



Mum Festival

mums the word...

Parade Information and Instructions

Location Information:

DIVISION I will line up on Race Street (Floats: enter street from North Main St. before parade)

DIVISION II will line up on Valley Street between Center and Race streets (Floats: take Center St. to Valley)

DIVISION III will line up on N. Main St. between Farmington Ave. and Race St. (Floats: Bristol Police have advised us that because of the potential to disrupt traffic, floats will no longer be allowed to enter North Main St. from Farmington Ave. (U.S. Route 6). Please allow yourself extra time and patience to enter North Main St. from other roads. Our parade officials will help you get into position and facing the right way.)

DIVISION IV will line up on N. Main St. between Center St. and Race St. (Floats: drive up North Main St. from the south, heading north towards Farmington Ave., to get into position.)



When:

Always on a Sunday.

Floats: be in parade position by 11:30 a.m. to be judged
All other participants: you must be in your position by **12:00 p.m.**, as the parade will step off at 1:30 p.m. sharp. No exceptions.

The parade will step off from the corner of Race Street and West Street (State Route 69) at 1:30 p.m. sharp.

The Parade Command Center will be at the corner of Race Street and North Main Street.

Buses: Park only at Center Square (former mall site).

Float rules:

- All floats be in parade position by 11:30 a.m. to be judged.
- All floats must have a total high of no more than 14.5 feet (to fit under streetlights).
- Float judging begins at 11:30 p.m. sharp. Floats not in place by that time will not be judged.
- Floats that win one of the top float awards will not be eligible for additional awards.
- In inclement weather, floats may be judged during the parade instead of beforehand.

General parade rules, for all participants:

- All participants (except floats) must be in your position by **12:00 p.m.**, as the parade will step off at 1:30 p.m. sharp. No exceptions.
- There is NO RAIN DATE. If the weather is horrendous (torrential rain, hurricane, blizzard, etc.) a decision will be made by 9 a.m. Note that the Mum Parade has rarely (if ever) been canceled due to weather, however. You may check the website www.BristolMumFestival.org or call the parade co-chairs (see the end of this letter) if you have any doubts on parade day.
- All units and participants should check to be sure their own insurance covers them while participating in the parade.



General parade rules for all participants, *continued*

- Follow the instructions of the Parade Officials (wearing yellow “Parade Official” vests) at all times. These officials will ensure a smooth and orderly lineup. Please consult a Parade Official when you arrive to be directed to your precise spot within the lineup. Consult one of these officials if you are in need of first aid.
- If emergency vehicles must get through the parade to attend to an incident, all parade groups and vehicles must pull to the right side of the road in order to provide clearance for the emergency vehicles.
- Do not throw candy or other items out to parade viewers along the route. This rule is nonnegotiable. This is not a new rule. Children have a tendency to run into the road to retrieve tossed items. Police may remove any unit that endangers children by tossing items into the crowd or onto the road.
- Float award plaques will be handed out at the same time the Float award signs are handed out on route. Bands/Musical Units will receive their awards directly after the parade on Sunday, at the Parade Command Center (at approximately 4 p.m.), near the beginning of Race Street.
- No group, unit or individual should behave or perform in a manner that slows down the parade. Gaps in the parade are no fun for the audience. Keep within 30 feet of the unit in front of your unit at all times. (The four groups starting each of the four divisions should keep 200 feet between divisions, however.)

Parade route: (If route should change, Parade Orders will be updated in September)

- The parade will **start on Race Street** in downtown Bristol.
- Turn left onto **West Street** (Route 69)
- Take a left onto **South Street**
- Take a left onto **East Street**
- Then take the immediate left onto **Memorial Boulevard**
- The Reviewing Stand will be visible ahead on the right, in front of the grocery store
- Proceed past the Reviewing Stand and take the next right onto **North Main Street**
- Continue down North Main Street until you reach City Hall
- The parade **ends in front of Bristol City Hall**, 111 N. Main St. (continue down further if necessary)

Awards to be presented:

I. Best Overall, Given in Memory of Bob Bailey: One award presented

II. Music and Marching Awards: High School Marching Bands (awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place);
1st Place, Senior Music; 1st Place, Junior Music; Dance Team (awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd place)

III. Float Awards: Mum Parade Chairperson’s Award - (Best Use of Festival Theme), Mum Festival Chairperson's Award, Hometown Hero Award, Mayor’s Award, Best Business Entry, Best Youth (awards for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place), Best Live Flowers, Best Community (awards for 1st and 2nd place)

Our Parade Marshal for this year's parade will be announced in August of each year. Our Master of Ceremonies will also be announce in August each year. The parade will air on Nutmeg TV on Comcast channel 95 in Bristol, Burlington, Plainville and the Farmington Valley. The parade will also stream live on the channel’s website at www.nutmegtv.org and be available there on demand. Please check the Nutmeg TV and Mum Festival websites for actual viewing times. We will also work with our Videographer to upload streaming to YouTube as well.

We are looking forward to a successful parade. Bristol is waiting to greet your group with a warm welcome. Let’s pray for sunny skies! We hope you have a great time and thanks again for joining us!!

Mum Parade Chairpersons:

Please email us at BristolMumParade@gmail.com or TheBristolExchangeClub@gmail.com

Contact us anytime at: bristolmumparade@gmail.com