



O'Fallon Heritage & Freedom Fest

Float Building Guide



Introduction

Whether your group is a first time parade participant or just looking to improve on your float making techniques, this guide will give you tips for making the best float possible for the Heritage & Freedom Fest Parade.



HFF Specifications

Parade Theme: America Through the Ages

Your float should reflect the parade theme

Restrictions

Height	No more than 14ft
Width	No more than 14ft
Length	No more than 60ft (including towed vehicles)

No water guns or confetti cannons

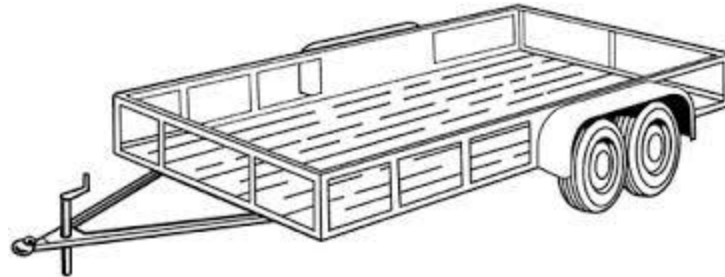


Type of Float

Consider what type of float you will be using

Two types of floats:

- Lowboy trailer



- Flat Rack

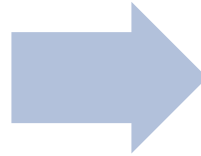




Float Design

Put your ideas down on paper

- Draw out your design
- Decide early on movement



Create a mock version

- Use a shoebox to create a miniature design of your float
- Materials for mini design: tin foil, magic markers, floral wire, floral foam, and Legos





Materials and Budget

Make a list of materials needed, this will help decide a budget

Common Materials

Staple gun

Staples

Double Sided tape

Nails

Wire

Lumber

Foam

Paper Mache

Floral Sheeting

Muslin

Finalize your budget based on what materials you need



Building Capabilities

Consider who in your group can do what in terms of construction...

Do you have someone who can:

- Use power tools?
- Manage a sound system?
- Manage Lighting?
- Hydraulics?
- Painting?



Float Building Timeline

Q:How long will it take to build a quality float?

A: 1- 8 weeks

Our suggestions/advice:

- Aim for 6 weeks...July 4th is Parade Day, start building by May 23rd!
- Do not wait until the last minute to construct your float.
- A well constructed float reflects on your business/organization and may increase interest!



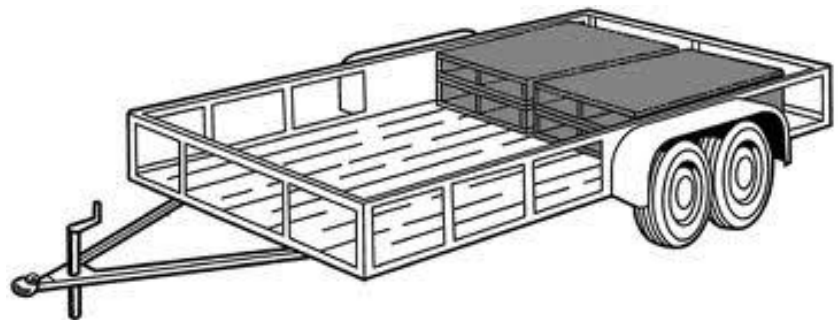
Constructing Your Float

Different types of floats will determine what kind of coverage it needs

- Flat bed: cover edges



- Lowboy Trailer: needs platform/substructure to elevate platform





Trailer Platforms

The platform should extend 12-16in beyond the side frame and wheel wells

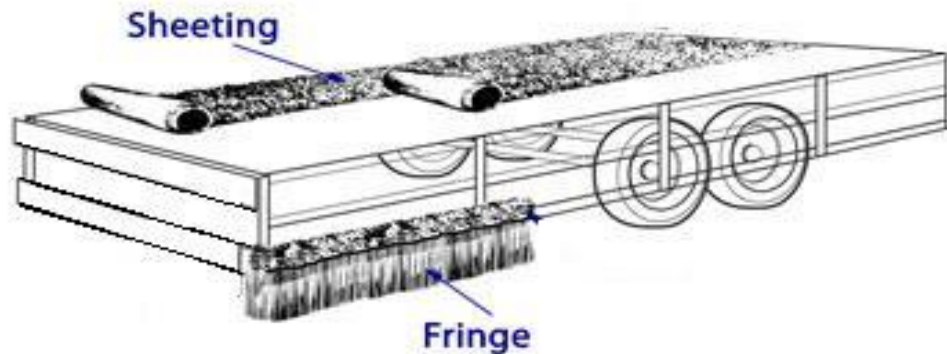




Platform Continued

Cover platform with floral sheeting or artificial grass

- It is recommended to then cover the sheeting/grass with a paint drop sheet for protection during further construction

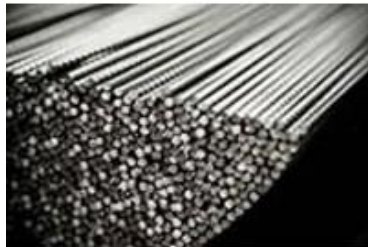




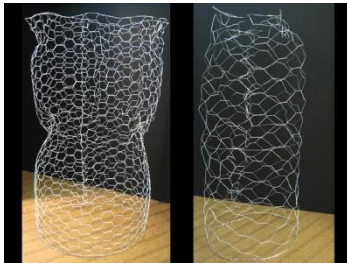
Shape forming

Materials:

Pencil Steel, Chicken Wire, Window Screen, Foam



Use pencil steel to form basic shapes
*Spot welding may be required to bend the metal



Use Chicken Wire or Window Screen
to cover Pencil Steel



Use Foam over chicken wire or
window screen for finishing



Notes on Moving Parts

- Mechanized equipment must be built, installed, tested and anchored.
- The design must also allow ventilation if using gas/electrically powered mechanisms
- The wiring that goes into animated designs should be installed and tested when the float is in the frame state
- Double test moving parts before placing any covering over them

*Excerpts from golfcartparade.com



Final Shaping

Attach Floral Sheeting, paper Mache, muslin, fringe/festoon using staples, double sided tape or glue

- Double sided tape is highly recommended
- Floral sheeting is easiest
- Muslin will shrink once wet, allow extra room for shrinkage



Other resources

- <https://www.victorycorps.com/downloads/parade-planning-ebook.pdf>
- [http://www.golfcartparade.com/how to build floats.pdf](http://www.golfcartparade.com/how_to_build_floats.pdf)