is given to the qualified Esquire with the second highest score. Once an individual captures a State Award they are eliminated from receiving a Membership Group Award in that particular category (in this example BEST ESQUIRE).

MEMBERSHIP GROUP AWARDS

250 Members or Less

251 to 500 Members

501 and over

These awards are presented for the highest score achieved among the Lodges in their membership category. Again, let's take the Esquire. An esquire who has the 10th lowest score in the parade, but the highest score in the 250 member or less group will win a Membership Group Award for Best Esquire.

The highest award is a State Award. **Individuals and Lodges who win State Awards are no longer eligible to win Membership Group Awards.**

SECTION E

ANTLER RULES

General Rules and Regulations for Antlers Lodges

1. Section A of Rules and Regulations for Annual Reunion Parade (Revised October 2009) where applicable will apply.
2. Antler marching unit should line up immediately following Elk Marching Unit, in front of Lodge Float or Antler Float if Elks Lodge does not have a float.
3. If Elk Lodge and Antler Lodge each have a float the Antler float should be positioned behind the Elk Float in the line of March.

Rules for Judging Antler Lodge Floats

1. Floats must be at the judging area at the time that appears on the float-judging schedule.
2. Anyone assigned to the float must be in their costume at time of judging.
3. Three judges will evaluate the following points:
 - a.) Complexity & Completeness of workmanship.
 - b.) Originality
 - c.) Effectiveness & Appeal to the general public.
 - d.) Size: Height not to exceed 14 feet, not to interfere with overhead wires.
Length, no restrictions
Width not to exceed 12 feet.
4. Reasons for Disqualification of the Float:
 - a.) If built by a non-member for a fee or donation, it will be considered professionally built.
 - b.) Any interference with the judge's performance of their duties.
 - c.) Horseplay by people on the float or persons not properly attired.

Original Antler rules adopted May 2, 2006