Understanding the Judging Process for Parade Entries

Guidelines and Procedures

There have been several questions this year about how we judge the entries in the parade. Hopefully, this explanation will help. Judging a parade entry is an intricate process designed to ensure fairness and transparency. Our judges focus on three main criteria, as your parade entry or float passes the judges' tables: Theme, Presentation, and Sound.

Criteria for Judging

Theme

The theme is essentially the concept or idea that your entry represents based on the theme of the parade, this year “Emerald Empire”. Judges will examine how well your entry adheres to the overall theme of the parade. Creativity, relevance, and originality are key factors. A well-executed theme that resonates with the audience and aligns with the parade’s purpose will score higher.

Presentation

Presentation covers the visual appeal and craftsmanship of your entry. Judges look at the details, such as the quality of decorations, the cohesiveness of the design, and the overall aesthetic. Attention to detail and the effort put into the creation of the float are highly valued.

Sound

Sound includes the music, narration, or any audio elements that accompany your entry. Judges will consider how well the sound complements the theme and presentation. Is the music live, canned, or not heard at all. The clarity, volume, and appropriateness of the audio components are taken into account.

Judging Process

We have six judges, with a minimum of two being new each year, in our efforts to eliminate any bias towards an entry. As your group passes, these six judges rate your entry based on a

1-9 score, with 9 being the highest. Each judge assigns a score for Theme, Presentation, and Sound.

Back Judges

There are also two back judges who assist the scoring judges by pointing out music or informing them which entry may be coming next. Their role is crucial in ensuring that the scoring judges are well-prepared and informed about each entry.

Scoring Sheets

As you pass the judges, they place a circle on your entry's sheet in each of the three categories. Yes, there is a sheet prepared for each judged entry in the parade. At the end of each section of the parade, which is divided into three sections, the judging sheets are collected and taken to the scorers. The scorers then enter the judges' scoring data into a computer scoring program.

Announcing the Results

At 3:00 PM at the YMCA, one of the Snake Saturday Sponsors, the scoring is announced. Trophies and prize checks are awarded to the winners. This is a moment of celebration for the participants and the parade staff.

Preparation for the Next Event

After the announcements, the parade staff—including those involved in staging, judging, administration, and volunteers—take a deep breath and start preparing for the next Snake Saturday event.

Conclusion

Understanding the judging process can help participants prepare their entries more effectively. Remember, the judges only have a few moments to base their decisions, so making a strong and immediate impression is crucial. Each judge has a sheet with your entry's information to ensure a fair and thorough evaluation.

By focusing on Theme, Presentation, and Sound, and ensuring that your entry stands out in these areas, you increase your chances of scoring higher and winning in the parade. We hope this explanation helps clarify the judging process and encourages you to participate with enthusiasm and creativity in the next parade.