

## 2026 Fall Foliage Festival

### Parade Information Sheet

**THEME: Morgan County Fall Foliage Festival Presents: “Communities Celebrating Together”**

**LOCATION:** Marshalling is at Bell Intermediate Academy for Division One, and Martinsville High School for all other Divisions. Equestrian, other large animals, and large farm equipment participants marshal at the Morgan County Fairgrounds. School bands marshal at Smith Elementary School.

**DATE:** Sunday, October 11, 2026

**TIME:** Parade kicks off at 1:00 PM. **ALL UNITS MUST BE IN PLACE BY 12:30 PM. ALL FLOAT ENTRIES TO BE JUDGED MUST BE IN PLACE BY 10:30 AM.**

**DEADLINE:** October 4, 2026. DUE TO PLACEMENT AND PARTICIPANT NOTIFICATION, NO LATE ENTRIES CAN BE ACCEPTED. MARSHALING PACKETS ARE FINALIZED ONE WEEK PRIOR TO THE PARADE.

**PLACEMENT NOTIFICATION: Approved parade participants will receive a notification of placement approximately one week prior to the parade. Notification will include the Marshaling location and Division assignment.**

**PARADE ROUTE:** Official starting point is Bell Intermediate Academy; then North on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street to Washington Street; then left heading West to the downtown Morgan County Courthouse Square; then left on Jefferson Street, where the Review Stand will be located in front of Martinsville City Hall; to Columbus; turn left on to Columbus Street to Home Avenue; then right on Home Avenue to Gray Street, and into the parking lot at Martinsville High School. Marching Bands will exit at Home Avenue and Columbus Street to return to their buses at Smith Elementary School. Equestrian and Farm Equipment entries will return directly to the Morgan County Fairgrounds.

#### **RULES:**

- By invitation only – applications accepted and considered in order of receipt.
- All bands are encouraged to wear uniforms. Color guards, Scout Troops, and Dancers must be in uniform/costumes.
- To be eligible for award monies, bands must stop and perform at the review stand.
- No “For Sale” signs or dirty vehicles allowed.
- Each political party is allowed only one float for candidates.
- Current office holders may participate per Fall Foliage Festival parade protocol.
- A maximum speed of 2 MPH will be maintained.
- All drills and performances must be done in forward motion.
- Awards will be distributed at Bell Intermediate Academy to a representative of the respective participant.
- All award monies will be mailed after the parade.
- **THE USE OF ALCOHOL AND ANY DRUGS IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED BY PARADE PARTICIPANTS. IF SUSPECTED OF BEING UNDER THE INFLUENCE, PARTICIPATION WILL NOT BE ALLOWED.**

**UNITS:** Approximately 120 units; approximately two hours in length. Estimated spectators, 20,000+.

**MARSHALING:** The Martinsville Kiwanis Club oversees parade marshaling and traffic control. The Kiwanis Club members, under the direction of the Festival Parade Chairperson, organize the units as they arrive.

**SECURITY:** Martinsville Police Department, Morgan County Sheriff's Department, Morgan County EMA, Civil Defense, Amateur Ham Radio Operators, Martinsville Kiwanis Club, and private security as contracted by the Festival, provide security services during the Festival, including the parade.

**CHAIRPERSONS:** Selected from the Fall Foliage Festival Board of Directors.

**FALL FOLIAGE FESTIVAL PHONE CONTACT:** 765-342-0332

**FALL FOLIAGE FESTIVAL PARADE EMAIL CONTACT:** [fallfoliagefestivalparade@gmail.com](mailto:fallfoliagefestivalparade@gmail.com)

**FALL FOLIAGE FESTIVAL PARADE**  
**FLOAT ENTRY RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**CLASSES:**

1. Competitive Class: Floats, which are built by non-professional builders. Floats may be funded by businesses and may have advertising. These entries are eligible for judging and awards.
2. Non-competitive Class: Floats, which are built by professional, float builders and/or are rented/purchased by any group wishing to be in the parade. These entries are not eligible for judging and awards.

**BUILDING GUIDELINES:**

1. Length Maximum: Unrestricted (must be able to make 90 degree turns)
2. Width Maximum: 20 Feet (including outriggers)
3. Height Maximum: 13 Feet (unless hinged to fold for overhead clearance)
4. Animation: Highly desirable, but not required
5. Portable Amplification: Music is highly desirable and **must** be indicated on application. Individual voices for commercial purposes are not permitted.
6. Safety Requirements:
  - a. Handholds or other support **MUST** be provided whenever float personnel stand.
  - b. Reinforcement on each float to support the weight of the personnel is required.
  - c. **Absolutely NO ONE will be permitted to hang over the side or dangle feet from any vehicle in the parade.**
  - d. No smoking near or on the float.
  - e. A fire extinguisher should be on each unit.
  - f. No sharp or pointed edges are to be exposed on the float.
7. Tow units should be decorated to complement the theme of the float. Bonus points are awarded.
8. Drivers of the tow units are the responsibility of the entrant, and the driver must stay with the unit of all times. Failure to do so may result in a tow at the entrant's expense.
9. Every rider in any unit in the parade must sit within the confines and structure of the unit.

**FLOAT JUDGING CRITERIA:**

**Method of scoring:** Each category may receive a maximum of 5 points. A Score of 5 points signifies "OUTSTANDING", 3 points signifies "AVERAGE", AND 0 points signifies "NOT ELIGIBLE FOR AWARD." Two of the categories are eligible for up to an additional 10 extra bonus points. Those categories are representation of the parade theme. The float receiving the highest total score (all judges scores will be added together) will receive the first place award and then awards will be presented in descending order of points. Categories are:

1. Towing Vehicle: The towing unit should be fully decorated to blend with the float.
2. Use of Animation
3. Representation of the parade theme

4. Use of Fall Colors/Foliage. Foliage may be live or artificial.
5. Cleverness and originality
6. General eye appeal.

Only competitive floats will be judged. If the unit has personnel on it, they should be on the float for judging. Each approved entrant will receive a copy of the judging sheet when the parade placement letters are issued.

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

1. Floats must be in their assigned parade location no later than 10:30 AM.
2. Children riding on floats are to be supervised.
3. Any use of "Queen" must have prior approval by the parade chairperson.
4. Floats requiring assembly in Martinsville may be done in a designated area. Units will be responsible for their own clean up. Prior notification on the parade application must be made if an assembly area is required.
5. Units are to maintain a speed of 2 MPH during the parade.
6. The marshalling area will be at Martinsville High School, 1360 Gray Street, Martinsville, Indiana. On parade day, those marshaling the parade will be wearing orange vests. **PARADE PLACEMENT LETTERS MUST BE BROUGHT TO THE MARSHAING AREA. PLEASE BE CERTAIN ALL PERSONS IN YOUR UNIT HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE PLACEMENT LOCATION.**
7. Equestrian, Other Large Animals, and Large Farm Equipment entries will report directly to the Morgan County Fairgrounds.
8. No "For Sale" signs may appear on any unit in the parade.
9. All vehicles are to be cleaned prior to arriving at the marshaling area.
10. Each political party is allowed **ONE FLOAT**. Current office holders may participate per Fall Foliage Protocol. If running for election, the person must be on the respective party float. If running for re-election, the person may be in their own vehicle.
11. Non-driving occupants of vehicles must stay in or with their vehicle during the parade.
12. **A Certificate of insurance must accompany your application, and the application must be signed or entry will not be accepted.**

**FALL FOLIAGE FESTIVAL PARADE**  
**BAND ENTRY RULES AND REGULATIONS**

**GENERAL INFORMATION:**

1. Bands desiring to participate in the parade are to submit a completed application by the stated deadline.
2. Bands must provide their own transportation to the parade site.
3. Bands will report to Smith Elementary School, 1359 E. Columbus Street, Martinsville, Indiana, no later than Noon on parade day.
4. Band Directors must always remain with their bands.
5. Bands must stop and perform at the Review Stand to be eligible for judging and awards.
6. Awards won will be mailed to the respective winners subsequent to the parade.

**BAND JUDGING CRITERIA:**

**Method of scoring:** A total possible score of 100 points encompassing three categories; Visual, Music, and Auxiliary. The Visual and Music categories have a maximum score of 40 points each, and the Auxiliary category has a maximum score of 20 points. The band receiving the highest total score (all judges scores will be added together) will receive the first place award, and then awards will be presented in descending order of points. The specific categories are:

1. Visual: Posture and Carriage; Uniformity of movement (marching, dance); Temp Control; Alignment and Spacing; Professionalism/Showmanship
2. Music: Sound/Tone Quality/Intonation; Attacks, Releases, Rhythmic Accuracy; Uniformity of musical style; Balance and Blend; Musicianship; Communication; Involvement
3. Auxiliary: Uniformity of Movement; Equipment and Movement Technique; Professionalism; Showmanship

Each approved entrant will receive a copy of the judging sheet when the parade placement letters are issued.