

West Tennessee STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

A HUMBOLDT TRADITION



88th WTSF
Band Memorandum

On behalf of the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce and the many volunteers that make the West Tennessee Strawberry Festival the long-standing tradition it has become, we want to say THANK YOU for your commitment in helping continue the tradition of the West Tennessee Strawberry Festival parades. We hope your time in Humboldt is memorable for you and your program. We strive to plan and coordinate the best parades in not just Tennessee but the entire South, understanding that the marching bands are a big piece of that production!

The following are some guidelines and important dates we feel will allow you to showcase your individual programs, while also helping us to put forth a crowd-pleasing parade for our thousands of spectators.

Registration begins January 12th, 2026.

Applications must be returned by May 1st, 2026.

We offer participation money to those who sign up and march in our parades, to help compensate travel expenses. Our participation program pays a flat \$350.00 plus \$0.62 per mile. Mileage is figured by using Google maps, plus an additional 5.4 miles will be added for bus travel from the starting point around to the end of the parade route.

Ex. $\$350.00 + 60 \text{ miles} @ \$0.62 = \$350.00 + \$37.20 = \$387.20 = \390.70

Thursday's parade is a non-motorized parade. We do not allow motors of any kind along the parade route.

Friday's parade is FILMED FOR BROADCASTING PURPOSES.

Bands are not judged on either day.

We prefer that bands not stop on the parade route to maintain the flow of the parade but if you choose to stop, please follow the guidelines below so that we can have a seamless parade!

We ask that you choose music that your band can play many times on the parade route.

Details/Rules for the day:

- Buses will drive to Bailey Park on 22nd Ave, to unload. Then, bus drivers will drive to the end of the parade route. These directions will be given verbally onsite, and drivers will receive a physical copy of a map showing these directions.
- Once directions are given buses must move out as quickly as possible and proceed to the gravel lot at the end of the parade route on Main Street. This is where you will pick up your students.
- You will receive a map via email, with your designated warm-up location on it. We ask that you stay in your location until it's time to line-up on the street. You will be given plenty of notice when your time is approaching.
- The parade starts at the corner of 22nd Ave and Main Street promptly at 10:00 am and will move west through the downtown area. Bands will continue into the gravel lot where buses are located at the end of the parade route. Please keep your band in formation until they are in the gravel parking lot. This helps to eliminate congestion in the street.

Street Show Performances

- BANDS WISHING TO DO A STREET SHOW PERFORMANCE – please note this on your application. While filling out your application, please also submit the name of your music – this allows us to inform the various media that are on hand to announce and showcase your performance. **Please do this by April 16th.**
“and next we have the XYZ Band with the sounds of “If you’re happy and you know it”
- PLEASE LIMIT THE AMOUNT OF TIME THAT YOU ARE STOPPED ON THE STREET TO UNDER 3 MINUTES. The parade marshal will inform the entries just ahead of the band stopping to space and slow as much as possible and then bands will be responsible for recovering any remaining space between them and the entry in front of them. The purpose of this request is to minimize the gaps created in the parade by the bands’ stopping and doing a standstill performance, creating a seamless parade for the spectators.
- The band may stop immediately before the reviewing stand to quickly straighten lines. Please keep this realignment process to a minimum to prevent a disruption in the flow of the parade.
- Bands should limit the number of guests walking with them - preferably under 6. This too will allow for less space between the band and the entry immediately behind them and will minimize the traffic to the left and right of the band so that your performance can be fully enjoyed by the audience members attending the parade!
- Bands are encouraged to play their parade music as many times as possible on the parade route for the parade attendees to enjoy the full band over just the sounds of marching percussion.
- The parade continues past the downtown corridor and extends just past the fire station on the left of Main St. After you pass the fire station on the left, please continue to move your band forward until you reach the bus staging area (gravel parking lot just beyond the train tracks). This keeps the parade from bottle-necking behind you.
- Auxiliary units (color guard, rifles, majorettes, and other non-musical performers) may dance. Please refrain from suggestive movements. Please ask for clarification if you have any questions.

- Auxiliary units (color guard, rifles, majorettes, and other non-musical performers) may stop and do a routine at the reviewing stand as the band continues a forward movement. After the performance, we ask that the auxiliary units return to the band formation as soon as possible to not provide a disruption in the flow of the parade.
- Once you are loaded up in the parking area, please be mindful of those still entering from the street and allow space for them to move to their buses and trailers.
- Vendors are located on Main Street just up from the parking lot if your students need/want refreshments.
- Weather Delays: IF we experience rainy weather or have a potential delay in the start of the parade, everyone will be given further instructions from the Band Chairman on what to do and where to go. Per State of Tennessee law: if lightning occurs, persons are not allowed to stay on a bus unless the bus is in motion to a safe location to unload.

Should you need anything or have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out. We are honored to have you in Humboldt!

Danny Wade

President 88th West Tennessee Strawberry Festival

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