

48th Annual Oil Heritage Festival Parade

Saturday, July 25th • Step off: 5:00 PM

Oil City, Pennsylvania

The Largest Parade in Venango County, PA!



- All entry forms must be sent in advance.
- Line-up numbers will be sent via the email address provided on the registration form and will be mailed the week of the parade, to the address on the form.
- Please register for the parade by **July 1st** - late entries are accommodated wherever possible.

****The theme of this year's Festival/Parade will be: "America's 250 Birthday Party!"***

You are encouraged to incorporate this theme into your unit.

Judging

- Floats/Walking Groups and Novelty Groups will be judged as you proceed through the judging area at Central Avenue Plaza, Southside. They will be judged on General Effect, Design, and Construction. Each float will be judged within its division.
- Performance Groups will be judged at their performance in front of the judging area at Central Avenue Plaza. They will be judged on Choreography, General Effect, and Showmanship.
- Marching Units/Fire & Rescue Equipment, elected officials, kings/queens, etc. **will not be judged.**

To prevent lulls in the parade, please stay as close as possible to the group in front of you.

Awards

Parade winners will be announced on Facebook, and prizes will be available at the Venango Chamber one week following the parade.

Line-Up

We will attempt to accommodate special requests for line-up as much as possible. Early responses are typically given preferential position so please reply as quickly as you can if your entry has a specific need and must be noted clearly on the registration form.

Weather

The parade **will not** be cancelled! In the case of extreme weather (heat or storms), please heed advice and take cover. Unless there is a threat of danger, the parade will continue. We encourage you to do what is best for your group to be safe and comfortable. In the event of a true emergency, we will attempt to notify the public through all available media.

Registrations can also be made online at oilheritagefestival.com

Please return this form by July 1, 2026 to:

Venango Area Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 376 • Oil City, PA 16301 • Phone: (814) 676-8521 • Email: chamber@venangochamber.org

Questions *prior to the parade* can be directed to:
The Venango Area Chamber at (814) 676-8521

Parade day *emergencies* can be directed to:
Tessa Byham at (814) 758-8330

**The Chamber of Commerce cannot accept registrations over the phone. Please mail or email all registrations.*

**The Chamber of Commerce reserves the right to deny any entry.*

Categories:

*Please select ONE category for judging. Entries with no category will not be judged.
The Chamber of Commerce reserves the right to deny any entry.*

Performing Group: Check one/Performing entries will be judged and awarded certificates in each category.

- Senior Drill/Drum & Baton Team
- Junior Drill/Drum & Baton Team
- Gymnastics/Cheer
- Dance Performance Group

Drum and Baton Corps: Have baton twirlers as the mainstay of their unit. Baton corps usually consist of baton twirlers, silks, and a drum line (or a good quality sound system).

Drill Team: Have a dance line as the mainstay of their unit. The dance line may use pom-poms, flags, rifles, etc. Drill teams will usually have music to accompany them.

Junior Corps: Have an average age of thirteen or younger. **Senior Corps:** Have an average age of fourteen or older.

Novelty Groups: Check one/Novelty entries will be judged and awarded certificates in each category.

- Musical Performance Groups
- Non-Musical Performance Groups - (Zumba, sports teams, clowns, Kung Fu, horse groups, etc.)

Horse groups must have a clean-up crew to follow their unit through the parade.

Floats/Walking Groups: Check one/Floats/Walking group entries will be judged and awarded certificates.

- Commercial: Business float or walking group
- Non-Profits: Churches, Youth Service float, walking group

Walking Groups: To prevent lulls in the parade, it is very important for your group to stay as close as possible to the group in front of you. Our parade is a forward-motion parade, and we ask for your assistance in maintaining a close distance between each group.

Campaigning: There is strictly no campaigning allowed in the parade. Seated elected officials are permitted to have their own entry, but those running for office must partake in their party's entry to participate in the parade.

Other: the following entries will not be judged

- Marching Units - drum & bugle, color guard
- Fire Equipment -please provide description
- Cars/Motorized Units - elected officials, dignitaries, kings/queens, princes/princesses, award winners

- Your units bio must be submitted with application. This information will be provided to the parade emcee and local radio and television stations. If this is not provided, nothing will be announced for your unit.
- For safety reasons, no simulated or actual firearms or weapons will be allowed in the parade, with the exception of March Unit Color Guards and Military Service Groups/Organizations.
- Throwing items/candy from a float/vehicle is highly discouraged. It is preferred that walkers are in place to distribute items/candy. At the risk of the Parade participant, candy may be dispersed by throwing underhand onto the surface of the street toward the curb. Any dispersal of candy other than by walkers is the sole responsibility and at the risk of the Parade participant.

Frequently Asked Questions:

1. **Can we be in the front/back/certain position in the lineup?**

Please submit special requests on the registration form. We will try to honor requests but reserve the right to make all final lineup decisions. Please submit your form in a timely manner to have your special requests considered. There is a parade etiquette that is followed every year, so the first 10+ spots are usually reserved.

2. **Can we be lined up next to _____?**

See above.

3. **How long is the parade?**

The parade is about a mile long.

4. **Can we throw candy?**

You may hand out candy. We ask that you do so respectfully and safely, and keep candy on the edges of the road so children are not drawn into the parade route.

5. **What if it rains? Will the parade be rescheduled?**

We will hold the parade rain or shine. In the case of extreme weather (heat or storms), please heed advice and take cover. Unless there is a threat of danger, the parade will continue. We encourage you to do what is best for your group to be safe and comfortable. The parade will not be rescheduled under any circumstance.

6. **What is the parade route?**

Lineup for the parade begins at the intersection of West First and Orange Streets and will extend down West First Street until all groups are lined up. The parade will follow West First Street to State Street, cross the Veterans Bridge and then proceed down Seneca Street, ending at the intersection of Seneca and Duncomb Streets.

7. **When do I get my lineup information?**

Lineup information will be sent via email to the email address provided on the registration form. Lineup information will also be mailed the week of the parade, to the address on the form. Your lineup number will correspond with a number placed along West First Street.

8. **Is there a fee?**

There is no fee for our parade.

Please call us if you have any other questions! Thank you.

Oil Heritage Parade Registration Form

Parade Date: Saturday, July 25th, 2026

Name of Group/Unit: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP Code: _____

Contact Person: _____

Telephone #: _____ Cell Phone #: _____

Email: _____

** email address will be used to send registration confirmation and for invitations to future parades**

Estimated # of feet required in Line-Up Area or clear description of entry type (e.g. type of vehicles, etc.):

Special Needs/Requests: _____

Commentary will be read by the parade announcer when passing through the judging area, and must accompany this registration form. Please note any local business that has provided your vehicle if you would like them to be recognized. **Please provide commentary below:**

Date of Receipt	Judging Category	Line-Up #
<i>For Chamber Use ONLY</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Performing Group <input type="checkbox"/> Novelty Group <input type="checkbox"/> Floats/Walking Groups	<i>For Chamber Use ONLY</i>