

# Minocqua 4th of July Parade 2026

## **PARTICIPANT CODE OF CONDUCT**

### **Our objective with this Code of Conduct is to:**

- Protect the safety of participants, spectators, volunteers, and emergency personnel
- Preserve the family-friendly and community-centered atmosphere of the event
  - Clearly communicate expectations and responsibilities before parade day

### **1. RESPECTFUL & FAMILY-FRIENDLY BEHAVIOR**

The Minocqua 4th of July Parade is a long-standing community tradition intended to bring people together in celebration of patriotism, community pride, and respect for our veterans and neighbors. Because this is a family-oriented event attended by individuals of all ages, all participants are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous, and professional manner before, during, and after the parade. Behavior, messaging, music, attire, and interactions with spectators should reflect the welcoming and inclusive spirit of the event. Parade organizers reserve the right to address or remove any participant, entry, or activity that creates a safety concern, disrupts the event atmosphere, or is inconsistent with the values and mission of the parade.

- Participants are expected to conduct themselves in a respectful, courteous, and family-friendly manner throughout the event.
- No profanity, vulgar language, inappropriate gestures, or offensive behavior will be permitted.
- Music, signage, costumes, and displays must remain appropriate for audiences of all ages.
- Political attacks, hateful messaging, discriminatory conduct, or inflammatory behavior are prohibited.
- Harassment, intimidation, or aggressive behavior toward spectators, volunteers, parade officials, law enforcement, or fellow participants will not be tolerated.
- Participants must comply with all directions provided by parade officials, law enforcement officers, and event volunteers.
- Any participant appearing to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol may be

removed from the event.

- Unsafe, disruptive, or disorderly conduct may result in immediate removal from the parade and possible restriction from future participation.

### **2. SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

The safety of parade participants, volunteers, spectators, and the community is our highest priority. To help ensure a safe and enjoyable event for everyone, all participants are required to follow the safety guidelines outlined below. These requirements are intended to minimize risks, support emergency response efforts, and maintain an organized parade environment. Failure to comply with these safety standards may result in removal from the parade at the discretion of event organizers or law enforcement.

- Drivers must be licensed and operate vehicles safely at all times.
- No reckless driving, burnouts, revving engines, or sudden stops.
- Riders must remain safely on floats/vehicles unless designated walkers.
- Children must be supervised at all times.
- No open flames, fireworks, or explosives.
- No alcohol or illegal substances permitted.
- Animals must be controlled and cleaned up after.
- Emergency vehicles always have the right of way.
- Floats/vehicles must be in good operating condition and insured.

### **3. CANDY & GIVEAWAY POLICIES**

The safety of spectators—especially children—is a top priority during the parade. To reduce the risk of accidents and injuries, strict guidelines regarding candy, promotional items, and giveaways will be enforced throughout the

event. Participants are expected to distribute items in a safe and controlled manner that does not encourage spectators to enter the roadway or approach moving vehicles. All entries must comply with directions issued by parade officials and the Minocqua Police Department.

- Candy, promotional items, flyers, party favors, and other giveaways may not be thrown from vehicles, floats, trailers, or the Highway 51 Bridge.
- Walkers accompanying a parade unit may distribute items directly to spectators along the curbside only.
- Participants must not encourage children or spectators to enter the street to retrieve items.
- All giveaway distribution must take place in a safe and controlled manner behind barricades or along the curb line.
- Absolutely no items may be tossed into crowds under any circumstances.
- Parade officials and law enforcement reserve the right to stop distribution activities deemed unsafe.
- Participants should use caution when distributing frozen items, beverages, or objects that could create slipping, choking, or tripping hazards.
- Any entry found violating giveaway policies may be removed from the parade and may be restricted from participating in future events.

#### **4. PARADE LINEUP & PARTICIPATION EXPECTATIONS**

To help ensure a smooth, organized, and enjoyable parade experience for participants and spectators alike, all entries are expected to follow the lineup procedures and participation guidelines outlined below. These expectations are designed to maintain parade flow, support safety operations, and keep the event running on schedule. Participants are asked to arrive prepared, follow directions from parade officials and law enforcement, and demonstrate respect for fellow participants, veterans, and the community throughout the event.

- To assist with parade communication and day-of coordination, each participating entry must provide a designated parade

contact and mobile phone number that can receive text message updates on the day of the event. Parade organizers may use text messaging to communicate important lineup information, schedule updates, weather notifications, safety instructions, or emergency changes. We also encourage participants to share photos via text messaging from the event with parade organizers during/following the parade.

- Participants must check in and be lined up by the designated arrival time. **Lineup will begin at 10:00 AM** at the Minocqua Baseball Field, located just south of the Minocqua Bridge. Placement will be on a first-come, first-served basis. A parade official will assess and assign your float a spot in the lineup based on a variety of factors.
- All parade entries must be at the Minocqua Baseball Field **no later than 2:30 PM** on Friday, July 4. Participants arriving after the lineup has closed may be denied entry into the parade.
- **Judging will begin promptly at 2:45 PM.** Any special setup or performance intended for judging must be fully prepared and ready at that time. No additional entries will be accepted after judging begins.
- Awards will include 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place trophies and banners. Winning entries are responsible for providing their own banner carriers during the parade.
- Parade vehicles and floats may not be left unattended at any time unless they have prior approval from event staff.
- Only authorized parade vehicles will be permitted on the ballpark grounds.
- Out of respect for the National Anthem and Taps, participants are asked to **refrain from blowing horns, singing, or playing music between 4:00 PM and 4:05 PM.**
- Participants must remain in their assigned lineup order and maintain appropriate spacing throughout the parade route.
- No stopping along the parade route is permitted unless directed by parade officials or law enforcement.
- All parade entries must accurately match the description provided during registration.
- All floats are encouraged to incorporate

patriotic decorations and reflect the parade theme whenever possible. Entries that are not decorated may be placed toward the end of the parade lineup.

- Floats, trucks, and trailer combinations may not exceed 45 feet in total length. Semi-trucks are not permitted as parade entries.
- For hearing safety purposes, please avoid excessive use of sirens and horns between buildings along the parade route and use good judgment regarding noise levels.

## **5. DECORATIONS & MESSAGING**

The 4th of July Parade is intended to celebrate patriotism, community pride, and respect for our veterans and local traditions. All parade entries are expected to present decorations, signage, and messaging that enhance the event's spirit and create a welcoming environment for participants and spectators of all ages. Parade organizers reserve the right to review and deny participation to any entry deemed unsafe, offensive, inappropriate, or inconsistent with the mission and values of the event.

- Decorations should reflect the patriotic/ community spirit of the event
- Organizers reserve the right to deny participation to entries deemed unsafe, offensive, or inconsistent with the event's mission
- Commercial promotion should remain appropriate and not dominate the parade presentation

## **6. SOUND & MUSIC GUIDELINES**

To help create a welcoming and family-friendly atmosphere for all attendees, parade participants are expected to use sound and music responsibly throughout the event. While music and entertainment are encouraged as part of the parade experience, excessive noise levels, inappropriate content, or disruptive sound effects can interfere with parade operations, announcements, and the enjoyment and safety of spectators. Participants are asked to use good judgment and follow any directions provided by parade officials regarding sound levels and music selection.

- Music volume must remain at reasonable

levels throughout the parade route.

- Explicit, offensive, or inappropriate lyrics and audio content are strictly prohibited.
- Sound systems may be limited or temporarily muted near announcing stations, ceremony areas, or other designated sensitive locations.
- Participants must comply with any requests from parade officials, law enforcement, or event staff regarding volume adjustments.
- Excessive bass, amplified sound, sirens, air horns, or other disruptive noise effects may be prohibited if deemed unsafe or disruptive to spectators, nearby businesses, or other parade participants.
- For hearing safety purposes, participants are asked to use caution when operating sirens or horns in confined areas or between buildings along the parade route.
- Music and sound should remain consistent with the patriotic, community-focused, and family-friendly nature of the event.
- Generators, speakers, and sound equipment must be safely secured on all floats and vehicles.

## **7. CLEANUP EXPECTATIONS**

To help keep the community clean, safe, and welcoming following the parade, all participants are expected to take responsibility for the cleanup of their entry materials and staging areas. Parade organizers, volunteers, and local public works crews should not be left to manage avoidable waste or debris. Participants are asked to respect public spaces, properly dispose of trash, and leave staging and parade areas in good condition after the event.

- Participants are responsible for the cleanup and removal of all materials associated with their parade entry.
- No littering is permitted along the parade route, staging areas, or spectator areas.
- Trash, decorations, handout boxes, zip ties, vehicle debris, and other materials must be properly disposed of before leaving the event area.
- Participants may not leave unwanted items, signage, or equipment behind at the lineup or unloading areas.

- The Minocqua Baseball Field staging area and ball diamond grounds must be left clean and free of debris following parade departure.
- Any entry using animals is responsible for immediate cleanup of animal waste in staging and parade areas.
- Participants are encouraged to secure decorations and materials to prevent items from falling onto the roadway during the parade.
- Failure to properly clean up after an entry may affect eligibility for participation in future parade events.

## **8. ENFORCEMENT & REMOVAL CLAUSE**

To ensure the safety, integrity, and overall success of the Minocqua 4th of July Parade, parade organizers, law enforcement, and designated event officials must have the authority to address situations that may disrupt the event or place participants and spectators at risk. Participation in the parade is a privilege, and all individuals, organizations, and parade entries are expected to comply with the rules, safety requirements, and directions established for the event. Organizers reserve the right to make decisions in the best interest of public safety, parade operations, and the family-friendly nature of the celebration.

- Parade organizers reserve the right to deny, restrict, or remove participation of any individual, group, organization, vehicle, float, or parade entry that violates this Code of Conduct or fails to comply with event requirements.
- Participants who create unsafe conditions, engage in disruptive behavior, or refuse to follow instructions from parade officials, law enforcement, fire personnel, or event volunteers may be immediately removed from the event.
- Removal may occur before, during, or after lineup and may include escort from staging or parade areas if necessary.
- Violations involving safety concerns, reckless behavior, inappropriate conduct, prohibited materials, or unauthorized activities will be taken seriously and may result in exclusion from future parade participation.
- Parade organizers reserve the right to

make final determinations regarding the interpretation and enforcement of parade policies and expectations.

- Any decisions made by event officials regarding safety, lineup, participation eligibility, or removal from the parade shall be considered final.
- No refunds, reimbursements, or compensation will be issued in the event a participant or organization is denied entry or removed from the parade for failure to comply with event policies or instructions.
- Participants are responsible for ensuring that all members of their organization, float crew, drivers, walkers, performers, and volunteers understand and follow these requirements.
- Parade organizers reserve the right to deny participation or remove any individual, organization, or parade entry with a documented history of disruptive behavior, safety violations, unlawful conduct, or prior incidents that negatively impacted previous parade events or public safety operations.

## **9. WEATHER & EMERGENCY POLICY**

The safety of parade participants, volunteers, spectators, and emergency personnel will always take priority over parade operations. Weather conditions, public safety concerns, emergencies, or unforeseen circumstances may require parade organizers to delay, modify, suspend, or cancel the event at any time. Parade officials will work closely with law enforcement, fire and emergency services, and local government officials when making decisions related to weather or emergency conditions. All participants are expected to cooperate fully with emergency instructions and understand that decisions will be made in the best interest of public safety.

- The parade may be delayed, modified, suspended, or canceled due to severe weather, public safety concerns, emergencies, or hazardous conditions.
- Parade organizers reserve the right to alter the parade route, lineup procedures, staging areas, or event schedule if conditions require operational or safety changes.
- Participants must follow all emergency instructions provided by parade officials, law enforcement, fire personnel, EMS, or

emergency management staff.

- In the event of lightning, severe storms, high winds, medical emergencies, security threats, or other dangerous conditions, participants may be instructed to shelter in place, clear the area, or exit the parade route.
- Participants are responsible for monitoring weather conditions and preparing appropriately for heat, rain, wind, or other environmental conditions.
- Parade organizers are not responsible for damage, loss, or weather-related impacts to vehicles, floats, equipment, decorations, animals, or personal property.
- Any emergency vehicle or public safety response activity will take immediate priority over parade operations.
- Communication regarding delays, cancellations, or emergency procedures will be provided through parade officials and law enforcement personnel as conditions allow.

## **10. INSURANCE & LIABILITY**

Participation in the Minocqua 4th of July Parade is voluntary, and all participants are expected to operate their vehicles, floats, equipment, and activities in a safe and responsible manner at all times. Parade organizers work diligently to provide a safe event environment; however, each participant, organization, and entry is ultimately responsible for their own conduct, equipment, and actions during parade-related activities. Motorized entries, trailers, animals, and specialty equipment present additional risks and must be managed carefully to protect participants, spectators, volunteers, and property.

- Participants assume full responsibility for any injury, accident, loss, or property damage caused by their parade entry, vehicle, float, equipment, animals, or participants associated with their organization.
- All drivers must possess a valid driver's license and operate vehicles in a safe and lawful manner throughout the event.
- All vehicles and trailers participating in the parade must be properly insured and maintained in safe operating condition.
- Parade organizers, sponsors, volunteers,

partnering agencies, municipalities, and public safety personnel shall not be held liable for injuries, damages, theft, or losses occurring before, during, or after the event.

- Participants are responsible for ensuring that all riders, walkers, performers, and volunteers connected to their entry understand and follow parade rules and safety requirements.
- Any participant operating unsafe equipment or engaging in negligent or reckless behavior may be removed from the parade immediately.
- Organizations participating with motorized vehicles, trailers, generators, animals, or specialized equipment may be asked to provide proof of insurance upon request.
- Participants accept the inherent risks associated with parade participation, including but not limited to weather conditions, crowd interactions, moving vehicles, uneven surfaces, noise, and emergencies.

## **11. POLITICAL ENTRIES**

The Minocqua 4th of July Parade has a long-standing tradition of welcoming a wide variety of community organizations, businesses, elected officials, and political candidates as part of the celebration. Political entries will continue to be permitted; however, all participants are expected to contribute to a respectful, family-friendly, and community-focused atmosphere. While political campaigning and candidate participation are allowed, the parade is not intended to serve as a platform for hostility, personal attacks, intimidation, or divisive conduct that detracts from the spirit of the event.

- Political candidates, elected officials, political parties, and advocacy organizations are permitted to participate in the parade on an equal and nondiscriminatory basis.
- All political entries must comply with the same parade rules, safety requirements, lineup procedures, and conduct expectations as all other participants.
- Political messaging, signage, music, and materials must remain respectful and appropriate for a family-friendly community event.
- Personal attacks, hateful messaging,

discriminatory content, threats, harassment, intimidation, or inflammatory behavior will not be permitted.

- Participants may not engage in confrontational behavior with spectators, volunteers, law enforcement, or other parade participants.
- Distribution of campaign materials, candy, or promotional items must follow all parade giveaway and safety policies.
- Parade organizers reserve the right to require the removal of signage, messaging, or behavior deemed unsafe, excessively disruptive, or inconsistent with the event's Code of Conduct.
- Any political entry that creates safety concerns, incites conflict, disrupts parade operations, or violates event policies may be removed from the parade at the discretion of parade officials or law enforcement.
- Approval of a parade entry does not constitute endorsement of any political candidate, organization, viewpoint, or message by parade organizers, sponsors, municipalities, or participating agencies.

Thank you for helping us continue the tradition of the Minocqua 4th of July Parade and for your commitment to creating a safe, respectful, and memorable event for our community and visitors. Our parade is a celebration of patriotism, community pride, and family fun, and we ask all participants to work together to help maintain a welcoming atmosphere for everyone in attendance.

We appreciate your cooperation, professionalism, and community spirit, and we thank you for helping make the Minocqua 4th of July Parade a positive and enjoyable experience for all.

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**PARADE LEAD FIRST & LAST NAME**

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**CELL PHONE**

(for day of event communications)

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**EMAIL**

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**BUSINESS or ORGANIZATION**

**I hereby acknowledge that I have read and understand all information, rules, and requirements relating to participation in the parade and that I have shared such information with all representatives, participants, and individuals involved in my parade entry. As the designated parade lead for the entry, I agree to abide by all terms and conditions established by the parade organizers and further agree to be responsible for the conduct, actions, and participation of all individuals associated with my parade entry during the event.**

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**SIGNATURE**

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**DATE**

Return to MINOCQUA AREA VISITORS BUREAU • 8216 Hwy 51 S Minocqua, WI 54548  
info@minocqua.org (715) 356-5266