

2023 Vermont Maple Festival Parade Rules

The 57th Annual Vermont Maple Festival will be April 28th, 29th, and 30th in St. Albans, Vermont. The Parade is Sunday April 30th, 2023 at **12:00**. Please review and adhere to the parade rules and general information.

Registration

No Entry Fee. The theme of the parade this year is: **“Maple – The Heart of Vermont”**. The entry form must be completed and returned to the parade committee. Pre-registration helps everyone on parade day. One week before the parade, someone will inform you what section to report to, time, etc.

Email complete entry form to:

Leslie.f.bergeron@gmail.com

Forms can also be printed and mailed to:

Vermont Maple Festival Parade

c/o Leslie Bergeron

10 Jones Court, Swanton, VT. 05488

Parade Protocol

All parade entries should be in their staging area on Lemnah Drive by 11:00 am parade day. Only parade vehicles will be permitted in these lots. To keep the parade moving, no participants will be allowed to stop the parade to perform on the parade route or at the reviewing stand. Entries staging in sections 1&2 should enter Lemnah Drive from Lower Weldon. If you are staging in Section 3 you should enter Lemnah Drive from Nason Street. If your staging area is at SB Collins on Lower Weldon, please drive down Lake Street from Main Street and take a left onto Elm Street and enter Lower Weldon from that direction. Parents taking children to the staging area must walk on Lemnah Drive from Nason Street. If you are transporting materials for floats or entries, you may drive in by Nason St, unload and leave as soon as possible being mindful of all the foot traffic and driving slowly and cautiously. Please take time to consider if you will have any animals along for the parade. The staging area is very chaotic and loud. In past years it has proven to be too much stimulation and entries have had to pull out at the last minute.

Safety Issues

For children’s safety NO candy or other goodies will be allowed to be thrown from a vehicle of any kind. If a Vermont Maple Festival Trustee notices an entry in violation of this safety issue the organization will not be allowed to participate in future parades. If you wish to distribute candy or goodies, please have walkers hand it to the children. This will keep them away from the wheels of moving vehicles. You will not be allowed to toot horns, run sirens, work noisy machinery, etc. out of respect for other parade participants. Only the driver is allowed on an open tractor.

Staging Areas

There are four staging areas on or near Lemnah Drive. Section 1 organizes on North end of Lemnah Drive at Blooming Minds. Section 2 organizes in the CDL Maple parking lot. Section 3 organizes in the Northwest Family Foods parking lot. Section 4 organizes in the SB Collins parking lot on Lower Weldon Street. A number of parade volunteers will be in the area and happy to assist you.

Horse Units

The St. Albans Police Department and the Vermont Maple Festival arranged the following for horses to avoid traffic congestion and encourage public safety. Horse units must unload before the parade at the old Fonda location on Lower Newton Street. Leave all trucks and trailers parked there. Travel North Elm Street to South Elm to Lower Welden where you will wait there or be instructed to one of the lots for the parade to begin. To exit the city after the parade, take a right out of the lot, take next left, and go to North Elm Street to Lower Welden Street, onto Lemnah Drive to Nason Street up to South Main near J & L Service Center to I-89 access or south on Route 7. All horse units must provide proof of insurance and abide by the parade rules.

Awards

The festival committee requires decorated floats. Floats will be judged on who is closest to the 2023 Vermont Maple Festival theme “Maple – the Heart of Vermont” as follows:

Most Creative Best Youth Float Most Entertaining Most Maple Related

Four \$100 awards and rosette ribbons will be awarded to the best floats after the parade, as soon as the judges make their decision. Floats will be judged during the parade as you pass by the reviewing stand on Main Street.

Leslie Bergeron - Parade Chair