



2018 Independence Day Parade & Celebration Participant & Spectator Info
(if you have questions or want to help put on a great Parade and Party,
email president@northwoodhills.org)

Now in its 25th year, the NHHA Independence Day Celebration is a signature event in Northwood Hills. From a few kids on bikes circling a couple of neighborhood blocks, the event has grown to a Parade that includes adorned jalopies and strollers, antique and specialty cars, costumed characters, decorated pets, festive floats and families in full July 4th regalia. An activity area for post-Parade fun includes a petting zoo, bounce-house, dunk-tank, refreshments, games and activities for kids and grown-ups...and an old-fashioned watermelon sale.

When: Wednesday, July 4, 2018 7:30 a.m. to 11:30am

7:30 -- Parade registration opens/neighbor Meet & Greet; Kids' sidewalk chalk art & bubbles

8:30 -- Parade entries assemble

8:45 -- National Anthem, Pledge of Allegiance

9:00 -- Parade steps off! Parade route is approximately 30 minutes, depending on number and type of entries and the speed they can maintain.

9:30-9:45 -- Post-parade games/activities begin when parade returns, and continue until around 11:30am. **Bring \$5 for the watermelon sale!**

10:15ish – Announcement of Parade Winners

Where: Pre- and post-parade activities are at Northwood Hills Elementary School. Parade route is south from school on Meandering Way, west on Oakbluff, north on Brookcrest, east/northeast on Briar Cove, east on Cliffbrook across Meandering Way back to the school. A PDF of the route is included at the end of this document.

Parade Entries: EVERYONE is welcome to be in the Parade. But if you want to be considered for a Judges' Prize/Trophy, you must register and get a number. You can do that on-site the morning of the Parade, or IF YOU ARE A NORTHWOOD HILLS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION MEMBER you can register in advance and avoid the line, by emailing president@northwoodhills.org.

Entries/Trophies: Strollers, trikes, bikes, wagons, decorated cars, vintage cars, golf carts, floats, walkers, dogs – bring it on! Our prize categories include Best Hat, Best in Blue, Best in Red, Fun & Fired Up Family, Most Patriotic, Best Motorized Entry, Most Original, Most Patriotic Pet, Most Fashionable Pet, and multiple Spirit Awards. There are also Special Judges Awards for those who awe, amaze and defy conventional categories.

Also: Awards for Most Festive Viewing Party and Most Patriotic Yard along the Parade route. So for those of you along the route... time to get your game on!

Important: Parade participants CANNOT throw candy, trinkets or anything else from your entry to the spectators. And if you have a true float (a trailer pulled behind a vehicle) there are special safety requirements per the City of Dallas. Email president@northwoodhills.org to learn more.

Parade Order: The order in which we line up and proceed through the route is a function of safety for all participants, and is strictly enforced by on-site DPD officers.

1. Floats, cars and trucks go first
2. Other motorized vehicles, 4-wheelers and motorcycles

3. Non-motorized bikes and small "wheeled" vehicles
4. Strollers and pedestrians

Non-motorized entries (bikes/strollers/walkers) cannot intermingle with the motorized entries up front. We are already working on a preliminary line-up list. *To help us plan, please let us know if you are bringing a float, motorized or car entry, or a large group -- Scouts, a team, a block of neighbors, etc.*

VIPS: We are thrilled to have some very special VIPs riding in our parade. Incoming NHE principal, Ishii Tavarez, and Olympic gold and silver medalist, Madison Kocian, will lead our 25th Annual Parade. We encourage you to make signs showing your support and cheer loudly when you see them!

After the Parade: The celebration continues with lots of activities!

- Jump in the Bounce House sponsored by **Spring Valley United Methodist Church**.
- Snack on Popcorn, Snow Cones and Cotton Candy, sponsored by **Melinda Spence, Gilchrist & Company Real Estate**.
- Kids can visit the Petting Zoo while Mom and Dad buy a farm-fresh watermelon for \$5 at our Annual Watermelon Sale, both sponsored by **Judy Switzer & Associates**.
- Dogs can cool off with shade and fresh water at the PAWS for Refreshment area, sponsored by **Janet Marcum, Marcum Real Estate**.
- And then there's the Dunk Tank, sponsored by **Ready Roofing**, which is just a sloppy, hilarious mess and very popular with kids and teens.
- The Children's Activity Area has Pin the Beard on Uncle Sam, Water Balloon Toss, Hula Hoop Contest, Icy Toes, Limbo, Sack Races and other games with prizes. Corn Heave is a popular attraction, along with finger/brush painting (washable, tempera paint) where little ones can create souvenir July 4th art to take home and showcase on the fridge.

Parade Prizes: Stick around after the Parade, because while the activities are getting cranked up, the Judges are busy tabulating their scores. About 30 minutes after the parade gets back to the school, the winning Parade entries are announced and prizes are awarded.

Cost: Parade participation, and all games, activities and refreshments are FREE to everyone. The parade is paid for by Northwood Hills Homeowners Association with the assistance of business sponsors and family donations. **DO bring a \$5 donation to get a farm-fresh watermelon.** All proceeds benefit NHHA's neighborhood improvement projects.

Volunteers: Needed and welcome! Big and small jobs, set-up and take down; shifts available. **A great way for junior/high schoolers to earn service hours.** Email president@northwoodhills.org to learn how you can be part of the fun.

Monetary Support: This event is made possible by our corporate sponsors and also personal contributions. If you want to provide support, we have opportunities available to showcase your business. Or, individuals can contribute any amount to help us defray costs. **If you'd like a farm-fresh watermelon, bring \$5. Proceeds benefit our beautification efforts.**

Dogs: Well-behaved dogs are welcome ON A LEASH. This is a big, active crowd. Please consider your dog's temperament when evaluating whether or not to include him/her at the Parade. Dog shade/water available after the Parade.

Personal safety/well-being: As part of NHHA's ongoing West Nile awareness and prevention effort, we fog the school and activities area with an organic product the morning of the Parade. We have no control over bugs on the Parade route, so please apply your preferred mosquito-repellant product.

To help keep everyone safely hydrated, **Sunnyland Furniture** provides coolers of free, chilled water at the school and at host yards along the Parade route. NHHA will also have free lemonade by the membership tent.

There are NO bathroom facilities on-site. Don't forget sunscreen! Bring your phone/camera!

Other: NO PARKING along Cliffbrook in front of the school – we need that area for staging the parade entries. There's plenty of parking on the east side of the school along Birchridge.

What a great way to kick off the 4th of July! Join Us for the Fun!