

2025 VIGILANTE PARADE ENTRY REGULATIONS

The Vigilante Parade, started in **1924**, is dedicated to the pioneers who settled Helena. Your entry should be built around **historic Helena themes**, so think of a great Helena idea or choose from the list below, or submit your own idea approved by the co-chairs (see below). Entries may be float entries or walking entries. ***We are planning on large cash prizes for the winners in each division.*** Prizes will be awarded to winners in each division and a sweepstakes for the best entry in the parade.

Important Registration Details!

Entry Regulations & How-To Video are posted on Teams: “2025 Vigilante Parade”

Paper copies are also **available in the library**

DATES & DEADLINES

Parade Date:		Friday May 2, 2025		
Float Sign-up:		Thursday April 10 th → 17 th		
Completed Registration:		April 14 th → 17 th		
<i>No registration forms will be accepted after April 17th</i>				
Where to register:		Library Foyer		
When:	8:00 – 8:15 (morning)	12:10 – 12:25 (noon)	2:25 – 2:50 (after 6 th)	3:20 – 3:40 (after 7 th)

TO DO:

- 1) Select a **chairperson** and decide on a theme that relates to the history of Helena. Refer to the list of suggested themes.
- 2) The **chairperson** is responsible for all registration forms and Teams submissions.
- 3) Sign up for a themed float (April 10th → April 17th) in the library foyer.
- 4) Microsoft Teams Online Assignments to complete (3 assignments)
 - ✓ Registration Roster
 - ✓ Historic Essay
 - ✓ Regulation Quiz
- 5) Paper Forms to fill out & hand in:
 - ✓ Workday Roster
 - ✓ Google Map to construction site location
 - ✓ Vehicle Insurance Information
 - ✓ ****Parent Approval slips** (blue sheets: all students attending the Thursday Workday are REQUIRED to turn in parent signed blue sheets. Sheets can be picked up at the library or school office.)

- 6) A maximum of twelve (12) people may be registered as working on an entry except antique vehicle entries which have a maximum of 4 people. **If your float consists of people from both high schools the permission slips for all participants need to be turned in by your chairperson at the school where the float is registered.** ONLY HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ARE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PARADE. This does not, of course, preclude others assisting, for example the driver of the vehicle for a float. Get a truck or trailer lined up as soon as possible because only a limited number of trucks and trailers are available in the Helena area, so plan ahead.
- 7) If you sign up for a float and do not actually construct that float, you will receive an unexcused absence for the day of the parade.
- 8) Your entry must be registered and given a number. One official number will be supplied and should be displayed on the FRONT OF THE VEHICLE CARRYING OR TOWING THE FLOAT. Float entries must have an additional large (12" x 12") number sign placed on the LEFT SIDE OVER THE REAR TIRE of the vehicle carrying or towing the float.
- 9) Remember you are participating in a Historical Parade, and you must be in period clothing. Therefore, dress appropriately, following your school dress code, which includes no bikinis. All floats depicting peoples such as Native Americans or the Chinese must be well-researched and historically accurate. Students are asked to respect cultural diversity and heritage while avoiding racial stereotypes (see below).
- 10) Your entry must be well identified by a sign, and the quality of the float will be greatly enhanced by a high-quality sign. A light wooden frame around the sign is necessary so it does not blow away.
- 11) The City of Helena is implementing the following public safety strategy for the parade:
 - a. Trucks larger than 1-ton pickups will not be allowed (ex. no semi-trucks)
 - b. Trailer **deck length is limited to 25 feet** (front of the deck to the back of the deck)
 - c. Floats must **not be wider than fourteen 14 feet** and must be **less than thirteen 13 feet in height** from the street level. If height is greater than 13 feet, you may get hung up on low hanging wires at intersections. If the width of 14 feet is exceeded, your entry will not fit through the downtown pedestrian mall.
 - d. Please note that floats will be spaced when entering the Walking Mall. The City will provide staff to control the distance between vehicles as they enter the Walking Mall, to allow for more adequate space if an emergency response vehicle needs to enter the parade route.
- 12) The parade will be organized on Helena Avenue and the route will be south on Last Chance Gulch, west on Broadway, north along Park Avenue to Benton Avenue and concluding at the Civic Center (see map below).
- 13) Antique vehicle entries should complete research on the vehicle, and riders should be in costume of the time. Only vehicles from 1980 and older will be allowed in the parade for this category. No "Hot Rodding" of vehicles will be allowed. This includes spinning the tires (burning rubber) or careless/reckless activities. Citations will be issued as necessary.
- 14) Prizes will be awarded at the Awards Ceremony held in the CHS gymnasium during a lunch assembly on Monday, May 5.**
- 15) Any evidence of the use of alcohol or tobacco will result in disqualification of the entry. If bottles, etc. are used as stage props, the labels must be removed and must be glued to a counter or table. DO NOT HOLD OR CONSUME.

16) Students must not throw candy or other objects from their floats; this is a safety hazard for small children along the parade.

17) NO GUNS, STARTER PISTOLS, OR BB GUNS WILL BE ALLOWED. ONLY REPLICA FIREARMS (WOODEN OR PLASTIC ARE ALLOWED). NO EXPLOSIVES WILL BE ALLOWED ON FLOATS. NO HAY RIDE, HOT TUB, MUD FIGHT, BARBQ ENTRIES OR FIRES WILL BE ALLOWED. Examples of a fire hazard pertaining to combustible parade floats and other parade apparatus include, but are not limited to:

- Fires
- Smoking (tow vehicles and floats)
- Flammable and combustible liquids
- Explosives and blasting agents
- Fireworks
- Pyrotechnic materials
- Gunpowder
- Open flame devices
- Hazardous materials
- Flammable gasses (propane, etc.)
- Heat producing equipment and devices
- Hazardous electrical wiring

18) Parade officials reserve the right to remove inappropriate entries from the parade. These include entries which do not meet requirements as outlined in this set of rules as well as commercial advertisements, political campaigning, or other inappropriate entries. It is not the purpose of the Vigilante Parade to advertise for local businesses, however, we recognize the desire to thank them for their contributions. Students have the option of displaying one 2' x 2' sign on the door panel of their vehicle for this purpose. Remember, this parade is representative of the high school students of our community.

19) Float drivers must have a valid driver's license, and the vehicle must be insured. Drivers should have such documentation available if a parade official should ask.

The parade is about Helena history and we have included a list of great ideas for your float or you can choose your own. The Montana Historical Society (<http://www.montanahistoricalsociety.org/research/default.asp>), helenahistory.org or our Librarians have great ideas and have a wealth of information to help with your research.

If you come up with an idea that is not on the list, simply present it to Mr. Larson, Mr. Mihelish or Mr. Partridge. A total of five floats are allowed in the miscellaneous division. **NOTE: Miscellaneous floats are NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PRIZES, must relate to Helena and must have prior approval.**

ALL PARADE REGISTRATON ASSIGNMENTS ARE DUE TO THEIR RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES BY 4:00 P.M. ON APRIL 17, 2025
DO NOT WAIT UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE!

For any student who chooses a topic from the American Indian category, please schedule a meeting with Helena School District Superintendent, Mr. Wertz, to discuss your float idea. You must schedule a meeting and get his **approval before being officially registered and supplied with a float number for the parade.** You can schedule an appointment with Mr. Wertz at 324-2001.