



Anderson County Bicentennial Parade

The Anderson County Bicentennial Parade is held to celebrate 200 years in Anderson County history in a fun positive atmosphere. We invite our community to take part and join in the excitement and festivities. There is no entry fee. **All units should be Bicentennial focused.**

Date & Time: Sunday, October 4, 2026, at 3 p.m.

Location: Main Street, Downtown Anderson

Application Deadline: August 17, 2026, or 100 entries (whichever comes first!)

Entry limits: 100 total units

Entry Qualifications and Standard Practices

- **Requirements for Entry:** Entrants must complete the Parade Entry Application in full for the category you are applying to participate in. Applications will be reviewed by the parade committee. **All entries are subject to approval.** Every entry must agree to the terms of participation outlined by the parade committee in this document. Entries must observe all applicable rules and regulations. The parade staff reserves the right to remove any entrant from the parade either prior to staging, during staging or any time during the parade if the entrant fails to meet parade rules or does not follow standards of reasonable public taste.

The Bicentennial Committee does not permit individual vehicles in the parade with the exception of local, state and national dignitaries, invited antique car owners, county sponsored, public emergency service, and radio vans. **High School Queen's whose band participates** may ride in a vehicle in front of the band. Local pageant winners are encouraged to participate in the parade, but all local pageant winners must be on a float. **Individual passenger vehicles do not qualify as floats. Business trucks must be decorated with a Bicentennial Theme to participate.**

- The parade staff will determine the position of entries. Number of accepted entries will be 100.
- **Acceptable entries include:** Bands, Marching Units and Floats. All bands and other musical ensembles are expected to play patriotic music. No bicycles and no small cars are permitted. Horses are permitted to participate in the parade only if they have a "bun/catch it bag" attached or a clean-up crew walking with them on the parade route and in the staging area. Dogs are allowed on floats and as a walking unit if they are on a **six (6) foot leash or shorter** and under complete control of an **adult over 21 years of age**. Dogs must have a clean-up crew walking with them on the parade route and in the staging area.
- **Size Limitations:** Some floats may be subject to size limitations based on the information submitted. **No entry may exceed a maximum height of 13', measured from the ground to the highest point of the entry.**
- **Age Requirement:** Participants **under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult older than 21**. Please make sure any entry with children has an appropriate number of adult chaperones. A 1:10 ratio is a good rule to follow.
- **Clean-Up Responsibility:** Participants are expected to put their trash in receptacles provided in the staging area.
- **Safety:** Parade participants on floats must be securely fastened with a safety harness. Parade Officials may do random inspections. Float or antique car drivers must show a Certificate of Insurance or Insurance Card for their vehicles, have a valid driver's license and **be over 21 years of age**.
- **No Throwing of Objects:** Throwing objects into the crowd from the parade route is prohibited. No giveaways, handouts, or any solicitation to members of the crowd are permitted. For the safety of children and all spectators, throwing of candy or other materials is not permitted. Candy may be distributed by walking along the sides of the parade route only. Please make sure everyone in your group is aware of this.
- **No Stopping on Parade Route:** No stopping or standing performances that interrupt the parade are allowed. In the event of an emergency, notify a Parade Official who will summon Emergency Services.
- **Accepted Apparel:** No part of the American flag may be worn as apparel in accordance with Flag Etiquette and Ceremonial Rules for the display of the American Flag. Parade participants must exhibit standards of reasonable public taste in clothing.

- **Music Bands:** Bands playing music should perform along the entire parade route for the enjoyment of all spectators.
- **Marching/Walking Units** should be in uniform or costume and maintain a banner or other identification. Flags, banners and other displays are encouraged. **ALL units should have bicentennial decorations**, costumes and music where appropriate. **Individual vehicles are not allowed in front or behind marching units for the purpose of playing music. Music must be provided by using a system that can be pulled or carried by hand.**
- **Floats and Motorized Units:** These should have a bicentennial significance and be designed in a manner which is safe for all participants and spectators. Float format should be fun and as eye appealing as possible. Floats should be constructed and decorated so that either side is equally appealing.

All drivers must stay with their units during the staging process. For the safety of our parade participants once in the staging area decorating should be mostly complete so that entries are able to be moved in the staging area as needed when asked to move. All units are required to close the gap between units when ordered by the parade officials.

All units are responsible for how they are pulled along the parade route. **Be sure that the trailer hitch or trailer attachment is compatible between vehicle and trailer in advance of parade date.** Vehicles should not turn on their headlights during the parade.

Floats will be built on a trailer with **at least two wheels pulled by a separate vehicle** or a flatbed truck with a minimum bed area of 12 feet. All floats should be equipped with a fire extinguisher. Floats should be decorated with a bicentennial theme and have a banner for recognition purposes. There should be no float without sufficient bicentennial decorations.

- **Animals:** Animals must have a sanitary clean-up person walking behind them. Dogs must always be on a six (6) foot leash **with an adult over 21 years old.**
- **Parade Committee Discretion:** The Parade Committee reserves the right to select parade entries. No political messaging of any kind or PA system announcements will be permitted.
- **Signs:** Each unit should use signs or banners to identify (but not to advertise) its sponsor to spectators on both sides of the street. Banners/signs should be neat and recognized but should be modest in relation to the size of each unit. Basic simple signs work best. 6 to 8" lettering works best. Political and religious messaging is prohibited.
- **Alcoholic beverages** are forbidden on any float, in any vehicle or on any person or participant. Evidence of alcohol in any way will result in removal from the parade.

Day of Parade

- Line-up will be at 2 p.m. on parade day. To make the line-up safer for staff and participants please inform your unit participants -DO NOT enter the parade route in a vehicle to drop off participants. **All participants should walk or be walked to the line-up area. Every unit will be emailed their unit number and a line-up map with your unit placement highlighted – please share that with your group when you receive.**
- Vendors must fill out a city parade vending application for parade day vending. **Vendors must obtain a city business license from the City of Anderson Business License Office to be eligible and display said business license the day of parade.** Vendors will work in set zones determined by Parade Committee and City officials.

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