



CHICKASAW FESTIVAL PARADE

2023 RULES AND GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATION

The following rules have been developed to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all parade participants and spectators:

1. **All parade entries must submit a completed Parade Entry Form to:**
April Burris
The Chickasaw Nation Department of Commerce
2020 Lonnie Abbott Blvd.
Ada, OK 74820
Fax: (580) 272-1282
Email: APRIL.BURRIS3@Chickasaw.net
2. **All entries must be present at their assigned starting position no later than 10:30 a.m.**
Participants should arrive early enough to finish final preparation of entries by this time. Staff will be available beginning at 10 a.m. to assist with entry preparation, as needed.
3. **Starting positions and check-in locations for entries are as follows:**
 - A. **VIPs, elected tribal officials, invited dignitaries and special guests** - Dignitary vehicles will stage for the parade along the south side of the Aaitafama' Ishto Event Center.
 - B. **All floats and decorated vehicles** - Stage at the former Chickasaw Nation Community Center/Gymnasium at 1109 Ray Branum Road. Enter the staging area along the north side of 1200 W. Main.
 - C. **Horse or other animal entries** - Gravel lot adjacent to Mosley Avenue (between West Main and Ray Branum Road)
 - D. **Walking entries** - Northwest corner of Rennie and West Main
 - E. **Band entries** - South Ward Street to West Neil Armstrong, between Ward and Capital Street
4. **Personal vehicles will not be allowed to park in areas designated for parade entries except for horse entries.**
5. **Entries will be responsible for keeping their designated individual lineup areas clean and should bring trash bags to clean up any mess resulting from entry preparation.**
6. **All late entries will be placed at the end of the parade line at their starting locations.**

7. **Parade staff will be stationed at all designated lineup locations and along the parade route to ensure the safety of parade participants and spectators and to keep the parade moving.**
8. **Parade staff (wearing high-visibility vests) will guide entries along the parade route.**
9. **The Tishomingo Police Department, Johnston County Sheriff's Office, Oklahoma Highway Patrol, BIA Officers, Lighthorse Police and area fire departments will assist in directing traffic throughout the parade route. They will also serve as designated first responders in an emergency situation.** In the event of an emergency, call 911.
10. **Parade entry drivers must be prepared to stop at any time to allow other entries to enter the parade. Parade entry drivers must obey the instructions of parade staff and emergency personnel at all times.**
11. **At the end of the parade dignitary vehicles will travel north on Cheadle Street (three blocks east of Byrd) up to 6th Street; then west to the events center.**
12. **Roundup Club entrants will travel south on Byrd to the rodeo arena.**
13. **Parade float entries are asked to not stop at the end of the parade route on Main Street and/or South Byrd Street to unload, but proceed to the Chickasaw Nation Nutrition Center parking lot/field for offloading.**
14. **Walking entry participants may be picked up in the parking area at Sooner Foods located at 101 S. Byrd St.** Walking entry participants should not be loaded or unloaded in the street under any circumstances as this poses a serious safety issue.
15. **Parade staff will assist marching bands in lining up in the appropriate order. Directional signage will be posted.** At the end of the parade route, parade staff will direct bands back to their buses stationed at East 9th St. and North Byrd St. to travel to Tishomingo High School for the remainder of the Band Day Extravaganza.
16. **Parade participants will not be allowed to ride on the hood or roof of parade vehicles.**
17. **Parade officials reserve the right to remove entries from the parade lineup for unsafe or inappropriate behavior or for use of inappropriate or potentially disruptive signage and/or language.**
18. **The throwing of candy, food items, toys or any other object from floats, decorated vehicles, walking entries or any parade participant is strictly prohibited.** Entries wishing to distribute such items must designate walkers to accompany them and hand the items to spectators. Violators will be asked to leave the parade.
19. **Judges for the Best Decorated Float, Best Decorated Vehicle, Best Riding Entry, Best Walking Entry and other awards will be located on a reviewing stand at the southwest corner of Main and Kemp.**
20. **A parade announcer will be present to announce all entries.**
21. **In the event of rain and/or lightning at original start time of parade, it will be postponed until clearer weather - not to exceed two (2) hours.** Parade staff at each starting position will promptly inform the parade participants of changes affecting the start time.