



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

Ernest Simmons VFW Post 6722

409 S. Main Street
Lillington, NC 27546
(910) 893-3706

2025 Veterans Day Parade Rules

Saturday November 8th, 2025

Planning Your Entry

1. Entries should reflect a Veteran or patriotic theme.
2. Music must be appropriate for all ages.
3. Sound systems may not be used for addressing the audience (no speech/campaigning).
4. Air horns and sirens are not permitted unless sounded by emergency vehicles.
Sirens, horns, and any other audible devices are encouraged to play patriotic music in 2-3 second increments no more than once per minute.
5. Animal entries (including horses) MUST have a clean-up crew or will not be permitted to participate.
6. Do not throw candy.

Before and After the Parade

1. The line-up area will open at 9:00 a.m. (**The entrance for line-up will be at the intersection of James St. and Main St.**)
2. No vehicles will be allowed to enter the parade line-up after 10:00 a.m.
3. Each entry will be assigned a number that is your assigned place in the line-up. The number and a map showing your placement will be provided at the entry point on the day of the parade. *Note: The following order of march will be adhered to in placing entries in the parade line-up*



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- a. **Military Color Guard:** This typically leads the parade, displaying the US Flag and any other authorized flags (like the POW/MIA flag) according to flag etiquette.
 - b. **Dignitaries:** This segment might include VFW leaders (following a specific order from National to Post Commanders), as well as local government officials or other honored guests, [according to the VFW's protocol guidance](#).
 - c. **Units in Order of Precedence:** The traditional order of precedence for the military in a parade is: Cadets from the US Military Academy, Midshipmen from the US Naval Academy, and Cadets from the US Coast Guard. These are followed by the Regular Army, Marines, Navy, Coast Guard, and potentially Space Force (in order of establishment).
 - d. **Reserve and Training Units:** This section includes units like the National Guard, Marine Corps Reserve, Naval Reserve, Other organizations of the Organized Reserves, Naval Militia, Reserve Officers Training Corps, and other training units, in an order determined by the parade's grand marshal.
 - e. **Veterans and Patriotic Organizations:** Following the official military units, veterans and patriotic organizations are typically featured, often led by the VFW. This can include representatives from different periods of service and other patriotic groups.
 - f. **Other Units:** This could encompass high school marching bands, [ROTC units](#), and first responders. Marching bands are often encouraged to play patriotic and military marches throughout the parade.
 - g. **Floats and Vehicles:** These entries should have a veteran connection or be of historic military significance and should be decorated patriotically. Entries should not stop on the parade route unless necessary for an emergency.
 - h. **Animal Units:** Entries with live animals must make arrangements for proper waste disposal.
4. Numbers will be placed along James St./10th St. corresponding with your assigned spot in lineup.
 5. Only floats/vehicles driven in the parade are permitted to enter the parking and line-up areas.



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6. Floats/vehicles not in the parade may park at Star Academy or the Harnett Board of Education parking lots.
7. **All parade floats and participants will turn right onto W. Lofton St. at the end of the parade.**

Judging

1. Judges will evaluate the entry's detail, difficulty of construction, color, and originality of the entry.
2. All entries that have requested to be entered into the float judging contest will be judged during the parade at a fixed location on either Front of Main Street.
3. There will be a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Overall Winner. Winners will be announced and notified by Friday November 14th by phone and email. Winners will receive a plaque from Ernest Simmons VFW Post 6722 to display at their business or organization.

Release

I give the Ernest Simmons VFW Post 6722, the Town of Lillington, and Harnett County the absolute right and permission to copyright and/or publish or use any photographic or video images or content of this parade entry, which may be included whole or in part, or composite or distorted in character and form, in conjunction with my own or fictitious name, or reproductions thereof in color or otherwise, for art, advertising, trade, or any other lawful purpose.

I hereby waive any right that I may have to inspect and/or approve the finished product or the advertising copy that may be used in connection therewith, or the use to which it may be applied. I agree, for all participants in this parade entry and hereby release, indemnify, and hold harmless, Ernest Simmons VFW Post 6722, the Veterans of Foreign Wars (District 7, Department of North Carolina, and National), the Town of Lillington, its planning committee, sponsors, and volunteers from all liability, claims, demands, and causes of action whatsoever, arising out of my participation in the 2025 Veterans Day Parade.