



Homecoming Parade Guidelines 2026

While parades are all about fun, injuries are not. In that spirit, we have set up some guidelines for parade float participation so that everyone can have a safe and enjoyable experience.

General Guidelines-

- Common sense is the key theme when preparing your parade float.
 - Float decorations should be appropriate and in good taste. Any float that displays a message that is deemed inappropriate or in poor taste will be pulled from the parade.
 - The homecoming **theme for 2026 is Pantherpalooza- "Festival Lights and Panther Nights"**
- Floats are encouraged to reflect this theme or individual school colors. Many characters and logos are protected by copyright, so please be sure to keep that in mind when developing your float design or selling any items at your school.

Float Safety-

- The foundation for a tow float is typically a sturdy, flat trailer bed with pneumatic wheels.
- All load supporting areas on the float should be wood, steel or other structurally competent material.
- Wheels, tires, dollies, axels, bearings of adequate sizes and strength to support the total load of the float are required and must be in visibly good condition. Appropriate tow bars and chains are required.
- Brakes should be sufficient to stop the float when loaded.
- The driver of the float or tow vehicle must be able to present a valid driver's license.

Rider Safety (PRIORITY)-

- All participants riding on floats shall have a solid seating arrangement and may not be located where they might fall beneath the float, its wheels or between the tow vehicle and float. (NO SITTING ON THE SIDES OR REAR EDGE OF THE FLOAT OR VEHICLE) Any standing participants shall have some sort of stabilized body support or safety rail at least 36" tall.
- Children must be under adult supervision and seated at all times when the float is in motion.
- At no time should any participant jump off or leave the float, or jump onto a moving float at any time.
- All activity sponsors are responsible for the safety of their floats. Please do a careful inspection before driving on the roads or lining up for the parade.

2026 Parade Details (Read carefully as some information has changed)-

- The parade is on **Saturday, August 29 at 10:00am.**
- **Participants must arrive at the staging area at 9:15 am.**
- Communicate all meet up and drop off procedures with your students and families.
- RLHS Student Council and the Parade Coordinator, Paul Dizon, will start checking groups in at 9:15am. Staging will only be 45 minutes so please be on time and ready to go.
- The parade staging area is on Golfview and Grove. **(Beach Elementary)**
- **All groups will line up on the grassy field NOT along the road. Only cars and floats will line on the road. This is critical for safety and organization. (This change was implemented in 2022 and has worked out well.)**
- **All walking groups will be dismissed from the grassy area by the Parade Coordinator, Paul Dizon. There is no line up order.**
- After that we will all walk to **Fairview and proceed down Cedar Lake.**
- **The parade will end at the front of RLHS off Rosedale Ct. We will travel the wrong way on South Rosedale to end the parade.**
- Parents are advised to park in the indicated lots immediately after dropping students off at the staging area. Please communicate this with families.
- **Parents can pick-up students at the front of the RLHS.**
- **Parents in vehicles must wait for the last parade group to enter the school premises** as indicated by the parade coordinator. Following that, parents will be waived in by RLHS security to enter and retrieve students from the circle drive.
- **School staff is required to monitor the circle drive until parents are let in and all students have been picked up. You should not leave until all of your students have been picked up.**

Please bring this Float Checklist with you to the Parade so you may be checked in by a Student Council Member.

1. Float is structurally safe _____
2. Tires are in visibly good condition _____
3. Tow vehicle is appropriate and brakes work _____
4. Appropriate tow bar/connections are present _____
5. Each rider has a secure place to sit _____
6. Standing participants have a safety rail that is at least 36" tall _____
7. Driver has a valid driver's license _____
8. Float theme is appropriate _____

After reviewing the details above, if you are interested in participating in the 2026 Round Lake Homecoming Parade please email Paul Dizon, pdizon@rlas-116.org. Please indicate the following information in your email. Paul Dizon will communicate with all groups directly.

- Group Name
- Group Contact Person
- Number walking participants
- Number of floats or cars