

# West Virginia Strawberry Festival

## INFORMATION, RULES AND REGULATIONS

### For Event Participants

#### **PARADE & EVENT PARTICIPATION**

1. **SAFETY:** Review WVSF Safety Guidelines for event participants found here: <https://wvstrawberryfestival.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-WVSF-Safety-Plan-1.pdf>
2. **APPLICATION/VETTING:** A completed application must be submitted at least 14 days prior to the event to be considered. Failure to submit an application could disqualify units from event participation. Applicants are also subject to providing identification, citizenship, licensing, clearance badge, and in some cases, background check prior to and during participation.
3. **Pre-Participation:** All delegations must receive clearance and register with staff upon arrival to the event, at which point identification, clearance cards, and other related documents may be requested.
4. **ROUTE/LOCATION:** The parade routes are nearly identical, with the exception of the Firemen's Parade, which occasionally runs backwards and may line up differently. Parade routes are. Just under 2.5 miles in length.
5. **CLEARANCE:** All event participants, volunteers and security must be registered for their respective event and display clearance badge/documentation.
6. **PARTICIPATION:** Participation in events may be subject to application, approval, background check, entertainment value, and other criteria. WVSF and its committees reserve the right to approve/deny participation by any group, even at the time of performance, for any reason.
7. **PARADE & EVENT FLOW:** Participants of WVSF parades MUST NOT stop under any circumstances other than emergency. Constant forward progression must continue throughout the route.
  - a. No drones, UAV's or UAS allowed at parades or other events unless cleared in advance by FAA and local officials.
  - b. Distribution of flyers or other unapproved publications during WVSF events is strictly prohibited.
  - c. Participants MUST hand out any candy or other materials they wish to distribute to spectators. **NO THROWING** of items.
  - d. Group delegates are responsible for proper hydration of participants PRIOR TO and during events.
8. **VEHICLES:** Local officials assist in assuring vehicles participating in parades follow laws for inspection and safety in the state of West Virginia. Local officials and WVSF staff reserve the right to remove any participant believed to be violating safety guidelines and/or putting the safety of themselves or others at risk.
9. **FLOATS & LARGE ITEMS:** Vehicles pulling floats, trailers or other items must pass a pre-parade safety inspection by WVSF staff and/or law enforcement personnel. Floats must have all items attached securely prior to advancing to parade staging area.
  - a. **MAXIMUM DIMENSIONS:** Length: 40ft, Width: 12ft, Height: 14ft.

- b. **RIDERS:** All participants riding on a float must remain on the float for the ENTIRE duration of the parade.
- c. **SPACING:** Parade staff invest considerable amounts of time into parade spacing and production. Throughout the parade route, you will notice strawberries painted on the street. These act as parade spacers. When the group ahead of you is on a strawberry, you should be able to see one strawberry between you. You should be sitting on or just behind the next strawberry behind that.

10. **DRIVERS:** Beyond the legal requisite driver's license needed to operate a moving vehicle, local or WVSF officials may ask for additional documents to ensure licensing, registration, and clearance of vehicles and drivers in our events.

11. **PARTICIPANTS:** When participating in events, chaperones must accompany participants under 18 years of age. Chaperones are responsible for ensuring minor participants follow all safety guidelines, rules, regulations and local law.

- a. Alcohol consumption prior to and during participation in events is strictly prohibited; prohibited items including firearms and weapons; noise abatements; and throwing items such as candy/beads from floats to viewers are also strictly monitored and vetted by security personnel and WVSF staff. Any person(s) found to be in violation will be removed immediately. WVSF and local officials reserve the right to remove any person(s) for any reason.

12. **ANIMALS:** Any participating animals must be mentioned and approved during the application process. Participating animals are subject to inspection by WVSF staff and/or local officials. Organizations with participating animals must provide proof of all requested vaccines, shots and other necessary documentation before appearing. Any animals appearing uncared for will be removed. Participating animals must have a friendly demeanor and should not be easily startles by crowds, loud noises, vehicles, instruments, or other associated items with a festival event. Animals appearing scared, startled, nervous or otherwise bothered may be subject to removal. Participating animals must have a handler present who shows relationship to said animal, and must have available tools for debris cleanup of the animal.

13. **ASSEMBLY AND DISASSEMBLY:** The traditional parade route has been EXTENDED! All participants of parades must be dropped off at the staging/lineup area, then picked up at the designated pick-up area. This location is PAST the intersection of College Avenue/East Main Street. Public safety and WVSF officials will heavily monitor this area, and **ANY PARTICIPANTS WHO REMOVE CHILDREN/THEMSELVES EARLY WILL BE ASKED NOT TO RETURN** and are subject to ban from future events. Early removal from a parade presents a *serious* safety risk, and has proven to be a parade flow issue, as well as an accountability issue for chaperones.

- a. Our traditional parade route has been EXTENDED! It is important to identify and communicate to all participants the sites and specified times for parking, loading and unloading parade vehicles. Parade organizers should notify residents and businesses near the parking and loading zones of these sites.

14. **TARDINESS:** Plan for delays. Arrival to your event late may result in removal/forfeiture of your group from competition/participation.

15. **INSURANCE:** Parade participants must provide proof of insurance on vehicles, drivers and groups participating in the parade.

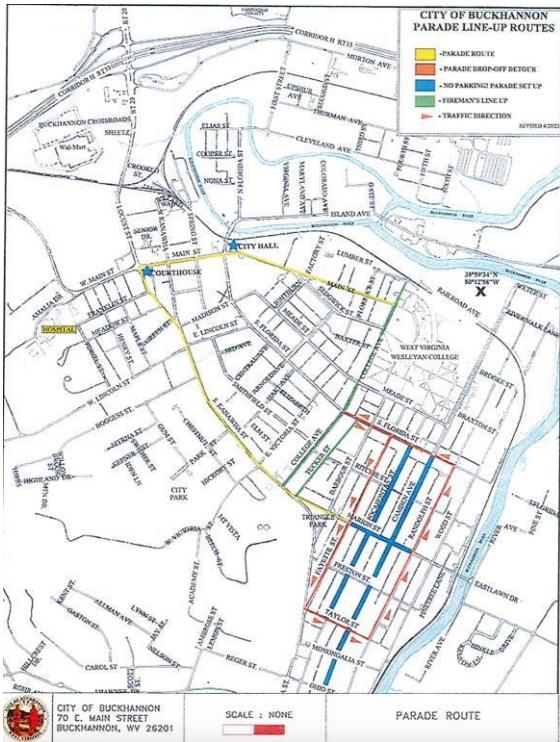
16. **Advertisement:** Our parades and events provide a unique opportunity to advertise your business or organization. Advertisement/sponsorship opportunities are available by request at [Sponsorship@wvstrawberryfestival.com](mailto:Sponsorship@wvstrawberryfestival.com).

- a. No promotion, advertisement or materials may be distributed at events without advance approval by WVSF.

17. **SUBMISSION:** All required payment, forms, applications, and documentation may be submitted online (when applicable) or by mailing to: PO BOX 117 Buckhannon, WV, USA 26201.
18. **INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY:** In the event of severe weather, event organizers reserve the right to delay, modify, or cancel any event.
19. **EMERGENCY PROCEDURES:** All participants must comply with instructions given by law enforcement, fire, and medical personnel in case of emergency.
20. **MEDICAL SERVICES & FIRST AID:** A first aid station will be available at the event. Participants are encouraged to bring their own basic first aid kits and sufficiently HYDRATE prior to participating.
21. **LOST & FOUND / MISSING PERSONS PROTOCOL:** A designated Lost & Found/Missing Persons tent will be located at the Official Strawberry Festival Headquarters.
22. **CODE OF CONDUCT:** Participants are expected to demonstrate respectful, family-friendly behavior at all times. Harassment, vulgar language/gestures or other untasteful material/action will not be tolerated.
23. **NOISE RESTRICTIONS:** Amplified music, sirens, air horns, and other loud noises are prohibited in staging areas and lineup zones to ensure efficient communication by both participants and our personnel.
24. **ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Groups are responsible for cleaning up their designated float, staging, and performance areas. All waste must be disposed of properly.
25. **PROHIBITED ITEMS:** The following are strictly prohibited:
  - Alcoholic beverages
  - Firearms or weapons of any kind
  - Laser pointers
  - Open flames (unless part of an approved performance)
  - Drones (unless pre-cleared per Section 7a)
26. **PERFORMANCE CONTENT APPROVAL:** All performances, signage, and displays must be suitable for all ages and in keeping with the family-friendly
27. **SOCIAL MEDIA AND PHOTOGRAPHY NOTICE:** By participating in the West Virginia Strawberry Festival, you grant WVSF permission to use photographs, video and other media collected of you/your group.
28. **INDEMNIFICATION CLAUSE:** All participants agree to indemnify and hold harmless the West Virginia Strawberry Festival, its board, volunteers, community helpers and partners.

## **EVENT PARTICIPANT INFORMATION**

Parade staging, lineup, pickup, dropoff and routing can be found here:



## SCHEDULE

\*All dates, times and locations are subject to change. Stay up to date by checking back here or following our social media and checking our website.

Pop-Up Entertainment opportunities available. Please contact WVSF staff for more details.

## WAMSB EVENTS

1. To competitively participate and receive scoring for the regional qualifying event, you **MUST** participate in **BOTH** the *Field Parade Competition* **AND** the *Grand Feature Parade*.
2. WAMSB judges will be in attendance and judging from the WAMSB One World Adjudication System. Criteria for the judging system can be found here: [WAMSB One World Judging System](#)
3. International participants must provide all requested identification, and pass all checks, including a mandatory health check upon arrival to the area, or beforehand if requested.
4. International participants must communicate regularly with WVSF, WAMSB and public officials regularly, as requested.
5. All parades are open to your participation as PRACTICE only. However, you must inform WVSF ahead of time if you plan to participate. We strongly recommend taking advantage of this opportunity to become familiar with the route, terrain, judging areas and environment.

## Helpful Links:

Recommended Lodging & Accommodations: [West Virginia Wesleyan College](#) (Within sight of our events)

WVSF Social Media & Website Links: [WVSF Social Media Links](#)

WVSF Safety: [WVSF Safety Guidelines](#)

WVSF Event Application/Registration: [Applications and Registration](#)

City of Buckhannon Website: <https://buckhannonwv.org/>

City of Buckhannon Ordinances: [City Ordinances](#)

Parking Map: [Event Parking](#)

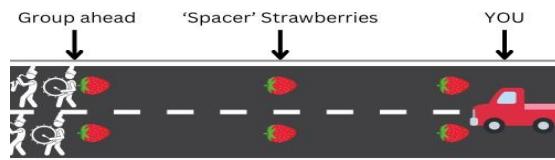
WAMSB Website: <https://wamsb.org/>

WAMSB International Qualification requirements: [WAMSB International Competition Qualification Requirements](#)

WAMSB International Forms and Downloads: <https://wamsb.org/forms-and-downloads/> \*\*(WAMSB International Competition is separate from the regional qualifying event held in partnership with WVSF.)



## **WVSF PARADE SPACING**



For safety, flow and entertainment purposes, please  
keep ONE strawberry between you and the next group.

HAVE FUN!

Thank you for participating!



Quick reference rough maps: