



The 68th Stow Fourth of July Parade

Theme:	Celebrate America! Celebrate Community!
Event Date:	Saturday, July 4, 2026. Step off is at 10:00 AM
Event Location:	The Parade starts on Route 59 and travels west past Holy Family Church. ONLY VEHICLES THAT ARE IN THE PARADE AND HAVE A PARADE PERMIT will be permitted in the staging area.
Event Sponsor:	City of Stow
Contact:	Stow Parks & Recreation at 330.689.5100 or parks@stowohio.gov
No Selling:	There shall be no selling of food or products by parade participants in the parking lot, or along the parade route.
Assembly Time:	Judging of floats will begin promptly at 8:30 AM. All other entries not being judged must arrive in the assembly area no later than 9:00 AM.
Line-Up Position:	One week before the parade a parade permit will be mailed to the contact person for each registered entrant. All vehicles must have their parade permit clearly displayed in the front window. Please ensure you and all your group's participants know your location number and the name of your entry the day of the parade. NO PERMIT, NO ENTRY!
Reviewing Stand:	All entries, whether being judged or not, will be announced when they pass the reviewing stand located at Kent and Elm Roads. If you have not done so, PLEASE EMAIL ANNOUNCEMENT INFORMATION to Christine.sheridan@stowohio.gov.
Judging:	All entries to be judged will be judged in the assembly area and judged on: use of theme/patriotism, appearance, and originality. Winners will be awarded trophies before the parade kicks off and announced at the reviewing stand. Trophies will be awarded for first, second and third place in the categories listed below, as well as Best of Show. Commercial Non-Commercial Youth Groups

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ADHERENCE TO OUR PARADE PROCEDURES



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First and foremost, the Stow Fourth of July Parade celebrates America, its history, and its freedom. Therefore, participants in the parade must observe proper protocol when displaying the American flag.

1. All participants must be pre-registered, have paid their entry fee (and hand out fee if applicable), and have been assigned a parade permit. Parade permits will be mailed to the contact person for each registered entrant.
2. Only those entries that signed up for and paid the additional handout fee may hand out items. No other unit is permitted to hand out or distribute anything in the assembly area or down the parade route! This includes literature, candy, promotional items, and any other item.
3. **NO ITEMS MAY BE THROWN FROM VEHICLES IN THE PARADE. THIS IS A SAFETY ISSUE** Candy or other objects may only be distributed by walkers in the outside curb lanes of the parade route.
4. All parade participants **MUST** keep up with the pace of the parade as it goes down the route. Whether walking, marching, riding or driving, you must keep up with your entry and with the unit in front of you.
5. **Each entry will only be allowed to have the number of vehicles in the parade that were indicated on your registration.** Vehicles not designated on the registration form will not be allowed in the assembly area or down the parade route. If you do not know what you put on your registration, please contact us. **All vehicles MUST HAVE A PARADE PERMIT CLEARLY DISPLAYED IN THE FRONT WINDOW.**
6. Floats must be designed to allow for a minimum of 180 degree forward field of view for the driver.
7. Use of tobacco products, illegal drugs, and/or alcohol is prohibited on floats, parade vehicles or in the assembly area.
8. There shall be no portable flammable liquid containers, fire, or open flames on the parade units or in the assembly area. All fueling is to be performed prior to arrival.
9. Careless or reckless operation of a vehicle is prohibited. Drivers of parade unit vehicles must remain behind the wheel of their vehicles for the entire length of the parade. The driver of any vehicle in the parade must have a valid driver's license and be no less than 18 years of age. Liability insurance coverage is required for any motorized vehicle participating in the parade. All riding participants, sitting or standing, must be provided with a firm handhold. **Safety First!!**
10. Parade officials will wear clearly identifiable shirts and/or vests the day of the parade. These individuals will provide assistance and will resolve any problematic situations. Their decisions will be final.