



## 2023 NEW ROCHELLE THANKSGIVING PARADE PARADE APPLICATION ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA & PARADE PARTICIPANT RULES

The New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce and the City of New Rochelle appreciate the support from our many participants over the years. Our goal is to present a Parade with the highest entertainment value and highest standards of quality, performance, and conduct. Adherence to all rules and guidelines listed below will ensure such an event.

The Parade Committee reserves the right to determine which units will be accepted and asks that you please read the following participation regulations carefully. Participation in the Thanksgiving Parade is by invitation only (approval after submission of formal parade application). Unauthorized units will not be permitted in the parade. Unless your unit is approved by the Committee to participate, your unit will be prohibited from parade participation.

1. All groups wishing to appear in the Thanksgiving Parade must fill out a parade application. Once approved, failure to adhere to stated performance content shall cause removal from the parade.
2. No unauthorized or ad hoc groups are allowed to march in the Parade.
3. Marching Attire - All participants must be uniformed, costumed or appropriately attired.
  - Performance Groups and/or Marching Bands should have coordinated performance outfits and/or uniforms
  - Walking Groups must be dressed in a coordinated fashion (e.g., school color, spirit wear, same colors, business t-shirts, scarves, or hats).
  - All groups **MUST** have a banner which clearly states name of group
  - Do not have anyone in your group dress like Santa as only the “Real Santa” is in the parade
  - For the safety of all marchers, no one is permitted to wear character costume masks or costumes unless approved by the NR Chamber of Commerce
  - Dress warmly and wear comfortable footwear
4. Entries sponsored by or depicting a political organization or controversial issue are not permitted.
5. **Floats** - Any group wishing to supply their own float must submit float design plans or photo to the Parade Committee for approval or have the Parade Float Designer build the float at the current Parade Float Sponsorship level.
6. **Balloons** - Any group wishing to sponsor a helium balloon at the current Parade Balloon Sponsorship level may provide their own group of volunteers to hold the balloon in the Parade & carry Balloon

Banner or may request additional volunteers to assist. (Balloon Sponsorship Banners are provided as part of Sponsorship Package.)

- If your group wants to volunteer to hold a balloon, please indicate on application.
- No one under the age of 16 is allowed to fly a balloon.
- Only those holding a string on the balloon are allowed to walk with the balloon.

7. Your submission of an application will signify your group's photo release for filming your appearance in the Parade and the publication of any subsequent photographs.

8. All Entries, (including Marching Bands), must be willing & sufficiently physically fit to walk the parade route and maintain the parade pace. Entries unable or refusing to maintain parade walking pace and/or spacing (as Parade Officials direct) will be removed from the parade route.

9. No skateboards, scooters (manual or electric) or bicycles except with prior approval from Parade Committee.

10. No animals of any kind are allowed in the Parade, except those with prior approval by Parade Committee.

11. With prior approval, sponsors are permitted on the Parade route 30 minutes prior to Parade step off to visit with the crowd and hand out pre-approved marketing materials.

12. The New Rochelle Thanksgiving Parade is a non-partisan, non-sectarian organization. The Parade is designed for family friendly entertainment and is not an open public forum; therefore themes, props and hand-outs may not be based on controversial, social, political or religious themes.

13. The Parade Committee reserves the right to reject the application of, or prohibit participation by any exhibit, vendor, entertainer, volunteer and/or parade entry, in whole or in part, including, but not limited to, any person, organization, article, conduct, printed matter, catalogue, or souvenir, that in its sole and absolute opinion, is not suitable to and in keeping with the character of the Thanksgiving Parade.

14. No group is allowed to participate as one or as part of another group without pre-parade registration with the Parade Committee. Any group "crashing" the parade will be removed immediately.

15. Groups desiring to march with other groups must make this known on their application when submitted. No parade entry may be reassigned to a third party without express written approval of the Parade Committee.

16. The Parade Committee reserves the right to remove any individual, group or parade contingent from the staging, parade or dispersal area, for any of the following reasons: participant is a hindrance to the safety or progress of the parade and is placing participants or spectators in physical danger; participant has a motor vehicle with safety violations, participant is operating a motor vehicle which has a safety violation or which is dangerously unsafe or participant is engaging in illegal conduct related to drugs or alcohol.

17. The Parade Committee reserves the right to accept or reject any application without explanation.