

Jesus Is Lord Parade

www.JesusIsLordParade.org

May 2025

FLOAT DESIGN AND PRODUCTION MANUAL

Version 9/30/24

“For from the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations,’ says the LORD of hosts.”

Malachi 1:11

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WELCOME TO JESUS IS LORD PARADE

By the grace of God, the “Jesus is Lord Parade” will unite churches, ministries, pastors, and Christians across New York City and the nation to lift up and glorify the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. For His glory and by His power it’s anticipated to be the largest Christian parade in the history of the United States.

Nothing has changed the United States and the world as much as the birth and resurrection of Jesus Christ and the proclamation of His gospel throughout the world. We love to praise Him for all he’s done for us!!

Together, we hope to spread the message of love, peace, and the joy of salvation with live Gospel music, floats, costumes, banners, and flags. Churches, Christian organizations, and individuals can participate through entering a group or float in the parade, sponsorship, attendance or vendor opportunities.

HOW TO REGISTER

Churches and organizations can easily register through the website. Please note that there is a registration fee required to enter a float or group in the parade. Participating groups are responsible for securing their own flatbed truck, vehicle, sound system, and generator. You can find a guide to various local truck rental companies under the **SOUND SYSTEM AND MUSIC** section in this manual, on page 13.

HOW TO CREATE A PARADE FLOAT

Creating a parade float is an exciting team venture that requires coordinated effort. Each participant must have a clear understanding of their individual responsibilities. Initiate the planning process well in advance, allocating at least three to five weeks before the parade for comprehensive planning, preparation, and organization. (More advanced float designs may demand additional time.) With a thorough understanding of the construction process, you and your team—including committee members, volunteers, and the community—can create a float that your team will be proud of!

TYPES OF FLOATS

A float can range from a decorated motorcycle, sedan, SUV to something more elaborate such as a pickup truck with a trailer. For instance, a grand float often involves a large 20 to 50-foot trailer adorned with decorations and featuring either live or recorded music. In this manual is listed the specifics of constructing a large float on a 50-foot flatbed trailer.

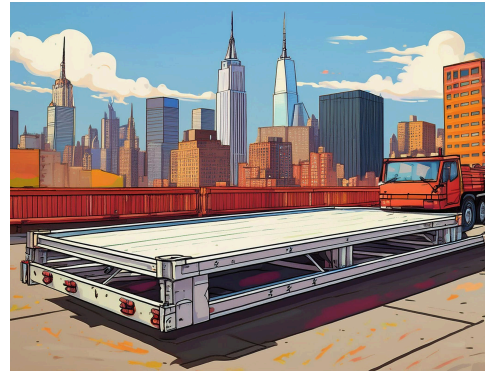
TYPES OF TRAILERS

1. A Drop Frame Flatbed Trailer measures 53 feet X 8 feet 6 inches. This trailer is 43 feet on the bed portion and 10 feet on the top (the tongue of trailer). This trailer sits 3¼ feet off the ground.

Drop Frame Flatbed (wooden platform)



Drop Frame Flatbed (metal platform)



2. A flatbed trailer measures 48 X 8 feet 6 inches. The flatbed portion is approximately 5 feet from the ground.

Flatbed (wooden platform)



Flatbed (metal platform)



Note: If participants will be standing on the trailer, a railing approximately 36 inches high must be installed around the sides and back of the trailer for safety. Additionally, a skirt should be used to cover the wheels, sides, and back of the trailer. This skirt can be made of wood, vinyl, or cloth, and adding a fringe, typically 6 to 12 inches long, to the edge of the skirt. The skirt can also be used to display the name, theme, or affiliation of the group or church.

ACTION PLAN

1. Assemble a committee of 4-6 members, selecting individuals who are creative, particularly those with expertise in carpentry, painting, and decorating. Designate a chairperson who excels in leadership and organizational skills to oversee the project.
2. Arrange a meeting to gather ideas, then select a concept for the float. Avoid overcrowding the float during the design process. Ensure that the message of the float is communicated in a straightforward yet impactful manner. The presentation should be subtle, leaving a lasting impression and delivering a positive message to the audience.
3. Prior to building the float, have an artistic person create a drawing or model based on the chosen theme. This visual guide will show everyone how the float should look, including colors, decorations, and any moving parts. Keep referring to this drawing or model throughout the construction process to stay on track and ensure the float turns out just as envisioned. This makes it easier for everyone involved to understand and follow along as it's built.
4. When designing the float, choose one main color and one or two contrasting colors. Use white trim to create separation between darker colors and add clarity to the selected design. Ensure that the truck cabin or tow vehicle complements rather than distracts from the float's theme by decorating it in harmony with the overall design. This approach will help maintain a visually appealing appearance for the float presentation.
5. Ensure that all props used on the float are non-threatening and appropriate. Keep the overall design simple yet colorful to capture the attention of both the parade route audience and those viewing via media coverage. This approach will help maximize the impact and appeal of the float to a broad audience.
6. Using a large space such as a private lot, backyard or warehouse as your workspace is ideal for building the float. It provides ample space to work efficiently and store props and materials after the parade, reducing future reconstruction costs. This setup ensures everything is well-organized and preserved for future events or modifications as needed.
7. Selecting music for your float that captures attention with clarity is crucial. Choose music with dynamic qualities that are free from static and has excellent acoustics. This

ensures the music enhances the float's presence both before it arrives and as it moves along the parade route, maximizing its impact on the audience.

8. You can arrange with the truck company to deliver the trailer to your church or company location a night or a few days before the parade. This allows time to install railings and prepare the float. The trailer can then be picked up on the morning of the parade and transported to the designated assembly location. Note that daily trailer rental fees may apply.
9. To ensure safety and integrity, it's advisable to add the bulk of the decorations to the float at the assembly location on the morning of the parade. This minimizes the risk of decorations falling off during transit to the parade location, especially at higher speeds. This approach helps to maintain the quality and presentation of your float throughout the parade route.
10. On parade day, all floats and vehicles must be prepared and decorated between X AM and Y AM at the designated assembly location (TBD). It is mandatory that all floats are fully decorated and assembled by Y AM to ensure the parade starts on time and runs smoothly. This timeframe gives participants the opportunity to finalize their preparations and ensure their floats are ready for the event.

CHOOSE A TRAILER

To create a parade float, you typically start with a flatbed trailer. The average rented trailers are 8 feet wide and range from 40 to 50 feet in length. For smaller floats, a hay wagon or utility trailer measuring 4 feet wide by 8 feet long can also be used effectively.

It's essential to ensure the flatbed trailer's surface is level and free of holes. If the surface is uneven or has imperfections, covering it with sheets of plywood is recommended. This provides a sturdy and smooth base for constructing and decorating the float, ensuring stability and enhancing the overall appearance during the parade.



CONSTRUCTION & DECORATING

1. To determine the width of the skirt around the trailer platform, measure the distance from the trailer bed to the ground. Subtract fifteen inches for the fringe drop, and the resulting measurement is the width of the skirt framework. The skirt itself can be constructed from plywood and secured by nailing it to the trailer bed, or hinges can be applied for a fold-up version.
2. In more elaborate designs, the skirt may be extended to accommodate rounded shapes, enhancing the float's width and visual appeal. This flexibility in construction allows for creative designs while ensuring the skirt provides structural support and aesthetic enhancement to the float during the parade.



3. For all floats, it's essential to have a skirt around the trailer platform. Depending on the theme of the float, some may require railings as well. Floats with live bands or musical instruments might also need overhead covering for protection from the elements, in addition to skirts and railings.
4. For a 50-foot trailer, the skirt can be constructed using 13 frames. Each frame consists of four and a half 2x4x8 boards. If railings are needed, the same frame design can be adapted to create sturdy railings above the platform, ensuring both safety and aesthetic consistency throughout the float's design. This approach ensures that the float not only meets practical needs but also enhances its appearance and functionality during the parade.



5. To create a wooden skirt around a 50-foot trailer is approximately \$300 when purchasing materials from Home Depot or Lowes. Once the skirt construction is finished, the next phase involves assembling the superstructures above the platform. This includes installing decks, background supports, seating platforms, and major props, all of which are securely attached to the flatbed. It's important to maintain simplicity and ensure that each component is

strategically positioned for stability and visual impact.

6. To enhance the float's appearance and theme, fabric, signs, and trim are added to provide additional detail. These elements play a crucial role in making the float visually appealing and captivating for spectators along the parade route.
7. The final step in decorating your float involves using a wide range of materials. Props can be either created or purchased to suit your float's theme. It's best to begin decorating from the top and work downwards. Start by covering the wooden skirt frame and railings. Proceed to cover all plywood and 2x4s to create a seamless appearance.
8. Finally, staple the fringe and twist along the bottom of the skirt. This not only hides the wheels but also creates a floating effect, enhancing the overall look of your float during the parade. Following these steps ensures that your float is not only structurally solid but also visually appealing and captivating to spectators.
9. How much material is used for the float depends largely on the chosen theme. More advanced floats generally need more materials compared to more simple designs. Depending on your vision, the cost of decorations could exceed that of the basic framework. To minimize expenses, resourcefulness in prop-making is key, using accessible or recycled materials is highly recommended. This approach fosters creativity while ensuring cost-efficient float construction.
10. Themes can be inspired by scenes representative of the amazing things Jesus Christ has done for humanity or your own church recently or throughout history. For example, there could be some scene representing people coming to faith in Christ, or people being fed as part of a poverty relief program, or hospitals being built, or educational facilities being built. He's done so much for us! The theme of the overall Jesus is Lord Parade! Is from Malachi 1:11 which states, "For from the rising of the sun, until its setting, my Name will be made great among the nations. In every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering for my name will be great among the nations," says the LORD of Hosts." So let's praise Him and make His name great!

Secondarily, themes can be inspired by scenes from drama presentations or plays, often drawn from church productions held during Easter and Christmas. Many churches already have costumes and props stored from these events, making them readily available for float decoration. Thrift stores offer another excellent resource for acquiring additional props and

costumes at affordable prices. For the flooring of the trailer, options like green turf, carpeting, linoleum, or various fabrics can be used to suit the theme and enhance the visual presentation.

11. Banners can be custom ordered from print or signage companies to add personalized messages or themes to the float. Metallic or vinyl floral sheeting, fringes, and other decorative elements can be found at party decoration stores, providing a variety of options to embellish the float. Props can also be either crafted or rented from companies specializing in costume and theater production rentals, ensuring a wide selection to fit the float's theme. These resources collectively offer ample flexibility and creativity in designing and decorating floats for parades or events.

SUPPLY AND TOOL LIST

To build a float, you'll need plywood, lumber, rope, wire, and/or foam. Tools include skill-saws, jigsaws, powered screwdrivers, scissors, staple guns, markers, pencils, hammers, measuring tapes, glue guns, and paint, screws and staples are essential. Decorative materials include metallic or vinyl floral sheeting, vinyl twist, fringe, banners, and props. It's best to use powered screwdrivers and screws instead of hammers and nails to make setup and takedown easier, causing less damage to reusable materials. For an elaborate float on a drop frame flatbed, start with a sturdy base. Build the skirt using plywood and lumber, securing everything with screws. Add superstructures like decks, background supports, and seating platforms. Cover the wooden skirt frame and railings, then add detailed decorations. Finish by adding fringe and twist at the bottom to hide the wheels and create a floating effect.

FLOAT THEMES

Themes can be whatever churches and ministries would like. Some possibilities include:

1. A theme representing something God has done for one's particular church or ministry, or something He's done for the nation or the world over the years. The parade is about making God's name great in the nations, and celebrating some of the many things He's done in history is wonderful. These particular themes include: forgiveness of sins, salvation, coming of the Holy Spirit, world evangelization, charities started in His name, hospitals started around the world, schools started throughout the world, or anything for which you feel He deserves praise.
2. Secondly, it's possible to have themes based on the books or characters of the Bible. The goal is to glorify God and make His name great. Keep the themes simple and use clear symbols so that even spectators unfamiliar with the Bible can understand the message.

Below are some suggestions:

- Representations of people coming to faith, or being healed, or having sins forgiven. Also of poverty relief, educational initiatives, hospitals, etc. Anything that brings glory to God for all He's done recently, or years past, whether locally or anywhere throughout the world.
- Other potential themes:
 - OLD TESTAMENT THEMES: Noah's Ark, David & Goliath, Joseph's Coat of Colors
 - NEW TESTAMENT THEMES: The Nativity Scene, The Last Supper, The Resurrection of Christ
 - OTHER THEMES: Church Choirs, Marching Bands etc.,

SOUND SYSTEM AND MUSIC

The quality of the music that accompanies your float is essential. Ensure the acoustics are top-notch, with no static and clear lyrics. Choose songs that highlight the float's theme. Lively praise and worship songs with clear messages work best. Five to seven songs are enough to play repeatedly over the route. Whether using a live band or recorded music, make sure your sound equipment, generator, and instruments are securely fastened on the float.

Suitable audio equipment can be rented from any of a number of [AV rental companies](#), or some musical equipment retailers (e.g., Guitar Center). It is best to reserve the equipment so that it will be available for you the day before the parade.

For recorded music, you will need:

- A sound source (e.g., laptop)
- Speakers
 - Subwoofers (for bass frequencies)
 - Loudspeakers (multiple speakers to disperse sound in different directions)
- A power amplifier (unless all speakers/subs are powered)
- A mixer/audio interface (to connect your laptop/sound source to your amplifier/speakers)
- Speaker stands
- Cables to connect all of the above components
 - laptop to mixer/interface
 - mixer to amp
 - amp to speakers/subs
- All necessary power cables

If you will be having a live band/speaker, you will need all of the above, plus:

- Microphones/mic stands/cables
- D.I. boxes for electric instruments (keyboard, bass, guitar) to connect the instrument's 1/4" output cable to a microphone cable that can connect to the mixer
- Monitoring speakers (wedges) for the band to hear themselves
- Make sure that your mixer has enough input channels for each mic/instrument.

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GENERATOR

Churches involved must arrange for their own generator rental. The required generator size will depend on the specific needs of the sound system, with live bands requiring larger units. You can organize with the [Flatbed Truck Company](#) to handle the generator pick-up and loading onto the trailer before it is delivered to the designated location. Please note that there may be fees for pick-up and delivery. You can also rent your own truck locally from U-Haul, Budget, Enterprise, Penske or other car rental companies.

This [guide from Home Depot](#) may be helpful in selecting a generator:



It's best to consult with the rental company providing the music equipment. They can recommend the appropriate generator size needed to support their specific musical equipment.

PARADE GUIDELINES

PARADE ASSEMBLING

Please pay close attention to the instructions regarding the parade order on the day of the parade. Follow the signage to guide your float and participants to their designated positions.

Each float and vehicle will have **from X AM to Y AM to decorate and prepare their floats on-site at TBD. All floats must be fully assembled and ready by Y AM.**

FOOD

Unauthorized food vendors are prohibited from selling food on the parade grounds. If you seek to sell food, have your NYC Food Permit on hand at all times.

SELLING MERCHANDISE

Unauthorized sale of items is not permitted.

LITTER & WASTE

Avoid leaving trash on the grounds during and after the parade. Please utilize the nearby trash cans or collect your waste items in a large garbage bag and take it with you to discard. We strive to embody Jesus in every aspect of the parade, including responsibly disposing of garbage and preserving both private and city property.

DISTRIBUTION OF LITERATURE

Distribution of pamphlets, leaflets, tracks, books, magazines, newspapers, and other publications during the parade requires prior approval. A sample must be submitted in advance for review and approval.

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PARKING

TBD

MEDIA

TBD

STREET REGULATIONS

To ensure minimal disruption to normal traffic during parades and to maintain public order, individuals are prohibited from carrying or displaying any banners, placards, flags, insignias, or similar items that are intended to cause disorder, strife, or defame any person or group.

MEDICAL/SECURITY

In case of a medical emergency, please promptly notify **a parade security member or NYPD officer*** who will guide you to the designated medical assistance location or contact emergency personnel (911).

RESPECT

As Christians we are to honor the authority and guidance of the parade staff and obey police instructions at all times. The goal is to exemplify social responsibility and self-discipline.

INDEMNITY

The Jesus Is Lord Parade and its sponsoring or endorsing organizations are not responsible for any injuries, losses, or damages that participants may experience during the parade and rallies.

PARADE DAY FAQ SHEET

WHEN & WHERE DOES THE PARADE START?

TBD

WHAT IS THE PARADE ROUTE?

TBD

WHERE DO I PARK?

TBD

ARE THERE ANY ROAD CLOSURES?

TBD

WHICH SUBWAY STATION IS CLOSEST?

TBD

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MY FLOAT | SECTION IN THE PARADE?

TBD

USEFUL CONTACTS

TBD