

2024 Vermont Maple Festival Parade Rules

The 57th Annual Vermont Maple Festival will be April 26th, 27th, and 28th in St. Albans, Vermont. The Parade is Sunday April 28th, 2024 at **12:00 pm**. Please review and adhere to the parade rules and general information.

Registration

No Entry Fee. The theme of the parade this year is: **“Totally Eclipsed by Vermont Maple”**. 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

Please note:

All entries must incorporate Maple or a Maple theme into their parade entry and decorations

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.

No profanity may be displayed on any decoration or vehicle. If you have stickers on your vehicle with profane language they need to be removed or covered for the duration of the parade or you will be asked to leave. Parade volunteers will be reviewing all vehicles.

Finally, aggressive behavior will not be tolerated in the staging areas. The parade line-up area can get chaotic and overwhelming. If you are having trouble with someone in line near you, please talk to the volunteer for your section and they can contact me to come help. We will handle it. If parade volunteers note aggressive behavior toward other entries or toward any of the volunteers, you will be asked to immediately leave the area and your organization will no longer be invited to participate in future parades. The volunteers who work at this event take hours out of their weekend to make this happen with the sole goal of keeping everyone safe and happy. Any aggressive behavior towards them is unacceptable.

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.

Awards

Entries will be judged on who is closest to the 2024 Vermont Maple Festival theme "Totally Eclipsed by Vermont Maple" as follows:

Most Creative Entry Best Youth Entry Most Entertaining Entry Most Maple Related Entry

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

Leslie Bergeron - Parade Chair