



Friday, June 26, 2026

Rapids River Days Parade

SAUK RAPIDS, MN

Dear Festival Friend:

The Rapids River Days Parade committee welcomes your participation in the 23rd Annual **“Rapids River Days Parade,” on Friday, June 26, 2026 at 6:00 pm.** Please review the attached parade information and entry forms for the 2026 parade. Don't delay! The festival is right around the corner and all **parade entries are due by Saturday, June 13th.**

All units must be fully decorated!! (ONE unit = one separate vehicle or one vehicle pulling a trailer/float. More than one unit will be charged an additional entry fee.) Parade entry fees are: **\$200.00** per business unit, **\$200.00** per candidate/politician, **\$125.00** per non-profit unit, **\$75.00** per royalty or dignitary unit, and **NO CHARGE** for colorguards, veteran organizations and Sauk Rapids service units. **PARADE SPONSORS** who provide **\$600.00 or more** will receive free participation and promotional perks (free units in parade, free logo/promos on website/media). **A \$25 Late Fee** applies to all entries received after the deadline: JUNE 13, 2026. (Fees help support the parade each year by covering entertainers, insurance, utilities, judging, awards, and promotional expenses.)

All units will be judged in the Float Contest!! The Float Contest will award **\$200 to each winning unit in 6 categories: Best Business, Best Non-Profit, Best Youth Group, Storm Green & Gold, We Love Sauk Rapids, and Top Truck.** (Parade entry fees apply as noted above). A panel of judges will select the winners. Awards will be given the week following the parade and winners will be announced in local media. *See Float Contest Flyer on page 6 or on the festival website for more information.*

The signed **LIABILITY WAIVER** must accompany your application form and entry fee or your unit will not be considered. Please be reminded, there will be **NO REFUNDS** and **NO EXCHANGES** of paid entry fees. Your line-up number will be emailed the week before the parade. Staging of units will take place on 11th Street North between Summit Avenue N and 6th Avenue N. (See MAP on page 5). Line up begins at 5:00pm (earlier if needed) and the parade starts at 6:00pm sharp!

We look forward to your participation in the Rapids River Days Parade and hope you enjoy all the festivities during the 23rd Annual Rapids River Days Festival in Sauk Rapids!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Parade Director: **Marie Popp**: 320-260-6630

Parade Coordinator: **Marla Elness**: 320-248-8444

E-mail: saukrapidsparade@gmail.com

Facebook: www.facebook.com/rapidsriverdays

Website: www.SaukRapidsRiverDays.com



OFFICIAL ENTRY FORM

Rapids River Days Parade

Sauk Rapids, MN

Friday, June 26, 2026

Line up 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm Start

Entry Fee: ☐ \$200.00–Business ☐ \$200.00–Candidate/Politician ☐ \$125.00–Non-Profit
☐ \$75.00–Royalty/Dignitary ☐ No Charge–Color Guard/Veterans Organization/SR City Service Unit
☐ \$600.00 or more–Parade Sponsor* ☐ Entertainment Fee \$_____

Entry Deadline: June 13, 2026

LATE ENTRIES MUST ADD A \$25 LATE FEE TO YOUR PARADE ENTRY FEE ABOVE.

(Please Print)

NAME of BUSINESS/ORGANIZATION _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

CONTACT PERSON _____

PHONE NUMBER(S) _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

- ☐ Business
- ☐ Candidate/Politician
- ☐ Non-Profit
- ☐ Royalty/Dignitary
- ☐ Color Guard
- ☐ Veterans Org.
- ☐ SR Service Unit
- ☐ Parade Sponsor
- ☐ Entertainment

☐ LIABILITY WAIVER SIGNED/INCLUDED ☐ ENTRY FEE INCLUDED LINE-UP SPACE NEEDED: _____ (FEET)

DESCRIBE UNIT (truck pulling float, car, van, semi-trailer, # of participants, animals, etc.) MUSIC: Yes or No (circle one)

WRITE AN “ADVERTISEMENT” OF YOUR UNIT for the announcer to introduce your company/organization to the audience.
(continue on back or attach a separate sheet as needed): _____

**Please see the Parade Sponsorship Form on the website for more information.*

Please return this
form and waiver with
payment payable to:
RAPIDS RIVER DAYS
PO Box 121
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379

NOTE: All units MUST be fully decorated or appropriately embellished. Trucks or vans must be visually appealing whether alone or pulling a float or unit. Members of the Rapids River Days Parade Committee will have the final decision in accepting or not accepting applications for the Rapids River Days Parade. Lineup is NOT based upon first come, first served. All Entry Forms MUST be accompanied by the Liability Waiver and applicable entry fee(s) or they will not be considered. There will be NO REFUNDS and NO EXCHANGES of paid entry fees.

APPLICATION DEADLINE:
Saturday, JUNE 13, 2026
ADD a \$25.00 Late Fee after this date.

For more information contact the Parade Director:
Marie Popp: 320-260-6630
E-mail: saukrapidsparade@gmail.com
Website: www.SaukRapidsRiverDays.com

2026 Rapids River Days Parade

WAIVER OF LIABILITY RESPONSIBILITY

YOUR ENTRY IN THE RAPIDS RIVER DAYS PARADE
MUST INCLUDE SUBMISSION OF THIS WAIVER OF
LIABILITY. PLEASE SIGN, DATE AND RETURN FORM WITH
YOUR PARADE APPLICATION
BY JUNE 13, 2026

MAIL TO: RAPIDS RIVER DAYS
P.O. BOX 121
SAUK RAPIDS, MN 56379

INDEMNIFICATION – To the extent permitted by law, participants hereby agree to protect, indemnify, defend and hold harmless the members of: Rapids River Days Parade Committee, City of Sauk Rapids, Sauk Rapids-Rice ISD #47, and all their respective volunteers against all claims, loss or damages to persons or property and costs (including reasonable attorney's fees) arising out of or connected with the events of the day, including but not limited to, all communicable diseases, social distancing, the set-up, removal, maintenance, occupancy or use of parade route or part thereof, by participants, except those claims arising out of the sole negligence or willful misconduct of the organizers.

There will be NO REFUNDS and NO EXCHANGES of paid entry fees.

BY SIGNING THIS WAIVER, THE SIGNER ASSUMES THE RESPONSIBILITY OF INFORMING ALL PERSONS IN HIS/HER GROUP OF THIS INFORMATION AND ATTESTS TO THE FACT THAT THE "2026 RAPIDS RIVER DAYS PARADE RULES" LETTER WAS RECEIVED, READ AND UNDERSTOOD.

(PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY)

NAME OF UNIT: _____

AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE: _____

PRINT NAME: _____

DATE: _____ PH #: _____

EMAIL: _____

2026 Rapids River Days Parade RULES

We are expecting more than 80 units including 10 marching bands in this year's parade and we ask your cooperation in adhering to the following rules:

1. **The PARADE starts at 6:00 pm SHARP on Friday, June 26, 2026.** The route runs from Pleasantview Elementary School on Sixth Avenue North, heading south on Sixth Avenue (there is a Roundabout on 2nd St N), then turning left on 1st Street South and ending at Summit Avenue near the Sauk Rapids-Rice Middle School. Floats/units must turn LEFT or RIGHT on Summit Avenue to exit parade. Please, **NO PARKING** on EXIT ROUTES! (SEE MAP)
2. Line-up begins at 5:00 pm and all units **MUST** be ready at least 15 minutes prior to the 6:00 pm start of the parade. A driver must be present at all times with each mobile unit. The line-up area is in a residential district. We ask you to **STAY OFF** of private property. **DO NOT BLOCK DRIVEWAYS** or **INTERSECTIONS**. **DO NOT LITTER!** Be extra careful and courteous at all times.
3. See the Parade Route and Directional Map to view **FLOAT/UNIT STAGING** areas. Numbered stakes will be placed along designated streets. Position your float or unit near the stake, according to the number you will be given.
4. Please **CHECK-IN** your parade unit at the "Check-In Point" (corner of Summit Ave N and 11th St N) when you arrive. This will assist us in an orderly line-up. Please be careful when entering the line-up area! **NOTE: Most units will park on the LEFT SIDE OF THE ROAD facing 6th Ave N (Pleasantview School), as close to the curb as possible, at your designated number.** **NOTE: 11th Street will have barricades to minimize public traffic and they will be opened and closed only by city staff.**
5. Vehicles not in the actual parade must drop off participants and leave the line-up area. Vehicles may be parked on residential streets near the Float Staging area but **NOT** on 11th Street North. Please plan "participant pick-ups" at Mississippi Heights School or separate locations outside of the Staging Area and Parade Route. Do not plan pick-ups near the Middle School. Only Marching Bands and band students will be allowed into the Middle School grounds area.
6. All vehicles must be safe and clean. Maximum height of units is 15 feet and the maximum width is 20 feet. **ALL UNITS MUST BE FULLY DECORATED!!!!** Please add colorful fringe to pulling vehicles as well. The number of vehicles allowed per **UNIT** entry is limited to one vehicle or one vehicle pulling a trailer/float; additional units are charged separately; all decisions will be determined by the parade committee. **DO NOT** bring more vehicles than you have indicated and paid for on your application as the lineup area will **NOT** have additional space!
7. **ALL UNITS** will be announced and judged! \$200 CASH awards will be given for Best Business Unit, Best Non-Profit Unit, and Best Youth Group; **PLUS...** Judges will have the option to select a Best Storm Green & Gold Unit, Best We LOVE Sauk Rapids Unit, and Best Top Truck Unit with \$200 to winners if chosen. Winners will be listed on the RRDays website and in local newspapers. Announcers and Float Judges will be situated on the corner of 1st Street N and 6th Avenue N. Watch for signs to prepare for the judging area.
8. **CANDY**, coupons, brochures, etc. must be **HANDED OUT** along the sides of the road, **NEVER THROWN FROM YOUR UNIT!!** All handouts must be done by walkers (age appropriate) along the sides of the road. Be cautious of small children who are not watching out for vehicles. Please report anyone who is not following this rule.
9. We do not allow any water spraying, throwing/shooting anything from parade units nor along the route, nor utilizing equipment that causes distractions such as loud gun shots, bubble machines, sparklers, etc.! Please report anyone not following this rule.
10. Animal entries must have a separate "clean up crew" following their unit through the parade - **OR** - animals must be diapered if a clean-up crew is not utilized. This is mandatory as we have many walkers and marching bands on foot in the parade.
11. **NO** alcoholic beverages will be allowed in the line-up areas or in the parade. Please report anyone who is not following this rule.
12. **DO NOT CREATE GAPS!** Please stay 15 feet from the unit in front of you, maintaining a smooth pace with the parade. Please follow instructions of Parade Officials to ensure the safety of participants as well as the viewing audience. No racing of engines or careless driving of motorized units. Absolutely no riders on equipment or parts of vehicles not designed as seating areas.
13. Portable restrooms with hand sanitizer will be available along the lineup and band areas, as well as along the parade route.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

We appreciate your participation in the 23rd Annual Rapids River Days Parade!

PARADE DIRECTOR: MARIE POPP 320-260-6630

PARADE COORDINATOR: MARLA ELNESS 320-248-8444

www.SaukRapidsRiverDays.com

Parade **STARTS** at Pleasantview Elementary School on 6th Ave N and **ENDS** at Summit Ave on 1st St South.
Departures must be made by turning **LEFT** or **RIGHT** onto Summit Avenue S. (See yellow Exit Routes).



Floats/Units must exit parade route by turning left or right onto Summit Avenue – **but DO NOT park on the EXIT route roadways!! DO NOT park/teardown near the Middle School!!!** Return to the Lineup area for teardown, or go to the Mississippi Heights Elementary School on 4th St S to teardown and meet with your party.

Please determine your departure plan prior to lineup!

Calling all Businesses, Non-Profits, Neighborhoods and Individuals!

Best Unit / Float Contest

\$200 CASH to the Winning Unit in each category!

Winners will be featured in local media and on the festival website.

SIX CATEGORIES: **Best Business, Best Non-Profit, Best Youth Group, Storm Green & Gold, We Love Sauk Rapids, and Top Truck**

Enter your unit in the Parade by submitting the Official Entry Form, Waiver, and Entry Fee by **June 13, 2026**.

Entry Fees are \$200 per Business, \$200 per Politician, \$125 per Non-profit, \$75 per Royalty/Dignitary, \$600+ per Sponsor, and Free for Veterans/Sauk Rapids Service Units. For more information, visit the festival website: www.SaukRapidsRiverDays.com or email correspondence to: SaukRapidsParade@gmail.com.

Last Year's (2025) Best Unit/Float Winners:



Category: "Best Business" Winner: **Knotty Paws**



Category: "Best Non-Profit" Winner: **Central MN Llama Club**



Category: "Best Youth Group" Winner: **Elevate Dance**



Category: "We Love Sauk Rapids!" Winner: **SR Youth Basketball**



Category: "Top Truck" Winner: **Rival Roofing**



Category: "Storm Green & Gold" Winner: **SR Youth Hockey**