

Dear Apple Festival Friends,

Your organization is invited to enter a float in the Kentucky Apple Festival Parade on Saturday, October 3, 2026.

All floats judged for competition should follow the theme: "American As Apple Pie"

\$1,450.00 in prize money will be awarded. Floats will be judged in the following categories.

Each float will be judged on a scale of 1-10 based on three aspects. The scores will be totaled to determine the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners."

Most Original, Most Intricate & Neatness.

1st Place; The Golden Delicious Award \$700.00

2nd Place; The McIntosh Award \$500.00

3rd Place; The Rome Beauty Award \$250.00.

Floats judged for competition should be in line on Jefferson Avenue by NOON and will be judged between 12:00 Noon and 1:00 PM. Judging will be by three out-of-town judges and prizes will be awarded immediately after the judging has been completed. All floats should be registered before 5:00 pm on Wednesday September 30, 2026. Late arrivals, regardless of registration, will not be considered for judging. No exceptions.

The Kentucky Apple Festival is a family event and we hope that you and your organization will join in the fun. Civic organizations, school groups, and church groups are encouraged to enter a float in the parade. As always, there is no entry fee. We look forward to seeing you and your family at the Annual Kentucky Apple Festival Parade on Saturday, October 3rd, 2026.

Sincerely,

Nicole Burchett, Parade Chairman

Phone: 606-793-1683

Kentucky Apple Festival Parade

We encourage all school groups, civic organizations, and businesses to participate and enter the parade. We have created a Google Form for registration and that is the only way to ensure registration.

Kentucky Apple Festival Parade Guidelines

The Kentucky Apple Festival Parade is a family oriented event and as such, the Parade Chairperson has the right to disqualify any entry perceived as being inappropriate, unsafe, or not suitable for all family members. In any situation with legal implications, the Paintsville City Police Department will be the convening authority.

Floats

1. All floats must register with the Parade Chairperson before the parade. No late float arrivals will be permitted.
2. Schools, churches, civic organizations, or area businesses may enter a float.
3. Floats that do not wish to be judged should line up per Parade Chairman instruction by 12:30 pm.
4. Floats that wish to be judged for prize competition must follow the current year Apple Festival Theme and be in line on Jefferson Avenue NOON.
5. Floats will be judged by three out of town judges between NOON-1:00. Winning floats will be notified and awarded immediately following the judging.

6. Floats are required to have a fire extinguisher with their unit.
7. The float drivers are required to have a current driver's license and proof of liability insurance.
8. Children riding on floats must have one or more adults on the float for supervision and safety purposes.
9. Anyone standing on a moving float is required to have fixed support.
10. Smoking or the use of tobacco products on a parade float is prohibited.
11. Candy may be thrown from a float. Representatives from the sponsoring organization may walk beside/behind the float and either throw candy on the ground away from the float or give candy to the crowd.
12. No Animals allowed in the parade unless you acquire liability insurance for your animals then, attend an Apple Board meeting before that year's parade. Present the insurance to the Apple Board and Receive approval. The Parade Chairman will have a list of all those approved.

Cars/Motorcycles in the Parade

1. All cars/motorcycles in the Parade must be registered with the Parade Chairperson or be in one of the Apple Festival sanctioned shows. Drivers must have a current driver's license and liability insurance.
2. Signs or vehicles will not be provided. During line up for the parade, all signs must be shown to the parade coordinator at that time during re-sign up.
3. Cars will line up on Washington Avenue by 12:30 PM
4. Car show cars and Crank it up winners must display identification on their vehicles.
5. Any dirt bikes, 4-wheelers, Go Karts or Side by Sides associated with an organization are allowed in the Parade with prior approval from the Parade Chairman.

Motorcycles

1. Motorcycles participating in the Parade must be a registered member of the Apple Festival sanctioned Motorcycle Show or approval of parade chair.
(See attached rules for motorcycles and cars)

Political Office Holders and Candidates

1. Political officer holders will be allowed to ride under their currently elected title.
2. Any political party, Republican, Democrat, or Independent will be invited to sponsor a Parade Float on which all political candidates may ride and display their campaign signs. Each person on the float is required to be registered with their party representative. These floats are not eligible for judging.
3. Any political candidates may ride in the Parade as a member of that organization. (For example, a baseball coach or a member of a club). They may display campaign signs, wear t-shirts, or distribute campaign material during the Parade.
4. Political candidates are welcome to enter the parade and promote their office.

Beauty Pageant Winners

1. Beauty pageant winners may ride in the Parade under their currently elected title. Only the winners of pageants will be allowed to ride. Please note: If a child that was the winner of another pageant enters an Apple Festival pageant and does not win, that child may ride in the Parade

under their previous title.

2. Children must be secured in vehicles.

3. Apple Festival Royalty (pageant winners) will line up in Rock City on the side nearest Paintsville Herald office.

Horses

No permitted in the parade!

For the safety of the spectators and in the interest of the exhibitor, the following **rules** have been enacted.

A. Unsafe acts such as wheel stands, burnouts or peel outs will not be tolerated during the exhibition of motor vehicles on the parade route.

B. Accelerant gasses shall not be used while on the parade route. Only normal fuel used to propel the vehicle may be used. Canisters, or storage cells, for these accelerant gasses may be displayed. The use of such accelerants will disqualify the vehicle and the vehicle will be promptly removed from the parade route.

C. Gases used to emit flames from exhaust pipes shall not be used. Canisters, or storage cells, for these gases may be displayed. The use of such fuels will disqualify the vehicle and the vehicles will be promptly removed from the parade route.

D. Distances shall be maintained in the parade route, no more than one car length. Lagging or leaving extended distances between other vehicles is not allowed.

E. The use of alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs by a vehicle operator is strictly prohibited and constitutes an immediate offense. If use of such is suspected the vehicle will be removed from the parade route.

F. Only participants of the organized event will be allowed in the parade. Participating vehicles will be identified by a distinguishable sticker on the right headlight of cars and on the right side of headlights of motorcycles. Vehicles found that do not have the sticker will be promptly removed from the parade route.

G. All occupants of the vehicle are the responsibility of the operator. All occupants should be inside the vehicle in a safe location.

Violation of the rules as set forth will constitute an on site citation to the operator of the vehicle and depending on the severity of the offense could result in arrest of the vehicle operator and a fine no less than \$50 and no more than \$1,000.

Operator of Vehicle Event: Car Show_____ Motorcycle Show_____

Name:_____ Date: _____

Must be displayed and visible in the vehicle at line up and throughout the parade route.

The safety of the vehicle operator and the spectators are of utmost importance. We strive to make these events accident free, exciting and fun for all. Thank you for supporting the above rules as this helps prevent any mishaps that may occur.

General Parade Rules

1. No alcoholic beverages or illegal substances will be permitted.
2. The Parade will start promptly at 2:00 PM..
3. Parade entrants will move to the right of the street, stop, and remain stopped allowing Emergency vehicles, such as ambulances, to pass in the event of an emergency.
4. Upon completion of the Parade Route all entries will turn left off Third Street to West Street and right onto James S. Trimble Blvd. Parade units should exit across the bridge, where they may return to the line up area for disbursement or return to their designated locations.
5. No Parade entry is allowed to unload any participants on the Parade route, only after turning onto James S. Trimble Blvd. Any entry doing so will not be permitted to participate in next year's parade and will be fined. All entries that will be unloading at the end of the parade will need to tell the parade coordinator. They will receive a yellow star for their windshields. At the end of the parade the parade coordinators will direct them to the right off the parade route to unload safely and let the rest of the parade continue.
6. All float entries must be signed up with the Parade Chairman and approved on or before the Wednesday before the Parade. No other float entries will be permitted.
7. Any questions concerning the Parade Guidelines should be referred to the Parade Chairperson.
8. The Apple Parade Chairperson and /or Festival Board of Directors reserves the right to change any of these guidelines without notice in the event of an emergency situation.
9. Must be 18 years or older & have a valid drivers license to operate any vehicles in the parade, 16 & 17 year old's with valid drivers license need board approval before operating any vehicle in the parade.