

Worthington Bicentennial Parade

Saturday, July 5, 2003

Theme: *Building the Future with Pioneer Spirit*

Float Builder's Manual



Introduction

This booklet was adapted by the Bicentennial Parade Committee from a manual written in the early 1980s by Bruce Frank. Mr. Frank is a past Upper Arlington Civic Association Parade Chairman, but also directed the building of entries that won "Best of Parade" trophy in 1983 and 1984. The manual was written for folks planning to build a neighborhood float but the concepts apply to any other civic organizations, corporations, PTA groups, etc. There are good ideas for all to consider.

Mr. Frank put together this "how-to" guide to help others take the plunge into float building with as much knowledge as possible. Once you understand the basics, you can let your imagination run wild. And the basics aren't that difficult. The Upper Arlington Civic Association has graciously permitted the Worthington Bicentennial Homecoming Celebration Committee to adapt UA's manual.

With very few exceptions, there are no hard and fast rules for float building. Those that are given are exclusively for the safety of all parade participants and your neighbors along the route. Don't forget that the Internet offers a wealth of information and resources on float building. Search away!



Getting Started

"The longest journey begins with just a single step." You've heard that before and it's certainly true in building a Bicentennial float. The best first step is to get a steering group organized. There are several ways to get the core of a committee together. This manual was written primarily for neighborhood float-building groups, so you'll see references to "neighborhoods" throughout the manual. However, the same principles apply to any group interested in entering a float in the parade.



First, you may already know two or three neighbors who love to get involved. Make a few calls and see if they are interested. Another approach is to send a neighborhood flyer. Run off a few copies suggesting that the neighborhood become part of the parade and schedule an introductory "information" meeting. Announce the date, time and place in the flyer. You are certain to get a response. At this point, you only need about 6 to 12 people as the core of your group. You'll need more when the construction gets underway, but that will come easily once the building begins. In other words, don't let a small initial turnout discourage you.

At the meeting the first task is to get your neighbors excited. You may even want to invite a representative from the parade committee to stop by. They will be a great asset in helping to explain the process and getting everyone excited about becoming involved.

This is a time when you need to line up your committee members. The success of your committee will depend on the commitment and dependability of those you have working with you. You can organize the committee in any way you think will work, but these are some responsibilities you need to have covered: float chairperson; fund-raising; treasurer; theme and concept; structural design; decorating; and, communications.

You may not need a different person for each responsibility, or you may want to create other work areas. That's up to you. This is nothing more than a guide. Take advantage of your neighbors' talents and interests.

The next step is to make up a list of block captains. The job captain is fairly simple and should require no more than 5 or 6 total hours. They will collect money for the float and distribute any flyers that need to go out. Make sure, however, that these men and women are dependable "go getters." You can run into difficulties early on if you don't have good people collecting your money.



Creating Your Float

Now that you have a solid organization, it's time to get down to the real fun of deciding what you are going to build. Have a brainstorming session. Kick around the theme and have everyone share their own ideas. REMEMBER: No ideas are thrown out here. That's the concept of brainstorming. Everyone will feed off the thoughts of everyone else. Before you know it, a great idea will begin to emerge.

Be sure that your float concept is in some way consistent with the theme of the Bicentennial parade – ***Building the Future with Pioneer Spirit***. Try to design a float concept that will be uniquely yours. Look for variations on shapes, materials, special effects and anything else that will make your entry stand out from the pack. The Worthington Public Library and the Worthington Historical Society both have assembled historical materials that may help you consider a theme.



Fundraising

Now it's time to raise the money to pay for your float. Prepare a simple flyer describing what you are planning to do and have your block captains go door-to-door for donations. Generally, you can expect \$5 to \$10 per household. It's important for the block captains to be positive and enthusiastic. The Bicentennial is a unique event and the July 5th parade a special opportunity to bring folks together to celebrate Worthington!

After you have your funds collected, select a treasurer, if you have not already done so. You may or may not choose to have a separate bank account. Just keep good records of income and each expense. If you're lucky enough to have some money left over after the float is built, we'll suggest a few options later in the manual.



Construction

Before you begin, you need to identify a place where you can actually build your float. Obviously, a neighbor with an open garage and a large driveway is a natural choice. You can expect the float building to take about a week. Be certain you have good outside access to electricity.

You are also going to need a variety of tools. Here are a few you'll want to plan for: a table saw or circular saw, sabre saw, handsaws, hammers, staple guns, a well-stocked tool box with screwdrivers, pliers, wrenches, utility knife, etc., a long tape measure and carpenter's square. Other stuff will certainly be needed if you're going to add animation, special effects or other features to your float.

Plan for protection from the weather, especially in the later stages of construction. A few large sheets of plastic that can be carefully placed over your float and fastened securely will be needed as "stand by" items once you get into the decorating phase. Before that, you will probably be able to pull the float back into the garage each night for protection.



Vehicle Selection and Getting to and from the Parade

Floats can be built on a variety of beds: hay wagons, semi-trailers, low-boy trailers or any number of things. Select a vehicle that will be suitable for your towing needs. People have been seen in other parades using everything from garden tractors to semi-trucks. Make sure the power unit is in good repair and has plenty of gas. It will be a long parade!

Hay wagons

Hay wagons do make great float beds. They are sturdy, just the right size and adapt easily to most float building designs you might create. The wagons are 14, 16 or 18 feet long. All lengths are 7 feet wide and 3 feet high.

For many years most Arlington floats have been built on hay wagons. They make wonderful float foundations, but they do have some built-in limitations. The grander your float ideas, the more limiting you may find the hay wagon to be. They always have the appearance of being "hay wagon high". Secondly, if you want to build a very long float, you will find hay wagons difficult to adapt. Your option is to obtain a second type of farm wagon that has a telescoping center pipe. These are still available from farm implement suppliers. However, you will have to locate these and negotiate price yourself.

Residents of Upper Arlington have used the Roy Huffman and Huffman Farm, 800 Rome-Hilliard Road, 878-5161, as a source of hay wagons for their parades. The Worthington parade committee is working on locating sources closer to our community that will rent hay wagons. When you have determined the style of your float and reserved your wagon, you can plan around the exact measurements of the wagon you have

reserved. Be sure to confirm the date you will be able to pick up your wagon (usually about a week in advance). You can certainly begin some of the pre-fabrication before that time, but the major construction will be done once the wagon arrives.

(We have included a section from Bruce Frank's original float builder's manual at the back of this updated version. If you choose this type of float bed, Bruce's section will enable you to handle this type of wagon easily.)

The typical "urban assault vehicle" such as a Suburban, Expedition, Excursion or similar class sport utility vehicle has become a preferred tow vehicle for some parades. Select a vehicle with at least 3.42 rear gear ratio and a Reese type hitch.

Because the float must be transported to and from the parade route it falls with the legal definition of "motor vehicle." As such, the driver and occupants must follow all state and city motor vehicle regulations, including having the vehicle insured.



Give some thought to who will drive the vehicle. Select someone with experience at driving while towing a trailer and maneuvering same in tight spaces. The Parade is not the place to obtain "on-the-job training".

Floats can be built on a variety of beds: hay wagons, semi-trailers, low-boy trailers or any number of things.

Vehicles with a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating of 26,001 pounds or more (Semi-trucks) must be operated by a driver who is in possession of a current Ohio Commercial Drivers License [CDL] and a State issued medical card. So, even if Cousin Phil claims to know how to drive the big rigs, please leave the task to an expert.



Allowable Vehicle Dimensions

The vehicle cannot exceed 65 feet in length The vehicle cannot exceed 8 feet in width. The vehicle including the float cannot be higher than 13 feet 6 inches. That is the height of traffic signals in Worthington and if you break them, you buy them.

... More Rules

During the transport process to and from the parade event no one should ride on the float. Floats **are not** required to have license plates, however, to make sure you are in legal compliance you should install a Slow Moving Vehicle placard on the rear of the float for use during the transport. The Slow Moving Vehicle placard is the orange triangular sign like the ones used on farm tractors and heavy equipment.

During the parade, designate at least two spotters to walk near the float so that the float and the occupants can be monitored. Children love a parade and they love to ride on floats. Sometimes over-enthusiastic passengers may overlook the dangers of riding on a large heavy vehicle.



Objects cannot be passed to the crowd from floats at any time during the parade. Your float will be removed from the parade if the marshals or police see candy or any other items being passed to the crowd.

Make sure that your passengers and their families know where to meet your float before the parade [you will be assigned a specific staging area well in advance of the July 5th]. Also let folks know where you will drop riders off and ask them to make specific arrangements about who will pick them up when the parade is over. The parade will end at the West side of Thomas Worthington High School.



Refrain from possessing alcoholic beverages on your float. This is a community celebration and your float could be pulled from the parade if you are setting a bad example. The police will arrest, handcuff, and transport off to jail anyone who violates this rule.



Basic Framework

The first step after you have your wagon is to build the basic framework. You have to decide just how elaborate your float frame must be based on your intended use. You will need more floor strength if you plan to have riders on the float than if you do not. Also, floats with large structures on the wagon will also need extra strength.

Float construction should be of paramount concern. If it looks nice but has engineering flaws, everyone will be disappointed. Use quality materials to construct the float to endure wind, rain, and the journey. Remember: people have to ride on the float, so watch for sharp corners, dangerous objects, and protruding nails.

Many floats will require that you build a frame over the existing wagon. Other designs simply use the wagon bed as is and add the superstructure needed for your design. If you are going to build a new floor over the wagon, use 2x6s or 2x8s on edge for the outer framework and then run 2x4s between then side to side. In general, place these stringers no more than 16" apart for strength if you are going to actually stand on the floor. The edges of the wagons are protected with steel bands, so you'll have to plan your frame to fasten solidly to the wagon bed. You can toenail the frame to the wagon bed. Take note of any areas that seem to need extra support and add any braces you think are necessary. You can probably use 1x2s or something lighter for this purpose. This part of the float should be very solid.

If you will have neighbors riding on the float, you'll now want to lay a floor of inexpensive sheathing plywood over your frame. 1/2" should be thick enough. The plywood will also add strength and stability to the frame.

Now you'll begin to construct the part of your float that is more for show. At this point you'll definitely start working with lighter lumber in areas that won't be supporting much weight. This superstructure will generally be used to support chicken wire, cardboard or other light decorating items. Keep in mind that the maximum float height is 13' 6". Width is restricted to 20'. There is no set limit on length. Depending on the type of design you have planned, you may now add a framework around the side of the wagon to flare out and down. This can help to hide the fact that you are building on a hay wagon. This can be built from 2x2s and 1 x2s. Be certain that you allow for free movement of the wagon tongue and wheels. The front wheels move quite a bit when you turn, so be particularly careful there.

Now is the time to add lattice strips to the floor. These are easily "ripped" from cheap 2x4s. They can be made more flexible for bending around curves by soaking them in water prior to installation.

Now is a good time to hook up the float and give it a short test run. This is when you want to be certain that everything is ship shape...not the morning of the parade. You'll be surprised at how much the float can wobble and you may want to add some additional bracing to lessen this. You'll also want to note if you will have to pull your float over a curb to get it in the street. If that's the case, set aside several boards to use for ramps the morning of the parade.

Decorating Your Unit

Now that the main float structure is complete, you will start the decorating process.

Safety Considerations



We ***must*** comply with Ohio Fire Code F-306.2 Parade Floats: ***All decorative materials utilized on parade floats shall be flame resistant in accordance with the field test in NFPA 701 listed in rule 1301:7-7-35 of the Administrative Code.*** In assembling your floats it is required that you use flame-resistant tissues, paste, paper, cloth, etc. due to the fire hazards involved. Flame-resistant materials can be purchased at area stores. If you are unable to find an item that is flame-resistant the following solution can be mixed and used: 1 1/4 lbs. boric acid + 9 oz. Borax + 3 gallons water.



Commercial solutions may also be available and used. Test any solution on a small sample of material to be treated as it may cause colors to run. The NFPA field test mentioned is to take a 1 1/2" wide by 4" long piece of material to be tested. Suspend the sample (use pliers, wire clip or tongs to protect fingers). Hold an ordinary wooden kitchen match to the bottom center of the strip, with the bottom edge 1/2" above the match head (not the flame). After 12 seconds, the match is removed. To pass, the flame must not have spread over the entire sample, and any flame should go out within 2 seconds. Any drips off the sample should quit burning once they reach the floor.



Techniques

The traditional technique for final decorating is the use of simple pre-cut squares of colored tissue paper, called poms. They give a very rich and consistent appearance and come in a wide range of colors. They also lend themselves to very elaborate decorating patterns. A single package of poms, used in every other hole in chicken wire can cover 4 sq. ft. The disadvantage is that they require quite a bit of time to stuff in place. Here are two methods of using poms in float building.



Method A. Using Chicken Wire

For this method, you'll need to buy an adequate supply of chicken wire. This wire can be easily cut with tin snips and molded over the wooden superstructure into a wide variety of flexible shapes. You will find that it won't take long to understand how to cut the wire and then join the pieces with other short lengths of wire or plastic electrical ties. Another option is to buy a "hog ringer" at a hardware store. This tool crimps an open ring and clamps the two adjacent pieces of wire together. Fasten the wire to the wooden framework with staples wherever it crosses a brace.

Once the float is covered with wire, layout your design areas where different colors are to go. You can mark them with spray paint or paint brushes.

Now you'll need all those neighbors who haven't gotten involved so far. There are two techniques used for stuffing poms. For large areas of general coverage you can place a pom in every other opening. For dense detail use every hole.

Working with a small area, spray the chicken wire lightly with a spray adhesive. This is available at discount stores, building centers and Yankee Trader. Then take a single pom, form it quickly into a cone over the tip of your index finger and place it firmly into the wire. You'll catch on to this technique quickly.

Because pom stuffing is very time consuming, float builders have sometimes devised plans that allow for the chicken wire sections to be distributed to a number of teams. Each team then completes their own area and the sections are joined together on the float. It is definitely more difficult to layout the wire this way, but it may help eliminate a last minute rush.



Method B. Using Corrugated Cardboard

This method combines the use of poms, spray adhesive and corrugated cardboard. Work within small sections so that the adhesive remains tacky. As described in Method A, form a cone over your index finger with a single pom and simply touch the point to the tacky cardboard. Continue attaching poms approximately 3" to 4" apart for general coverage and closer for detail work or combinations of colors. When covering large areas, you can reduce pom use by painting the cardboard to match the pom color so that no brown cardboard shows through. The cardboard is usually fastened to the frame with 1/2" to 3/4" staples. The larger the sheets of cardboard, the better the result will be.

Here are some tips for installing the cardboard:

1. Don't overlap the cardboard. Make certain the edges butt together.
2. Cut the cardboard so that the edges end on a piece of the wood frame for extra stability.
3. The cardboard will sag and droop if it is humid, so plan to add cardboard only a few days before the parade.
4. If the cardboard gets wet, take it off and replace it with a dry panel.

Corrugated Cardboard Sources

Thanks to recycling awareness, large sheets of corrugated cardboard may be obtained from appliance and furniture stores, bicycle dealers and others. Call in advance to ask them to save cartons well before you need them.

4'x 8' sheets can also be purchased from a Columbus wholesaler, Blue Box, located at 421 E. Second Ave., 299-2103. Please be aware that there is a minimum order of 20 sheets at \$2.55 ea. (\$51.00). Delivery is also available for \$12-\$15 but may not be necessary as 4,x 8' sheets will slide into a minivan! Orders over \$100 include free, next day delivery.

Other Techniques – Papier-Mâché

Papier-mâché is normally used for areas on your float that require great detail in shape or for contrast against the softer look of poms or petal paper. The papier-mâché process involves creating a chicken wire frame and then covering it with several layers of newspaper soaked in a mixture of flour and water. Be sure to plan ahead because it takes several days before it will dry enough for you to paint it. When the papier-mâché has dried, it's a good idea to use a primer before your final coat. A gloss or semi-gloss paint will help to make papier-mâché more water-resistant.



Finishing Touches

There are many products available to help give your float that "finished" look. These are only a few suggestions.

Festooning

This is a paper product that comes in long rolls and looks much like the Hawaiian lei. It is great to cover seams, flaws or to blend areas where two colors or surfaces come together. It is especially helpful when using petal paper or applying skirting or fringe to the bottom of your float. Festooning is also available in foil and plastic. This is a product for which you will discover many original uses. Attach it with 3/8" to 5/8" staples.

Fringe and Skirting

These two products are commonly used to decorate the bottom of floats. Skirting comes in 30" lengths while fringe is 15" long. Keep the bottom edge approximately 2" above the street to prevent it from becoming soiled. Attach skirting and fringe through the narrow band at the top using medium length

staples. Complete the installation by overlaying the band with a row of festooning. Skirting is available in plastic only while fringe is sold in both paper and plastic.

Spray Paint

One of the greatest tools you can use in the pursuit of a true professional look is spray paint. In the hands of a person with some artistic talent, spray paint can be used to add shading, shadowing and highlights and to add color that may not be available in other float building products. **Note: Be certain the paint is compatible with the materials on your float. Standard aerosol paints will actually melt plastic and Styrofoam.** Special paints are available at craft stores.

Lettering

Letters are almost always used in some form on floats. **Remember, your float will be assigned a number so allow for it on your design.** You can choose from ready made lettering or others that must be made from paper, Styrofoam or wood. Some general considerations for lettering include:

1. Contrast between the letter color and the background color
2. Make all letters as large as possible. Will a parade spectator be able to read it from 20' away?
3. Font/typeface - keep it simple and legible. Script lettering is rarely used in informational signage for good reason.

Ready-made letters and paper letters are 2-dimensional, but they can be quite effective when used on the proper background. Styrofoam letters are cut from sheets of building insulating materials that can be inexpensively obtained from many lumber yards and building supply centers. It is available in several thicknesses and produces letters that are 3-dimensional and can be mounted on a wide variety of surfaces. In addition, the Styrofoam is light in weight and very easy to cut. Craft stores carry a number of paints safe for Styrofoam. You can install the letters with drywall ring shank nails by simply pushing them through the chicken wire or cardboard and into the back of the letters.



Special Effects

Special effects enhance the visual appeal of floats and give creative types an outlet for their imaginative bent. Special effects include almost anything you can conceive that brings excitement, vitality and originality to your entry. Let your imagination run wild.



More Fine Print

Ohio Fire Code F-306.2.2 Special Effects: Any parade float utilizing special effects which are designed to create smoke, flame, heat or sparking conditions shall be approved prior to utilization.

In your design and presentation, no open flame such as candles, lamps or torches will be allowed. Carbon Dioxide (CO2) fire extinguishers and/or dry ice are acceptable for smoke effects. Any other devices should be checked with the Worthington Division of Fire.

Here are a few general techniques for adding pizzaz to your float. Make sure you read carefully the section on Power Sources.



Power Sources

Ohio Fire Code F-306.2.1 Motorized apparatus: All motorized apparatus utilized for parade floats shall be provided with a portable fire extinguisher with a minimum 2-A:10-B:C rating which shall be readily accessible to the operator. An extinguisher MUST be carried on the float or in the tow vehicle during the parade and someone be assigned who knows how to use it. We recommend a fire extinguisher be kept nearby during construction also.

Many special effects require electrical power. You can decide on the best power source after you complete your plans and have some idea of what type and the quantity of power you will need. Many small items may run on a battery, normally a car or golf cart battery. Be sure you use a separate battery from the one being used to run the vehicle pulling your float. July 5th will be enough of a strain without asking the towing vehicle to turn double duty.

If you will use a powerful sound system or other 110 electrical equipment, you'll need to use a gas powered electric generator. They are available from many rental stores. A 5,000-watt generator will rent for about \$45 per day. *NOTE: These must NOT be installed UNDERNEATH your float.* They must be away from flammable materials and in a well-ventilated location. You might put it in the rear of an open truck pulling the float or place it in a small garden trailer pulled from the back of the float. Be sure to reserve these units early.



Animation

Animation is one of the best special effects used on floats. In general there are three common methods used to put the motion in float animation.

1. A turntable driven by a motor at the center that turns the table and creates animation.
2. An "extra" wheel that trails under or behind the float. Then a belt and pulley system transfers that rotation into the movement you need to make your creation run. Bicycle wheels are great for this purpose and the parts you'll need are usually already available in a neighborhood garage.
3. A motor mounted on the object that is to move. That will allow you to have an object rotate around a turntable for example.

Other animation requires motions that will have to be worked out for your individual circumstances. Don't let the little extra time you might have to spend working on a solution keep you from using animation. It is a tremendous asset to a float and a great crowd pleaser.



Sound

Sound - either music or sound effects - is another great dimension that you should consider for your float. Best of all, it can be added with little investment in either time or money.

The best source is either a cassette tape, or perhaps a portable CD player. Many of these CD players will allow you to program a REPEAT function to re-play a selection track again and again. This might be



perfect if you are using a straight song and it's available on CD.

If you plan to build a custom sound track then a cassette or CD-R will work best. You can shorten or lengthen songs, add sound effects and even narration if you want. This might be a good job to assign to a person in your group with a knack for this kind of project.

There are two options for cassettes. The standard cassette will require that you record the sound track back-to-back again and again. If you don't have a self-reversing player you'll have to plan for rewinding.



The second option is to use an endless loop cassette. These are available at Radio Shack as outgoing message tapes. They are very limited in terms of length, so check them out before you plan your sound track. The tape operates in a loop and will play over and over. Some machines will not play these because the cassette supply reel does not turn. Also, they work best when they are used in a flat position rather than on edge. We recommend that you purchase and record two tapes if you want to use endless loop. They can self-destruct without warning, but two tapes should see you through.

New CD-R technology offers many possibilities – ask a teenager how to take advantage of these options!

Once you have selected your sound source, you'll need to obtain a playback system with amplifier and speakers. Boom boxes are rarely a good solution. Although they may rattle the walls of your children's bedroom, they won't supply the sound power or quality you will need on the parade route.

Instead, consider a stereo amplifier or receiver with several bookshelf-type speakers placed on both sides of the float. Position them behind your chicken wire frame or other surfaces that will allow the sound to penetrate. You will probably need a small generator, which can often be used to power a limited number of lights or other accessories. The difference a quality system will make in your sound is dramatic and it will payoff on July 5th.



Lights

Since we mentioned lights above, by all means consider them if they can fit into your design. The important thing to remember is that lights that constantly stay on probably will be hard to see in the morning sun. On the other hand, Christmas tree sets such as 'lights-in-motion' or flashing lights, as well as strobe lights, can be seen if they are well placed. They can make great 'billboards' around signage and on other features you want to highlight.

Special effects are just that - SPECIAL. You can probably come up with an effect that has never been used in just that way in a parade before. Special effects can help to make a good float GREAT.



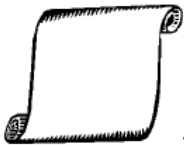
Odds and Ends

(Hang in there – we're almost done!)

Just a few final thoughts.

- ✓ Have plastic available to cover your float just in case. The further you get into decorating, the more important this will be. A good sheet of 6 mil plastic will do the job.
- ✓ When decorating is completed (probably the night before the parade) keep two or three people with it all night. Vandals can strike and ruin your work. A small security detail will eliminate that possibility.
- ✓ Towing vehicles - cars, trucks and vans. Check out everything to be sure you are ready. Tank full? Tires checked? Cooling system in top shape? The parade moves at only 4 or 5 miles an hour for the 1.8-mile route. Overheating can be a problem if you're not prepared.
- ✓ Plan your route to the parade carefully. Be certain you won't have to pass under any low hanging trees or other obstacles. Also, try to travel side streets and travel slowly. The wind can really damage a fragile float.
- ✓ Arrive on time at the staging area. The parade is very well organized and we are counting on you to arrive at your assigned time to make the assembly and coordination as smooth as possible. Go directly to the staging area you will be assigned in advance. Estimate the travel time you need, and double it!
- ✓ Bring a last minute repair kit. Include extra poms to replace any that blow away, spray adhesive, staple guns, duct tape, a roll of patching wire, a good mechanic's tool set and anything else you can think of that would be needed to make a last minute repair. Also, buy a "flat repair in a can." It might keep you in the parade if a flat occurs on either the float or towing vehicle.

- ✓ Bring water for everyone! The parade will start at 10:03 A.M. on July 5th and by the time you have traveled the entire route and the sun has reached its peak, you'll need it!
- ✓ If you have a balance in your float account after construction is complete, think about using a portion of the money to buy float award plaques or favors for neighbors who worked on the entry. This small recognition will help to keep the parade in your neighbors' minds from year to year and will make your neighborhood project easier to sell.
- ✓ Any funds left over after that should be put away as seed money for a future neighborhood project. If you can begin with a positive balance in the bank it will make everything that much easier.



The Significance of Your Parade Entry

You will be asked to provide the Homecoming Celebration Committee with a brief history of your organization or neighborhood and a explanation of the theme you selected for your entry and why. This information will be included in a guide to the parade which will be distributed along the parade route and which will form a tangible reminder of this great event.



It's Not Over Until -Well Until You Reach Thomas

Worthington High School

The parade concludes at the west side of the high school. At that location you will feel the strange transformation from a community project to just another big vehicle blocking traffic. Police officers will be positioned to assist you at the end of the parade, but they have two basic rules for you.

1 Pull off of the parade route to safely and quickly unload.

2 ***Then Get Out of The Way!***

The people behind you will love you for it!

If you plan to take your float anywhere else in the City other than the original location where it was built, **PLEASE** watch where you park. Floats found in violation of the parking ordinances will be ticketed and impounded.



Refuse

The following paragraphs are courtesy of the City of Worthington website. As much as we hate to admit it, as soon as the parade is over, we've got rolling refuse on our hands. The following are authorized containers for refuse: sealed plastic or paper bags, and metal or plastic cans/barrels with two handles and a tightly fitting lid. The quantity of refuse is not limited, but containers must not exceed a 35-gallon capacity. The Collector may refuse to accept all unauthorized containers, such as cardboard boxes, if not serviceable.

Collection Day

All collections - refuse, recycling, and yard waste - are on FRIDAY. All items are to be placed at the curb no later than 6:00 AM on Friday. By City Ordinance, no items should be placed curbside before 6:00 AM on Thursday and empty containers must be removed by 6:00 PM Saturday. Service Department at 614-431-2425 if you have any questions about float materials being picked up.

Bulk Items

Refuse such as lumber and other construction materials will be collected if less than 50 pounds and 5 feet in length. Loose material should be stacked neatly or placed in a container. Large items such as carpet (5-foot rolls), sofas, and other furniture will also be collected on Fridays (no special arrangements are needed).

Curbside Recycling

Households that are not currently recycling may register and receive a recycling bin at the Department of Public Service, 380 Highland Avenue, from 8 AM - 5 PM, Monday - Friday.

The City of Worthington provides curbside recycling services for its residents on Fridays. Households that are not currently recycling may register and receive a recycling bin at the Department of Public Service, 380 Highland Avenue, from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm. Please call the Service Department at 614-431-2425 if you have any questions about recycling float construction materials.

Here are some web sites for float building ideas!

<http://www.1st-paradefloats.com>

<http://www.deswerks.com/parade.html>

<http://www.victorycorps.com/floats.html>

<http://www.fbsind.com/FLOATS/Buildafloat.htm>

<http://www.paradesetc.com>



Final Tips

Vandalism to floats the night before the parade may be an issue. We recommend that once you've finished that masterpiece you assign someone to watch it all night. Many groups in Arlington have held mini-camp outs thereby making the float building adventure even more fun.



Worthington Police will begin escorting floats at 7 a.m. and will cease that process about 9:00 a.m. To arrange for a float escort please call the Worthington Police between June 25th and June 30th to arrange an escort.



Please recycle

When at all possible, we encourage the use of recycled and recyclable materials in constructing your float.

And in conclusion...

This is only an introduction to what can be a great experience for you and your neighborhood or organization. You'll make new friends, the team will become closer and it's a great experience for your children. Best of all, you'll know the thrill of seeing your own float make its way down High Street to W. 161 on the morning of the parade. You'll never forget the sound of the applause.

Good Luck and Happy Bicentennial Homecoming!



A Note on Materials

Float construction is of paramount concern. If your entry looks nice but has engineering flaws, everyone will be disappointed. Use quality materials to construct the float to endure wind, rain, and the journey. Remember: people have to ride on the float, so watch for sharp corners, dangerous objects, and protruding nails. This summary of float building materials is provided for your planning purposes only. Prices may change and you may find other locations where you can purchase similar items. Also, the Internet is an invaluable resource for float building ideas and supplies. Do a search on an engine like Google.com and type in “parade float supplies” or “build parade float” or the like and you’ll find all sorts of resources.

These items and prices were from the Yankee Trader, 463 N. High Street (across from the Greater Columbus Convention Center) 228-1322.

Poms -packages of 300 4" x 4" squares \$2.00 many colors available!

Metallic Side Skirting -30" x 14' \$20.50

Shorter Metallic Fringe -15" x 10' \$7.45

Shorter Paper Fringe -15" x 10' \$5.50

Corobuff -corrugated paper 4' x 25' solid colors \$17.50 4' x 25' patterns \$21.50

Spray adhesive for poms -16 oz. can \$11.50 7 oz. can \$7.25.

4'x 8' sheets can also be purchased from a Columbus wholesaler, Blue Box, located at 421 E. Second Ave., 299-2103. Please be aware that there is a minimum order of 20 sheets at \$2.55 ea. (\$51.00). Delivery is also available for \$12-\$15 but may not be necessary as 4,x 8' sheets will slide into a minivan! Orders over \$100 include free, next day delivery.

Adapted from **Upper Arlington Civic Association *Float Builder's Manual***. Thanks friends!
October 15, 2002

