

Takoma Park 4th of July Parade: Participant Directions

The Takoma Park Independence Day Committee is pleased that you will participate in our 129th Independence Day Parade on Wednesday, July 4, 2018. Please read these instructions carefully and completely. Share this information with all members of your group to ensure that they also will understand what to do and when.

Note: Parade participants should contact their group's designated leader or point of contact if they have questions or problems on the 4th. Please make sure you have your point of contact's info handy! Your point of contact should be able to answer all your questions, and if you have an issue that needs to be resolved by the parade management, your point of contact will pass along your inquiry.

Parade Route

The parade starts at 10:00 a.m. and ends around 12 noon. It begins at the intersection of Carroll and Ethan Allen Avenues, winds along Carroll Avenue through Old Town Takoma, turns right on Maple Avenue, and ends at the intersection of Maple and Ritchie Avenues. It is about 1.25 miles long.

Please note that the parade does NOT end at the reviewing stand, which is located on Maple Avenue in front of the Piney Branch Elementary School. You should proceed three blocks past the reviewing stand until you reach Ritchie Avenue where we will provide water for all participants, and elderly residents of the Franklin Apartments who are unable to travel easily will be out to see you. Members of the Committee will be stationed along this stretch to remind you to keep going, just in case you forget!

Parade Line-Up and Staging Area

The parade program is available at the following link from the TPIDC web site:
<http://www.takomapark4th.org/sitecode.fof/pages.fof/tpidcparadeprogram.aspx>.

Here you will find what division your group is in, the division directors you should report to, and where you are in the line-up. We will update the program as we get new parade entrants, so check back often.

The staging areas for the divisions are as follows:

- Division 2 Manor Circle
- Division 3 Carroll Avenue between Lee and Sherman Avenues
- Division 4 Carroll Avenue between Sherman and Boyd Avenues
- Division 5 Boyd Avenue
- Division 6 Sherman Avenue
- Division 7 Lee Avenue

A map of the staging area and parade route is in a separate attachment.

The line-up is designed to accommodate as many needs as possible and to spread musical groups throughout the parade with non-musical groups between. As new groups continue to register for the parade, we will place them according to this framework. Fire trucks and certain dignitaries who arrive late to the parade are fed into the line-up as they arrive. Also, some participants may have to cancel at the last minute. Therefore, the line-up as posted on the web site is subject to change. Your division directors will work with you to find the best possible placement for your group at the time of assembly.

Road Closures

All main roads around the parade route will close at 9:00 a.m. We ask that your group arrive at your staging area between 9:00 a.m and 9:30 a.m. In order to reach your staging area, you will need to pass through a police barricade. Police barricades will be set up at the following intersections around the staging area, which are marked on the parade map:

- A: Philadelphia Avenue at Piney Branch Road
- B: Maple Avenue at Sligo Creek Parkway
- C: Carroll Avenue at Flower Avenue
- D: Ethan Allen Avenue at Jackson Avenue

For easier traffic flow, parade participants should enter the staging area at specific police barricades according to the following chart:

- A: Division 1
- B: Divisions 6 & 7
- C: Divisions 3 & 4
- D: Divisions 2 & 5

This will make sense if you refer to the parade map accompanying this document. Enclosed in your package is an entry pass for your group. Please distribute to any members of your group who will be driving to the parade. Anyone walking or riding a bicycle, etc. may proceed without a pass.

If any members of your group forget or do not have a pass, they should simply let the police officer at the barricade know the name of their group and they will be allowed to proceed. If you have any trouble getting through a police barricade, please contact Tara Egan at 240-863-8837 and she will assist.

Parking

Parking is scarce on side streets near the staging area. We have arranged for parade participants to park in the side lot of the Franklin Apartments at 7620 Maple Avenue (at the end of the parade route) (lot is to the right as you face the building, and please leave a copy of the your entry pass on your dashboard) and in the parking lot of the Mar Thoma Church at the corner of Ethan Allen and Jackson Avenues (near the staging area). Signs will be posted at these locations. Limited parking is available at the city lot between the firehouse and the TP/SS Co-op on Ethan Allen. For those who can walk a bit more, you may park at the Takoma Park Middle School at 7611 Piney Branch Road and walk down Grant Avenue to reach Maple Avenue and on to your staging area. You may also park at the Takoma Park Elementary School at 7511 Holly Avenue - entrances to the lots are on Holly and Philadelphia Avenues - and walk to Maple Avenue and your staging area.

Performing and Judging

Six years ago, we began using a panel of local residents, business owners, and others who understand and reflect the culture of Takoma Park to judge parade entrants and award cash prizes. It worked so well, we decided to use the panel for the foreseeable future. The five judges will be spaced along the parade route from the beginning at the intersection of Ethan Allen and Carroll Avenues to the end at Ritchie Avenue. It is necessary to ensure that your group is properly identified and spaced so that the judges will not confuse you with other groups around you. Please leave at least 2-3 car lengths between your group and the one directly in front of you, whether you are moving or stationary.

Children who are carrying a group's identifying banner should be supervised so that they know not to get too far ahead of their group and to leave enough space between them and the group ahead of them.

Keeping the parade moving at a comfortable pace can be challenging. We often have problems with long gaps in the parade as well as periods of standing still. Much of the latter is due to the length of time groups stop to perform at the reviewing stand. In fairness to everyone, we ask that groups who do not have a song/skit/routine or any other performance to keep moving when they reach the reviewing stand, which is located on Maple Avenue just past the Municipal Building. A Committee member will direct parade traffic through the reviewing stand area to ensure that your group will be captured by the cable tv cameras, and that the parade announcer has plenty of time to read a statement about your group as you pass the stand.

Performing groups may stop to perform at the reviewing stand, but will be limited to 60 seconds. A member of the Committee will be at the reviewing stand to let you know when your time is up. Any group who violates this provision may be disqualified from the competition. Remember, the judges will be all along the parade route. It is best for you, the judges, the spectators, and especially the other participants behind you if you perform short pieces throughout the parade rather than one long piece at the reviewing stand.

Parade Prizes

The list of prize categories and cash awards is posted on the web site at:

<http://www.takomapark4th.org/sitecode.fol/pages.fol/tpidcparadewinners.aspx>

Winners will be announced during the Evening Program at the Takoma Park Middle School and posted on the web site. Winners will receive their check via mail after July 4th. Groups that receive payment to be in the parade are not eligible for cash prizes.

Safety

The Committee requests that parade participants refrain from throwing items, such as candy, into the crowd of spectators from the street. You may, however, distribute items along the sidewalks. A first-aid station is located under the canopy by the reviewing stand on Maple Avenue. Two portable toilets will be available in the staging area: one by the picnic gazebo at the intersection of Ethan Allen and Carroll Avenues, and another at the Carroll Ave entrance to Opal Daniels Park (between Lincoln Ave and Sherman Ave). Restrooms are located in the Municipal Building at 7500 Maple Avenue.

Map

A map showing the parade route, staging area, police barricades, parking areas, and restrooms is available in a separate attachment.

Inclement Weather

In the event of rain, the parade will be canceled. We have no rain date due to the difficulty in assembling the volunteers, participants, vendors, spectators, and city staff needed to conduct the parade on a different day. If the parade is canceled, we will post a notice on the web site as soon as possible. You also can call Tara Egan at 240-863-8837 or Gene Herman at 301-585-5832 if you would like information about an inclement weather call.

Thank you for helping to make this another memorable Independence Day Parade in Takoma Park. We look forward to seeing you on July 4th. If you have questions or comments between now and July 4th, please contact Tara Egan at 240-863-8837 or tara.marie.egan@gmail.com.