57th ANNUALTEXAS RICE FESTIVAL
GRAND PARADE OCTOBER 3, 2026

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2026
(ABSOLUTELY NO EXCEPTIONS)

Please be at parade registration tent at the parking lot of the Winnie Courthouse Annex (Broadway), no later than 9:00 a.m. for check in. You will receive your instructions at this time. The parade will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. It is extremely important to be on time to allow enough time for proper line-up. **Any entrants later than 9:15 am will be placed at the end of the line-up.** It is very important for **ALL** entries to continue through the parade route without **stopping** in front of the main stage. This will avoid congestion and hesitations in the parade. Floats will unload in the East Chambers School parking lot, so everyone must ride their float and may be picked up at that location. **No one is to get off floats or out of line for any reason until you have reached the school. Pay attention to committee members at end of route pickup.**

THE TEXAS RICE FESTIVAL HAS THE AUTHORITY TO REFUSE ANY ENTRY THAT USES PROFANITY OR THAT WE FEEL IS INAPPROPRIATE FOR FAMILY VIEWING IN ANY WAY.

All entrants will be assigned a line-up number for the parade. Numbers will be painted on the streets. Parade committee members will be available to assist you in locating your number. Committee members will be wearing identification badges. Cold water will be available at the corner of Broadway & 3rd Streets, as well as Chestnut Street, for everyone's convenience.

Once Highway 124 is blocked off, no traffic will be allowed down that street except for vehicles to be used in the parade.

Due to the physical exhaustion of young participants in the past, an age limit on marching participants has been set at 8 years. All participants under the age of 8 will be required to ride. Groups must provide their own vehicle. **No one will be allowed to jump off a float before designated drop off/pickup spot.**

For safety reasons NO items of any kind may be thrown by parade participants.

BANDS

Bands must be at parade line up no later than 9:00 a.m. The parade will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. For student drop off, band buses will turn from Hwy. 124 down Oak Street (next to Dannay's Donuts), continue to First Street (by M & J Fertilizer Co.), right onto Chestnut Street, where students will unload (see attached map). Buses may then go to the site of student pickup on St. Martin Street in the parking lot across from the Winnie-Stowell Park. Bands will line up on Chestnut Street according to the number given you and will enter the parade as their number comes up. Bands will not be stopping in front of the main stage. Bands will disperse in the parking lot at the bus site on St. Martin Street.

ANTIQUE CARS
Cars will be lined up on Broadway St. and fed into the parade at random. Antique cars will **NOT** be allowed to carry signs or in any way advertise for a business.

NO HORSE ENTRIES

ALL OTHERS
All floats, vehicles, marching units, etc., will line up on Broadway St. You may enter from Hwy. 124 before 8:15 a.m. After 8:15 a.m., enter from 3rd Street.

NO VEHICLES WILL BE ALLOWED ON ANY OF THE LINE-UP STREETS IF NOT IN THE PARADE!

Anyone needing further information may call the TRF office at (409) 296-4404. Your cooperation will make the 57th Annual Grand Parade a great success.

WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO ADD MUSIC TO YOUR FLOAT WITH THE USE OF A GENERATOR. THE PARADE CHAIRMAN HAS THE FINAL WORD ON ANY MUSIC THEY DEEM AS INAPPROPRIATE. MUSIC WITH TASTELESS LYRICS AND PROFANITY WILL NOT BE ALLOWED. PLEASE KEEP IT FUN AND UPBEAT!

Political Guidelines

- The Texas Rice Festival, known as TRF, is a nonpolitical organization. TRF is a 501 (c) (4), tax exempt organization, therefore, NO political campaign may post signage or use the parade for or against candidates for elected office. Any signage related to political campaign or issue is strictly prohibited.
- Any entries sponsored by advocating for or depicting any political organization or controversial Issue, social issues are not permitted. No political or election material is allowed as handouts during the parade.
- Individuals or organizations who try to use the parade to further their own or other campaigns Will be removed from the parade. Under Section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code, tax Exempt organizations are prohibited from participating or intervening in political activity.
- Only seated officials or representatives elected by the people are permitted in the parade and Are by invitation only. No campaigning of present or future political campaigns may be allowed By either seated officials or those seeking a political office.
- The goal and purpose of the TRF parades are specific and inflexible and any person or Organization promoting a political agenda will be removed from the parade by TRF officials

*Parade Will End at EC High School Near Football and Baseball Fields As It Did Last Year.

Texas Rice Festival
Grand Parade Entry Form
October 3, 2026

Bands Only: Class_____ #Students_____ #Adults_____

Name: _____

Description of Entry: _____

_____

(Please State Whether It Is a Float, Band, Truck, Etc., the Approximate Size and If There Is More Than One Vehicle.)

If Entry Is a Car - Driver's Name: _____

Name of Person in Charge: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

(Day) (Evening)

Biographical Information: (To Be Used by Announcer from the Main Stage)
(Please Make Bio Info as Brief as Possible.)

Note: Bands, Please State Officers, Drum Majors, Twirlers, Directors, Etc. and Previous Honors. Organizations, Please State History, Purpose And Achievements, Officers, Etc. Individuals Give A Brief Biography And Title.

Notice: <u>There Will Be No Vehicles Allowed On The Lineup Streets Except Those In The Parade. Participants In The Parade Must Walk To Their Parade Group Or Vehicle. This Is For The Safety Of The Participants</u>.

Due To The Exhaustion Of Young Participants, Children Under The Age Of 8 Must Ride, Not March. For Safety Reasons, Parade Participants Are Not Allowed To Throw Candy Or Other Items Into The Crowd.
Deadline for Receiving Entry Forms – Wednesday, September 16, 2026.
No Charge For Entries - Please Call (409) 296-4404 In The Event Of Cancellation.