



2012 Cherry Blossom Festival Parade

Presented by



Official Application

Sunday, March 18th at 3 pm Downtown Macon
2012 Parade Theme: Celebration!

APPLICATION DEADLINE: Friday, February 24th, 2012.

- Application must be **COMPLETE** in order for your unit to be considered for acceptance in the Cherry Blossom Parade.
- The Parade Committee will send out letters of acceptance and information packets no later than **Friday, March 2, 2012.**
- **Questions? Please call Catherine Aplin at 478-808-2136 or catherine.cherryblossom@gmail.com.**

REGISTRATION CLASSIFICATION: Non-Commercial _____ Commercial _____

TYPE OF UNIT: FLOAT>> Self-Built _____ Other _____ Builder Name _____

SPECIALTY>> Color Guard _____ Clown Club _____ Dance line _____ Musical Variety _____

Non-Musical Variety _____ Canine* _____ Equestrian* _____ Other _____

(* Coggins or Rabies Certification required for these units)

Official Unit Name _____

Name of Sponsor _____

Main Contact _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Daytime Phone () _____ Home Phone () _____

Fax Number () _____ E-mail: _____

UNIT DESCRIPTION

Number of Parades participated in _____ Number of animals (Equine/Canine Entries Only) _____

Number of People: Riding _____ AND/OR Marching _____ Other _____

MUSIC with your unit? None _____ Live _____ Recorded _____

Description of Music (style, instrumentation, group, etc.) _____

Activity of Participants _____

Description of costumes _____

INSURANCE

Insured by _____ Policy Number _____

SCRIPTING FOR TELEVISION AND PROGRAMS

Spell names phonetically to insure correct pronunciation by announcers.

Full Title, Theme, and/or decorative description of your unit: _____

Describe a way you have made a positive impact to the community: _____

ASSEMBLY SPACE NEEDS

Space in the assembly area is very limited. Please list number of cars, buses, trucks, and trailers that will require special parking at the end of the parade to pick up participants:

Cars _____ Buses _____ Trucks _____ Trailers _____

Please mail completed application to:

Parade Committee, Cherry Blossom Festival
794 Cherry Street
Macon, GA 31201

I acknowledge that I have thoroughly read all of the enclosed information and agree to comply completely with the rules and regulations as outlined in the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade Manual.

Signature _____

Date _____

Title

WAIVER AGREEMENT

I, the undersigned, have agreed for my own benefit to participate in various events and activities held during the year 2012 in connection with and/or under the direction of Macon Georgia's International Cherry Blossom Festival.

I understand that inherent in my participation in such events and activities, such events to include without limitation, parades, is the risk of serious personal injury and property damage. I understand that the Cherry Blossom Festival will not provide me with protection against such injury and damage, and I assume all risk of such injury and damage to myself and all other under my direction and control, and to my property and all other property under my direction and control. I hereby waive and release any claim I have or may have in the future against Macon Georgia's International Cherry Blossom Festival and any of their officers, directors, employees, agents and volunteers, for any personal injury, property damage or other damage I may sustain, whether or not caused in whole or in part by the negligence of such officers, directors, employees, agents and volunteers, which occurs during or as a result of my participation in any of the events and activities held in connection and/or under the direction of the above-referenced entities. Furthermore, in the event I agree to operate a vehicle in connection with any of the events and activities held in connection with and/or under the direction of the Cherry Blossom Festival, I represent that I am validly licensed to drive such vehicle in the events and/or activities and that I have purchased automobile insurance as required by Georgia law, and that I am responsible for complying with all laws that apply to me as a driver of a vehicle. I also agree to obey by the rules put forth by the Parade Committee of the Cherry Blossom Festival, including (but not limited to) abstaining from throwing candy or other items from parade units and the consumption of alcohol during lineup, on parade unit or along parade route.

Date

Signature

Signature of Parent or Guardian (if under 18)

Name of Unit or Organization

All participants, including float drivers and riders, members of specialty units, and riders and drivers of horse units, **must sign and submit** this form to the Cherry Blossom Festival prior to the event specified. Organizations must make additional copies of this form for signature by each participant.

REGISTRATION FEES FOR 2012

Your payment **MUST** accompany your application. **THIS REGISTRATIONS FEE IS NON-REFUNDABLE** unless the Parade Committee does not accept your entry. Applications without registration fees included will not be accepted.

Registration Fees:

- **\$50** fee for all Non-commercial / Nonprofit Units (These are organizations that are not commercially motivated and are not seeking nor producing a profit.)
- **\$250** fee for all Commercial Units (Any Unit that advertises through means of radio, television, or other printed form including newspaper or magazine, billboard or via the mail; including all businesses and corporations.)
- **NO FEE** for any Public or Private School (Day Care Schools are considered Commercial Units), College, or Military Unit.

INSURANCE

All applicants **MUST** provide Comprehensive General Liability (CGL) insurance having a combined single limit of no less than \$300,000, covering bodily injury, personal injury and property damage.

Float units must provide automobile insurance with minimum limits of \$100,000 per person, \$300,000 for bodily injury and \$100,000 property damage, for all motorized Units.

An insurance certificate verifying the above limits must be sent with the Unit application to The Cherry Blossom Festival office. **The insurance certificate MUST contain the following provisions:**

- A.) **Additional Named Insured** – Macon GA's International Cherry Blossom Festival, proud producer of the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade is to be named as additional insured with respect to any liability arising from the applicant's participation in the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade on both the CGL and automobile policies.
- B.) **Cancellation Clause** – The insurance certificate shall state the policies certified, will neither be canceled nor reduced in limits without a 30 – day notice delivered by certified mail to the Cherry Blossom Festival Office. 794 Cherry Street, Macon, GA 31201

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Cherry Blossom Parade Committee will make its recommendations using your applications. If your unit, on parade day, is different or differs greatly from your application, your unit **may be dismissed** from the parade while still in the assembly area. No refund of registration fees will be given to the dismissed unit. Late applications will be placed on a standby list and, if necessary, reviewed in the order received by the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade.

MEDIA / BROADCAST

The Parade will be broadcast on television . We require a detailed, written description of your unit as part of your application for our broadcast announcers.

DISTRIBUTION OF MATERIALS

- **No candy, samples or materials of any kind can be thrown or tossed from the Float / Specialty Unit while on the parade route.**
- Unit members walking near the crowd line **may hand out items, with pre-approval** by the CBF Parade Committee. **Please list any items you would like to distribute on your application. If your unit distributes items which were not pre-approved your organization may be banned from future Cherry Blossom Parade participation.**

ORDER OF APPEARANCE

- The Parade Review Committee will determine the order of appearance for all Units in the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade. The order is determined to establish variety, as well as best utilization of the participants.
- Your appearance spot may be altered or canceled if your arrival in the assembly area is not at the time established in the acceptance packet.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Individuals and organizations participating in the Cherry Blossom Parade are expected to perform courteously, in good taste and with safety in mind at all times during the assembly, execution and dispersal of the parade.

PARTICIPATION WAIVER

Every individual in or riding on your unit must sign and return the waiver form provided in the application packet prior to parade day. **Waivers are due no later than February 25, 2012.**

VEHICLES

- Drivers of all vehicles in the Parade and those entering the parade line-up area must have a valid drivers license, have proper proof of insurance as required by state law, and be at least 18 years old.
- Tow vehicles should be decorated to accent and compliment the unit.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

The consumption of any alcoholic beverage by any participant is strictly prohibited. The police will strictly enforce all City, County, and State statutes concerning the consumption of alcoholic beverages before, during and after the Parade. If this policy is broken, the unit will be pulled and towed from the parade, the operator is subject to arrest, and the unit will not be asked back by the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade. **The Cherry Blossom Festival will not issue any refunds if your unit is removed from the parade route due to any issues concerning intoxication, and/or the possession of alcohol.**

ASSEMBLY AREA

- Once the Unit is in position in the line-up area, drivers should be in attendance at all times and available to move the unit as necessary.
- Your Unit should report to the assembly area **two (2) hours** prior to the parade start time. Lineup information will be mailed along with your acceptance packet prior to Festival with details on the time and location of your scheduled arrival.
- Unit support vehicles such as cars, buses, trucks, and trailers **must be promptly unloaded and moved** out of the area. No support vehicles will be allowed in the parade.

PARADE MOVEMENT

The Cherry Blossom Festival parade committee has worked very hard to make sure that the parade route is free of interruptions; therefore, Marching Bands will **be allowed 30 seconds to stop and perform**. All maneuvering, choreography, and marching styles must be performed during this time period. Once 30 seconds has passed, the unit must move forward to keep the parade flow consistent. If your unit is not considered a Marching Band, **continue moving forward through the entire route**.

INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

- Should inclement weather occur prior to a parade, Festival officials will determine if it is sufficiently severe to cancel or delay the parade.
- You may decline to participate when weather threatens to damage uniforms, props or instruments.
- The Cherry Blossom Festival Parade Committee plans to proceed with the parade, rain or shine. We request that you make provisions for foul weather, and **we will not refund registration fees because of parade delay or cancellation due to inclement weather**.

FLOATS

In its most basic definition, a float is “a flat-topped vehicle without sides for carrying displayed objects in a procession or parade”. If you add your own creative touch, a simple float can turn into anything you can dream up. You can build floats on trailers, trucks, cars, shopping carts—almost anything that can move. Most floats, however, start with a flat platform such as a truck bed or a trailer and are generally pulled by a small tractor, or truck, which is also included in the decorative scheme.

SPECIALTY UNITS

Specialty units are defined as non-motorized, entertaining and creative. A specialty unit is not just a group of people walking down the street, but it could be a group of people in colorful costumes incorporating the spectacular use of choreography, props and theme to entertain the crowd. Examples include: cultural performance/ dance groups, drill teams, clown clubs, and horse units.

AWARDS JUDGING

Judging will take place prior to the parade by qualified judges, starting with floats approximately 1 ½ hours prior to the start time for the parade. To qualify, units must be in proper position and ready for judging at this time. Final results will be announced just prior to the parade start and an award banner will be available to the winning unit. If a unit is late due to circumstances beyond the control of the community/sponsor (i.e. accident during transportation), judges will be notified and accommodations will be made to judge the unit if possible. This exception does not include equipment breakdown or late departure. All judges' decisions are final.

The following awards will be given for the parade. All winners receive a commemorative plaque.

FLOAT AWARDS FOR 2012

<i>Award</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>Eligibility</i>
Grand Marshal's Award	Award for the best expression of the Parade Theme:	All Entries
William Fickling Award	Award for the best use or display of Cherry Blossoms	All Entries
Queen's Award	Award for the most original design	Commercially Built
Princess Award	Award for the most original self- built float	Self-built
Carolyn Crayton Award	Award for the most creative/entertaining float	All Entries

SPECIALTY AWARDS FOR 2012

<i>AWARD</i>	<i>DESCRIPTION</i>	<i>ELIGIBILITY</i>
President's Award	Award for most outstanding specialty unit	All Specialty entries

PHYSICAL GUIDELINES – FLOAT UNITS

FLOAT DIMENSIONS

- Units **MUST NOT** exceed 20 feet in width and maximum length is 45 feet, including the tow vehicle.
- Units **MUST NOT** be taller than 13 feet in height (due to overhead obstructions along the route).

DECORATIONS

Theme: "Celebration"

- With 30 years as the Pinkest Party on Earth, this parade has plenty to celebrate. Create your float with a celebration in mind. What does your pink party look like?
- The Cherry Blossom Festival requires that all Float units be decorated with material that will hold up under adverse weather conditions. These materials may include: natural growth such as flowers, plants, and grass; vinyl, metal, and wood sheeting; enamel paint; and plastic, or rubberized materials.
- Floats shall be constructed and decorated so that viewing from either side is equally appealing.
- All signs and banners should be of high quality and easily readable.
- Consideration should be given to using flame retardant materials whenever possible.
- **NO PYROTECHNICS of any kind are allowed on the float or in parade.**

FLOAT ELECTRICAL

Wiring devices must be UL approved, in good condition, and of sufficient capability for the use intended for them on the float. All connections must be made of approved electrical boxes/devices with all electrical circuits properly fused.

MUSIC

- Music should be complimentary to the unit and not disruptive to the audience or other participants. Please have consideration for other units with music in the parade.
- The Parade Marshals reserve the right to control the level of the sound coming from your Float.

PORTABLE GENERATORS

- Portable generators used for floats must be securely mounted on a vehicle or other substantial base. A minimum of 12 inches clearance must separate the generator from combustible material.
- Generators must be equipped with firmly attached metal exhaust blinds that terminate either into a common exhaust serving both vehicles and generator or to the exterior of the unit in the same manner as the vehicle exhaust.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

At least one four-pound dry chemical or one 10-pound carbon dioxide fire extinguisher must be placed within easy reach of the driver of the unit.

INSPECTION

All Floats are subject to safety inspections. Any errors not corrected by the final safety inspection may cause a float to be dismissed from the parade.

TOW VEHICLE

- Tow vehicles must be completely free of rust and dents or they must be covered completely.
- If possible, the tow vehicle should be part of the photograph or the rendering submitted for approval by the committee.

PHYSICAL GUIDELINES – SPECIALTY UNITS

DECORATIONS

Theme: "Celebration"

- With 30 years as the Pinkest Party on Earth, this parade has plenty to celebrate. Create your float with a celebration in mind. What does your pink party look like?
- The Cherry Blossom Festival encourages the use of colorful costumes, and choreography
- All signs should be of professional quality and easily readable.

MUSIC

- If a specialty unit requires music, it must be presented in a distinguished mobile unit or in a decorated, hand-drawn or small engine powered unit.
- Music should be complimentary to the unit and not disruptive to the audience or other participants. Please have consideration for other musical units in the parade.
- Parade Marshals reserve the right to control the level of the sound coming from your unit.

VEHICLES

Support vehicles (i.e. golf carts) will not be allowed on the parade route with the unit unless they are included in the application.

HORSE/EQUINE UNITS

- Coggins Requirement – Georgia law requires that all horses that come together for public display (i.e. parade) must have a current negative Coggins Test. (GA Administrative Code: 40-13-3-.06)
- Proof of Negative Coggins Testing must be provided before parade day.
- A test is not required for suckling foals accompanying a negative dam.

CANINE UNITS

- Rabies Vaccination Requirement – State law requires that any and all canines must have a current certification of rabies vaccination.
- Proof of rabies vaccination must be provided on request.

- City Ordinance – All dogs in a public place must be effectively restrained by chain or leash not exceeding eight (8) feet in length and any person having the custody or control of any dog shall have the responsibility for cleaning up any feces of the animal and disposing of such feces in a sanitary manner.

Application Instructions:

Even if you have participated in the parade in the past, please read ALL information carefully as requirements do change from year to year. Past participation in the parade does not guarantee acceptance into the 2012 Cherry Blossom Festival parade.

The following items must be returned and completed by the deadline to be considered for participation:

- ❑ **Completed application form with registration fee**
- ❑ **Waivers signed by all unit participants**
- ❑ **Photograph or sketch of the float / specialty unit**
- ❑ **Proper insurance verifying adequate coverage**

Deadline for all applications is **February 24, 2012** (received at the Cherry Blossom office).