



## 2025 Parade Float Contest Information and Rules

Annapolis Pride is excited to announce its second parade float contest. The contest aims to inspire creativity and self-expression while showcasing spectacular floats that embody pride and embrace the 2025 parade theme, “Growing in Pride. Growing in Community”. We invite participants to bring their imaginations to life and join us in celebrating diversity and inclusivity through vibrant and fabulous displays. Below, you'll find all the essential information and rules regarding float eligibility for this exciting contest.

Parade Theme – Growing in Pride. Growing in Community

Parade Date - Saturday, October 18, 2025

### Judging

#### A. Categories

1. A **float** is any fully decorated structure or vehicle that depicts the parade theme.
  - Each float must be decorated over 90% or more of the unit, including truck cab or tow vehicle.
  - Floats are judged on design, including balance, artistic imagination, and the effectiveness of color combinations.
  - Materials and workmanship are considered, as well as the presentation of the parade theme and overall appeal.
  - The manner of propulsion (i.e. towing vehicle, self-propelled) is regarded as part of the float's appeal, as well as the personnel and costuming that enhance its presentation.
2. A **decorated auto** is a vehicle that is less than 90% decorated and does not depict the parade theme.

(Please see above for float description as many confuse these two categories. Only those entries meeting the definition of a float will be eligible for judging in the float contest. A decorated auto is not eligible for judging in the float contest. If your vehicle is more than 90% decorated, it will qualify as a float and will be eligible for judging.)

## B. Judging Criteria for Floats

100 possible points awarded for the following areas:

- **Overall Appearance (30 points)**
  - Neatness, detail, beauty
- **Originality & Creativity (25 points)**
  - Creativeness and originality of the float
- **Craftsmanship (20 points)**
  - Attention to detail and design, fit and finish of the float, including effective use of colors/materials
- **Parade Theme (15 points)**
  - How well does the entry depicts the parade theme
- **Music (10 points)**
  - Music is a part of the float and volume is well projected

## Rules

1. Floats may not exceed 50 feet in length, including the tow vehicle, or 11 feet in height.
2. Towing vehicles **must** be decorated.\*\*
3. All floats shall have a skirt to cover the wheels within the bounds of safety.\*\*
4. Signs must be professionally or neatly printed and should be proportional to each vehicle.\*\*

**\*\*Points will be deducted for floats that do not adhere to these rules.**

## Awards

Any entry that adheres to the above-mentioned definition of a float will be eligible for awards. Floats will be judged separately by Organization Category and judges will give awards to the best float entries in the following Organization Categories:

- **Non-profit organization float entry** - Any entry designed and constructed by members of an organization registered for the parade as a non-profit organization.
- **For Profit organization float entry** - Any entry designed and constructed by members of an organization registered for the parade as a For Profit organization or business.
- **Government Agency/School float entry** - Any entries designed and constructed by members of an organization registered for the parade as a government agency or school.

## Judges

The Chair of the Annapolis Pride Board of Directors selects the judges, who will receive a detailed explanation of parade rules and judging procedures before the parade.



2025 Parade Theme –  
Growing in Pride. Growing in Community.

Float Rating Sheet

| Evaluation Item   | Not at all | Weak | Moderate | Strong | Very Strong      | Points Earned |
|---|------------|------|----------|--------|------------------|---------------|
| <b>Overall Appearance (30 points)</b>   |            |      |          |        |                  |               |
| Neatness, detail, beauty  | 0          | 1–7  | 8–14     | 15–24  | 25–30            |               |
| <b>Originality &amp; Creativity (25 points)</b>   |            |      |          |        |                  |               |
| Creativeness and originality of the float   | 0          | 1–6  | 7–12     | 13–19  | 20–25            |               |
| <b>Craftsmanship (20 points)</b>  |            |      |          |        |                  |               |
| Attention to detail and design, fit and finish of the float, including effective use of colors/materials  | 0          | 1–5  | 6–10     | 11–15  | 16–20            |               |
| <b>Parade Theme (15 points)</b>   |            |      |          |        |                  |               |
| How well the float fits the theme of the parade   | 0          | 1–3  | 4–6      | 7–10   | 11–15            |               |
| <b>Music (10 points)</b>  |            |      |          |        |                  |               |
| Music is a part of the float and volume is well projected   | 0          | 1–3  | 4–6      | 7–9    | 10               |               |
| <b>Subtotal</b>   |            |      |          |        | <b>/100 max.</b> |               |
| <b>Penalty Points</b> Deduct five (5) points each for not adhering to Rules (maximum of fifteen [15] points):<br><input type="checkbox"/> towing vehicle not decorated<br><input type="checkbox"/> no skirting to cover the wheels of the float within the bounds of safety<br><input type="checkbox"/> signs must be professionally or neatly printed and proportional to each vehicle _____ |            |      |          |        |                  |               |
| <b>Total Points</b>   |            |      |          |        | <b>/100 max.</b> |               |

Organization/Company Name (float entry): \_\_\_\_\_

Organization Category: ☐ Non-profit organization / ☐ For-profit organization / ☐ Government Agency/School

Judge's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge's Comments: