



209 NORTH YORK STREET  
ELMHURST, IL 60126  
630-530-3010  
parade@elmhurst.org

Dear 2026 Elmhurst Memorial Day Parade Applicant:

Explore Elmhurst on behalf of the City of Elmhurst in cooperation with the Elmhurst Veterans Commission, Elmhurst American Legion THB Post 187, and the Elmhurst Park District is pleased to invite you to apply for entry in the 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Elmhurst Memorial Day Parade. The Memorial Day Parade will step off at 9:30 a.m. on Memorial Day, Monday, May 25, 2026 from York and Third and will proceed to the Elmhurst Veterans Memorial in Wilder Park.

As the United States approaches its 250th birthday, the City of Elmhurst is proud to announce a renewed vision for the 2026 **Memorial Day Parade**, blending time-honored remembrance with a spirit of national celebration.

In celebration of the 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the United States in 2026, the City of Elmhurst is proud to honor the memory of the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country with the spirit of triumph their sacrifice achieved, and the solemn remembrance of those we lost.

While Memorial Day has always been a solemn occasion to honor the brave men and women who gave their lives in service to our country, this year's parade will also reflect the historic milestone of America's **Semiquincentennial**—250 years of freedom, resilience, and unity. Combining our solemn remembrance of the sacrifices made, and the celebration of freedoms won; The 2026 Memorial Day parade will feature this celebration of our heroes and their victory, while the memorial service will honor their sacrifice with the solemnity and dignity owed to those who have given us this beloved nation.

#### **What's New in 2026:**

- The 2026 parade will take on a celebratory patriotic tone, featuring music, historical tributes, and community participation that highlights America's journey since 1776.
- Local organizations, schools, and veterans' groups are encouraged to help bring history to life with floats and performances that reflect both military service and American heritage.
- The Memorial Day Ceremony, held immediately following the parade at Wilder Park, will maintain its solemn tone, continuing the tradition of respectful remembrance for those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

The City invites all residents and visitors to join in this meaningful day of reflection and celebration. Together, we will honor the past, celebrate the present, and look forward to the future of our great nation.

More details about the parade route, participants, and ceremony will be shared in the coming months. Guidelines and an application for participation in the parade, as well as updates on the event can be found at **[exploreelmhurst.com/memorialday](https://exploreelmhurst.com/memorialday)**.

Your anticipated participation will help our community wide effort to honor and “Always Remember” all U.S. service men and women who have honorably served and sacrificed to defend our nation and the American way of life.

The 2026 parade application is attached for your use; please provide all the information required and return to the City of Elmhurst via email [parade@elmhurst.org](mailto:parade@elmhurst.org) by April 10, 2026. All applications must be signed, and late entries may not be able to be accommodated.

Sincerely,

The 2026 Elmhurst Memorial Day Parade Committee

