



80th Annual Vienna Halloween Parade

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 7 p.m.

FAQs for Parade Participants:

When do I need to submit my entry?

Entry deadline is Friday, September 18, 2026.

What is this year's parade theme?

This year's theme is 'Haunted History: 250 Years of America'

More information on the parade theme and parade marshal is available at www.viennava.gov/halloween.

Are parade applications automatically accepted to participate in the parade?

No, application acceptance is based on entertainment, variety and adherence to the theme and guidelines. Photographs or detailed sketches of your entry are encouraged. Submitting an application does not guarantee your group/organization acceptance to participate in the parade.

How long is the parade?

The parade route is approximately ½ mile long and lasts 1-1/2 hours. Please make sure your group is prepared with warm clothes, comfortable shoes, and flashlights.

What happens if there is bad weather?

The parade is rain or shine!

What categories are there for parade entries?

The categories for judging parade entrants are as follows: Youth Band, Adult Band, Float with Music, Float without Music, Youth Performers, Adult Performers, Elected Official or Political Candidates, Walking Group, Animal Entry and Antique Vehicles.

How are the parade winners selected?

Entries will be judged on creativity and theme interpretation.

What happens if we win?

Winners will be notified in advance by EMAIL only. Parade Winners are presented their awards at an Award Ceremony held at the **November 9, 2026** Town Council meeting at 7:30 p.m. at Town Hall (127 Center St S). A reception will be held for the winners at Town Hall at 7:30 p.m.

What do we need to do to submit our application?

- Submit a complete registration packet (all forms in this packet must be completed).
- ALL entries are subject to the approval of the Parade Committee and must abide by the enclosed ***REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES***. As a reminder, it is against State Law to release balloons into the air. It is also against parade rules to hand out or throw candy, literature, balloons, etc. Any violation of the laws and/or rules and regulations will result in a future parade ban and possible criminal charges.
- All applicants will be notified of entry status by October 12, 2026. If accepted, your LINE-UP NUMBER and detailed information will be included in the packet. ***DO NOT CALL THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT UNLESS YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED YOUR LINE-UP PACKET BY OCTOBER 12, 2026.***

***If you are interested in donating 1000 kid friendly items to the Parade Goodie Bags, please contact Jessica Short at events@viennava.gov**

80th ANNUAL VIENNA HALLOWEEN PARADE-Application

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 at 7 p.m.

Deadline for Consideration: Friday, September 18, 2026 – No Exceptions

For Office Use:
Line up #

I/we the undersigned, do hereby submit an application to participate in the 2026 Vienna Halloween Parade scheduled for *Wednesday, October 28, 2026*. We understand that as participants we must follow the entry rules as attached and that our entry will contribute to the theme of the parade. Failure to complete all required forms (including narrative) may result in notification delay. An email confirmation will be sent to you within two weeks of application receipt.

NAME OF ORGANIZATION (How the parade announcer will identify your organization):

Name of Contact (one contact per group only):

Address of Contact: City State Zip

Phone # of Contact: (Day) (Evening) Email:

of Participants in Entry:

ALL GROUPS including Walking Groups must follow Parade Theme. Non-Performing Groups are limited to 50 participants. Performing Groups are limited to 75 participants. LIMIT 2 VEHICLES. Each unit will be allowed 50'-75' feet. No Vehicles other than those in the parade will be permitted on Line-up Street.

CATEGORIES: Check One That Applies

Youth Band Float with Music Youth Performer Antique/Classic Vehicle (Limit of 20 per entry)

Adult Band Float w/o Music Adult Performer Walking Group (50 person limit)

Elected Official or Political Candidate (Non- judging) Animal Entry (Horses, Dogs, etc.) Fire Trucks/Emergency Vehicles

DO YOU WANT YOUR ENTRY TO BE JUDGED? (Elected Officials are Non-Judged) Yes No

Please Describe Your Entry (attach longer description if needed for this question and the one that follows):

In detail, describe how your entry will have entertainment value and connect to the parade theme?

Will your entry include music? Yes No

***If Yes- will the music be live or recorded and played through a speaker? Live Recorded**

If a Float: Length of Float in feet Width of Float in feet Height of Float in feet (Float Entry Form must be completed) Number of Vehicles (Limit is TWO) Length of Vehicle 1 in feet Width of Vehicle 1 in feet

Length of Vehicle 2 in feet Width of Vehicle 2 in feet

Awards Ceremony: Vienna Town Council Meeting, November 9, 7:30 p.m. Winners will be notified in advance via email.

I/We agree to follow the rules and regulations for the parade and will abide by any Committee decision that affects our participation. I/We have attached the Float Policy (if applicable).

Signature: Date: Print Name:

RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM WITH YOUR NARRATIVE & WAIVER BY SEPTEMBER 18, 2026.

COMPLETED APPLICATIONS DO NOT GUARANTEE ACCEPTANCE TO PARTICIPATE

MAIL TO: 120 Cherry Street, SE, Vienna, Virginia 22180

FAX TO: 703-255-6399 OR EMAIL TO: events@viennava.gov

Office Use Only: Date Received Forms Attached: Float Policy Narrative Waiver

Date Confirmation Sent: Entered in Excel Narrative #

NARRATIVE
VIENNA HALLOWEEN PARADE
No changes and/or additions are permitted after October 9, 2026

(Please **TYPE** or **PRINT** your entry description)

GROUP NAME FOR ANNOUNCER: _____

NAME OF CONTACT PERSON: _____

DAY PHONE: _____

EVENING PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

What you write below will be read by the parade announcer when your parade entry passes the reviewing stand. (We reserve the right to edit.) Help us give your entry the credit and attention it deserves by including the name of your organization in your narrative. **Please remember this parade is for children.** (Imagine that you're reading your comments aloud to 30,000 people ranging in age from three to ninety-three. Does it capture and hold everyone's attention for a moment? If so, it's probably perfect!) Your comments should be **UPBEAT, INTERESTING, and BRIEF (approx. 50 words)** for the benefit of the spectators, judges and your fellow parade participants.

RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM **WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM & WAIVER**
BY SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

MAIL TO: Vienna Parks & Recreation
2026 Vienna Halloween Parade
120 Cherry Street, SE
Vienna, Virginia 22180
FAX TO: 703-255-6399
EMAIL TO: events@viennava.gov

WAIVER
VIENNA HALLOWEEN PARADE
Return by September 18, 2026– NO EXCEPTIONS

The undersigned agrees to save and hold harmless from any and all damage or injury **THE TOWN OF VIENNA** and the **VIENNA BUSINESS ASSOCIATION (ITS OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS)** as a result of participation on Wednesday, October 28, 2026, in the 80th Annual Vienna Halloween Parade, sponsored by the Town of Vienna, in cooperation with the Vienna Business Association of Vienna, Fairfax County, Virginia.

(NAME OF ORGANIZATION)

(CONTACT NAME, printed)

(CONTACT NAME, signature)

(TITLE)

(DATE)

RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM **WITH YOUR NARRATIVE
& REGISTRATION FORM** BY SEPTEMBER 18, 2026.

MAIL TO: Vienna Parks & Recreation
2026 Vienna Halloween Parade
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FLOAT POLICY
VIENNA HALLOWEEN PARADE
Theme: Haunted History: 250 Years of America

Return by September 18, 2026 – NO EXCEPTIONS

**NOW IS THE TIME TO PLAN YOUR FLOAT FOR THE
80th ANNUAL VIENNA HALLOWEEN PARADE!**

1. Prepare a sketch or a drawing of your proposed, colorful, and entertaining float.
2. Submit the drawing, along with the signed form below, to the Parks & Recreation office by Friday, September 18, 2026.

Any business, club, organization, school, individual or political party may submit a float application to the Parade Committee for approval. A float is hereby described as any vehicle, decorated in a colorful and entertaining motif, **which follows the theme of the parade.** This vehicle is to be decorated **to the extent that it is not recognized as a vehicle,** with the exception of the 'cab portion with driver' (if applicable). **The maximum height for all floats is 14 ½ feet from the ground. The maximum width for all floats is 10 feet across.**

FLOAT DIMENSIONS: _____ Length in feet _____ Width in feet _____ Height in feet

TWO VEHICLES ONLY

I am/We are applying to participate in the 2026 Vienna Halloween Parade. I/We have enclosed the sketch of our float and understand that this sketch and application are subject to the 2026 Parade Committee's approval. I/We agree to abide by the Committee's decision.

NAME OF ORGANIZATION: _____

CONTACT NAME: _____

ADDRESS OF CONTACT: _____

CITY OR TOWN: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE NUMBER OF CONTACT: (DAY) _____ (EVENING) _____

E-MAIL: _____

If you are entering a float, you must
RETURN THIS COMPLETED FORM WITH YOUR REGISTRATION FORM & WAIVER
BY SEPTEMBER 18, 2026

MAIL TO: Vienna Parks & Recreation
2026 Vienna Halloween Parade
120 Cherry Street, SE
Vienna, Virginia 22180
FAX TO: 703-255-6399
EMAIL TO: events@viennava.gov

REGULATIONS AND PROCEDURES - 2026

VIENNA HALLOWEEN PARADE

To provide an organized, entertaining and safe parade, the Town of Vienna has adopted the following regulations and procedures:

REGISTRATION AND APPLICATIONS:

1. Any person, organization, club, business, or group may apply to participate in the parade. All regulations must be followed. **NO GAPS BETWEEN GROUPS ARE PERMITTED.**
2. All units or individuals must be registered with the Parade Committee by the deadline date of **September 18, 2026.**
3. This parade is primarily to be viewed by children. All entries must be in good taste and contribute to the overall theme of the parade.
4. Registrations are subject to the approval of the Parade Committee. The Parade Committee may deny participation to any unit or individual not in accord with these Regulations and Procedures.

ELECTED OFFICIALS AND POLITICAL CANDIDATES:

1. Politically related entries in the parade are restricted to federal, state and local officials that represent Vienna, to include the Town's Mayor and Council. These entries are to be placed in the beginning of the parade as they are recognized as dignitaries.
2. Individuals running for political office or re-election must coordinate their participation in the parade with the local Democratic or Republican Committee.
3. If an individual does not affiliate themselves with the Democratic or Republican Party, that applicant will be assigned a position in the same general area of the Democrats and Republicans in no particular order that will be determined randomly.
4. Political entries must comply with the parade's Float Policy.
5. A political float cannot be decorated only with red, white and blue bunting and/or political stickers. It must follow the theme of the parade and be entertaining to the total audience, which includes children.

FLOATS:

1. All vehicles must comply with the parade's Float Policy with the exception of the following: police vehicles, fire equipment, OFFICIAL parade cars, and antique cars.
2. Any self-powered vehicle must be decorated, covering more than 75% of the vehicle. The pulling unit need not to be decorated. All floats must reflect the theme of the parade.
3. It is important that floats arrive on schedule by the route designated.
4. All auxiliary units must be registered and contribute to the theme of the parade.
5. For safety reasons, walkers alongside of floats are not permitted.

BANDS, MAJORETTES, MARCHING UNITS, SPECIALTY GROUPS:

1. All units must maintain movement along the parade route. Stopping for an individual or group's performance or routine will not be permitted at any point along the parade route, including the Reviewing Stand. If a routine is to be performed, it must be at a moving pace at an advancing rate of no less than one-half step. Failure to comply will result in a disqualification and removal from future parades.

GENERAL:

1. **Tossing of or handing out of items (candy, literature, balloons etc.) along the parade route is strictly prohibited.**
Please contact Jessica Short (events@viennava.gov) if you're interested in donating 1000 kid friendly items to the parade goodie bags.
2. **For safety reasons, and to keep the parade moving along at a steady pace walker are not permitted any physical contact with parade onlookers.**
3. Maximum number of participants in a performing group is 75.
4. Bicycles or motorized vehicles NOT REGISTERED WITH THE PARADE COMMITTEE are strictly prohibited.
5. All groups comprised of children are strongly encouraged to have adequate adult supervision. We recommend bringing flashlights as the side streets can be very dark.
6. Animal units must provide a clean-up crew to walk behind their animals.
7. Balloons may not be released into the air as described in the attached state law.
8. **Parents dropping off their children must have an adult to escort them to their line-up space. There is no place to park your car and walk children to their space.**
9. Any parade vehicle that is not a Firetruck or Emergency Vehicle **must not use air horns or sirens.**
10. Firetrucks and EMS Vehicles must follow the siren policy attached.
11. No open flames or sparks.

PENALTIES:

Any participants who are judged by the Parade Committee to be in violation of the above rules will be removed from the parade and banned from next year's parade.

If you have additional questions, please call the Special Event Coordinator at 703-255-6395 or email events@viennava.gov.

GRANDSTAND INFORMATION

2026 VIENNA HALLOWEEN PARADE

- IN AN EFFORT TO KEEP THE PARADE MOVING, STOPPING TO PERFORM ALONG THE PARADE ROUTE IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
- GROUPS MUST CONTINUE WALKING ALONG THE ENTIRE ROUTE, PERFORMING IN MOTION. PLEASE PLAN YOUR ROUTINES WITH THIS IN MIND.
- AS PARTICIPANTS PASS THE REVIEWING STAND, THEY MUST CONTINUE MOVING.
- JUDGES WILL EVALUATE AN ENTRY AS THEY PASS THE REVIEWING STAND.
- WE LIMIT THE NUMBER OF PERFORMING GROUPS WITH SIMILAR MUSIC AND ROUTINES.
- MAXIMUM NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN PERFORMING GROUP IS 75.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!