

# PARADE FLOATS 101



## INSIDE THIS GUIDE:

- PLANNING & ASSEMBLY TIPS
- EXCITING PARADE FLOAT IDEAS

# JOIN THE PARADE



## Create Your Own Parade Float

We have all the decorations you need to create a parade float consistent with your business, club, or school traditions. Here are a few float decorating materials essential to creating an exciting float for this year's parade.

**Banners** – Advertise your business or cause with our custom banners. Use a 24" x 52" custom banner with your text, logo or design.

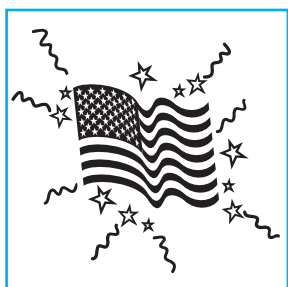
**Festooning** – These garlands are a great accent to your homecoming float. Versatile and lightweight, festooning is perfect for edging and decorating. Available in metallic, vinyl or tissue.

**Floral Sheeting** – Create rich texture and color! Cover your entire float bed or wrap around poles or other float structures. Available in vinyl or metallic.

**Fringe** – Drape fringe over the sides of your float bed base. It helps hide an unsightly undercarriage and flutters gently in the wind to create a fun and festive look for your float. Available in metallic, vinyl or tissue.

**Pomps** – For large, colorful, detailed structures, pomps provide the perfect texture and come in all colors of the rainbow and then some! Simply create a chicken wire structure, and fill each hole with pomps in the color and pattern of your dreams! Available in metallic, tissue or poly.

**Styrofoam Letters** – Spell out anything you want with jumbo Styrofoam letters and numbers. Use tempera paints or glitter to add some color. Available 8" or 11" high.



CUSTOM BANNERS



POMPS



STYROFOAM LETTERS

# HOW TO BUILD A FLOAT



So you want to build a float. Great, let's get started.

## **Form a committee or group of float builders**

Gather friends, teammates, volunteers or classmates; the more people you have on your float committee the more ideas you will generate, and the bigger and better your float can be. Then, split up the work among the groups of people based on their interests: one group can be in charge of props or costumes to be used on the float. Another group can be in charge of the lettering or signage that will be displayed on the float. Another group can be in charge of the frame-work used underneath the decorating materials (including tools needed for assembly), and yet another group can be in charge of determining the amounts needed of all the float-building materials and getting everything ordered (for more on this, see diagram below). Building a float is a team effort, so make sure everyone understands their part in building the float. Most importantly, remember to have FUN.

## **Set your schedule and float-building location**

Estimate how long each step of building your float will take (including any lead time needed to have float-building materials shipped, and to find the trailer you will use.). Work backwards from your parade date to decide when you need to start and how often your group will meet to work on your float. Try to avoid doing everything at the last minute – no one needs that stress. Also, plan your float-building location to be as centrally located for all team members as possible, as well as a place that will have all the tools you might need handy.

## **Plan your float**

Choose a theme and/or slogan that will draw attention to your float. Also finalize your color scheme. Anything goes when it comes to colors. Also, consider adding a Mascot to help "man" your float – to promote spirit hand out giveaways and get the crowd going.

## Gather Materials

Materials you need for your float:

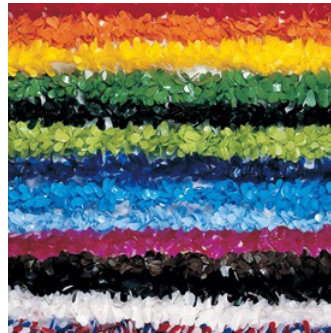
- A Trailer or Hay Wagon
- Floral Sheeting
- Fringe (used around the base of your float it gives the illusion of “floating”)
- Festooning for borders & trim.
- Poms & Poms Paste
- Artificial Grass - Awesome for sports-themed floats. Intersperse with white for field markings
- Props & Decorations
- Balloons
- Chicken Wire
- Paints
- Staplers and extra staples



FLORAL SHEETING



FRINGE



FESTOONING



PROPS

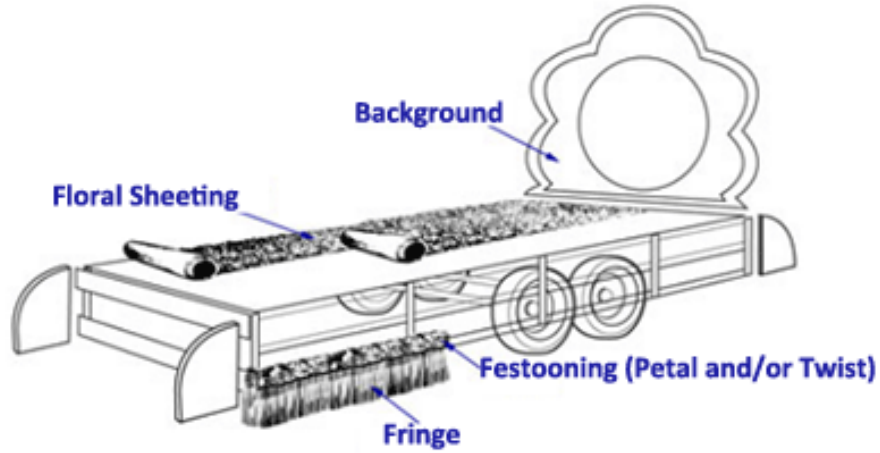
## Build Your Float

Create your supporting structures, and add decorations. Consult our float building diagram below to get a rough idea of the amounts of basic float-building materials you will need to create your float.

### Additional Tips and Tricks:

- Watch the weather. Rain & floats do not mix well.
- Secure everything on your float well. The last thing you want is to have pieces of your float falling off as you make your way down the parade route.
- If you have riders on your float make sure they have something stable to hold on to or sit on. We want everyone to have fun but be safe.

## Float Decoration Quantities Needed Based on Trailer Size



<b>7' X 12' TRAILER</b> 2 Rolls Floral Sheeting 5 Pkgs. Fringe 3 Twist	<b>7' X 14' TRAILER</b> 3 Rolls Floral Sheeting 5 Pkgs. Fringe 3 Twist	<b>7' X 16' TRAILER</b> 3 Rolls Floral Sheeting 6 Pkgs. Fringe 4 Twist
<b>7' X 18' TRAILER</b> 3 Rolls Floral Sheeting 6 Pkgs. Fringe 4 Twist	<b>7' X 20' TRAILER</b> 4 Rolls Floral Sheeting 6 Pkgs. Fringe 4 Twist	<b>7' X 24' TRAILER</b> 4 Rolls Floral Sheeting 7 Pkgs. Fringe 4 Twist
<b>8' X 12' TRAILER</b> 3 Rolls Floral Sheeting 5 Pkgs. Fringe 3 Twist	<b>8' X 14' TRAILER</b> 3 Rolls Floral Sheeting 5 Pkgs. Fringe 4 Twist	<b>8' X 16' TRAILER</b> 3 Rolls Floral Sheeting 6 Pkgs. Fringe 4 Twist
<b>8' X 18' TRAILER</b> 4 Rolls Floral Sheeting 6 Pkgs. Fringe 4 Twist	<b>8' X 20' TRAILER</b> 4 Rolls Floral Sheeting 6 Pkgs. Fringe 4 Twist	<b>8' X 24' TRAILER</b> 4 Rolls Floral Sheeting 7 Pkgs. Fringe 5 Twist

# EXCITING PARADE FLOAT IDEAS



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