



## Miniature Float 2022 Theme

### “The Magic In Ordinary Days”

Thank you for your willingness to build a miniature float! They are such a beloved part of Lehi Roundup and have a long tradition in the history of our great city.

On July 24, 1854 Lehi held its first parade and patriotic celebration. It was a small parade held within the walls of the fort. In 1926 the parade consisted of children on decorated coaster wagons, tricycles and bicycles, as well as children in pioneer costumes, all of who simply paraded around the racetrack where the present rodeo arena is now located.

These first floats were small and were usually constructed in recreation halls of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints throughout Lehi. Decorations consisted of crepe paper with banners, flowers and ribbons. Float builders spent hours curling crepe paper to achieve the petal effect. Large quantities of chicken wire and paper napkins were used to create animals and cartoon characters. Later, plastic by the yard was used to make pom-poms of varying sizes, and commercial petal paper made float construction much easier. Highlighted on each float are Lehi’s best product – imaginatively costumed children!!

We’ve come a long way since then. Each year parade watchers are thrilled by the imagination and workmanship of the mini floats. As our city grows, bringing people and businesses from all over the country it’s wonderful to join together to remember our humble beginnings and celebrate the many things that make Lehi such a great place to live. It’s volunteers like you that help keep this celebration going. Thank you, again.

If you are a first-time float builder it may seem a little overwhelming, but don’t worry. This website contains the information and helps you’ll need to make this a fun and successful experience. If after reading all the information you have more questions be sure to attend one of our float building workshops or call me directly. I’m happy to help you in any way I can.

Anna Standage  
Mini Float Committee Chair  
801-380-5956

### Important Dates:

Base pick-up dates beginning - Monday, April 15  
Float building workshop dates – Thursday, March 31  
Registration Deadline - Friday, June 15  
Parade dates and times - Friday, June 24 6 p.m. and Saturday, June 25 10 a.m.  
Float base return deadline - July 11

## Miniature Float Rules and Information:

*Please read carefully. We didn't disqualify any floats last year but there were several that should have been. We will this year in order to be fair to every participant.*

- 1. Registration:** In order to avoid duplicate or similar themes, all floats must be registered. Ideas are reserved on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be a link on the Lehi City website under Round-Up Information to a list of float themes. Floats are not listed until the idea is approved. However, when trying to decide what theme to use for your ward/group float, use this list to see what has already been chosen.
- 2. Float dimensions:** Floats cannot be more than 8 feet wide by 10 feet long or more than 10 feet from the ground to the highest point on your float. This includes anything hanging over the sides of the base such as flags, streamers, etc. Entries that exceed these dimensions will be disqualified from the judging.
- 3. Cost:** The amount typically budgeted for float materials is \$650.00. This should include donated materials, but not costumes. You aren't required to turn in receipts, but you will be asked how much you spent. Any group that spends more than \$650 will be disqualified from the judging.
- 4. Child Participation:** One of the judging categories is child participation. Encourage as many children as you can to walk alongside your float. In addition, there must be at least one child riding on your float. As you plan your float include a comfortable and safe place for them to sit or stand. If standing, provide a secure handle for them to hold.



- 5. Float Drop-Off:** Floats can be dropped off at Lehi Elementary School beginning at 2:00 PM on Friday, June 24 and starting at 7:30 AM on Saturday, June 25. PLEASE DO NOT DROP YOUR FLOAT OFF EARLY AND LEAVE. The location is a change from previous years. Go to the NW corner of Center St. and 600 N. and there will be people there to guide you where to go. Plan on bringing 3 people with you to drop off your float. Two to manually pull the float into the school parking lot and one to drive the truck out of the way. No cars (or 4-wheelers) will be allowed in the school parking lot. You will be assigned a number, which will determine your order in the parade, on a first-come, first-served basis. Judging will begin at 4p.m. so come early enough to have your float ready by then. Floats dropped off after 4:00 will not be in the running for a prize. There isn't as much shade at the elementary school as at Wines Park. The city is planning on setting up 3 canopies for shade and providing some water bottles but if you have a canopy of your own, please bring it. It will probably be hot on both parade days.
- 6. Pullers:** Your float cannot be pulled by a motorized vehicle (including 4-wheelers) in either the Friday or Saturday parades. Floats should be pulled by youth or children. Children aged 10-12 can pull the float bases without trouble. Plan for 6 pullers.
- 7. Participant's Drop-off and Pick-up:** The parade will start both days at the north end of Wines Park and end at Lehi High School. Before the parade, some of the streets directly around the park will be closed to vehicle traffic and there will be lots of congestion. Plan on parking a few blocks away and walking to your float. At the end of the parade, floats can be pulled into the Lehi High School parking lot. Some groups choose to turn right and end the parade near Jack and Jill's bowling alley. Have parents meet the float at the end spot chosen by your committee. Typically, if parents leave their seats once the float has passed them, they can reach the end point at the same time as your float. Floats cannot be left overnight at Wine's Park or Lehi High School on Friday.
- 8. Rentals of Miniature Floats is not permitted.** From time to time, a ward/group will get a request from

a neighboring city to lend their float for their city parade. (This is not surprising due to the wonderful efforts of our Lehi float makers. 😊) That is acceptable on a limited basis. If you choose to lend your float, you are responsible to get the base back from them in good repair. We do ask that you don't actively seek to rent your float. It is not in keeping with the spirit of our wonderful parades.

(Float Building Guide below...)

# Float Building Guide:

## Basics

**Float Base cannot be bigger than 8' X 10'.** Make sure it is in good repair-that it rolls smoothly, the frame is sturdy, the wood is sturdy enough to hold everything you are putting on it, both pulling handles are there and work.

Form: The form is the skeleton of the objects on your float.

Items you can use chicken wire, balloons, soldered wire, plywood (1 X 2s or 2 X 4s), foam (sheets, sculpted blocks or sculpted spray foam), any household objects. The cabinet shop on State Street puts their unwanted mill runs in their parking lot. This wood is free and thin enough to bend. PVC sprinkler pipe, construction tubes, etc. Just remember that most of this won't show and will need to hold its shape if it gets wet from a rain. Don't spend a lot of money. Scavenge for most of this stuff. Also, remember that your float will be hand pulled, so be cautious of adding too much weight.

Covering: The covering is like the muscles. It covers the form, helps refine the shape of the object and makes a nice surface to decorate.

Items you can use paper mâché, fabric or sheets, plastic tablecloths, clay, masking tape, crumpled paper, foam. The thin big sheets of cardboard that Costco uses to separate their items are also great to use. They are free if you ask for them.

Decoration: Paint, pom-poms, glitter, texture (spackle, spray) Use your imagination. Frayed rope that has been spray painted can be used for lots of needs.

Finishing touches: Petal paper (keep out of the sun, darkest colors shrink fastest), festooning, fringe (put fringe on at the parade, two layers looks best, you can alternate colors or cut top layer into a shape or design).

## Principles to remember

**Use the whole space:** Picture your float as an 8' X 10' X 8' box and try to fill the entire thing.

**Size:** Make the forms big enough to be seen from the sidewalk. Using different proportions of everyday things creates a feeling of whimsy.

**Color:** Bold, bright, solid colors show up better from a distance and create visual weight and make objects seem bigger. If it fits with your theme, glitter is a great way to catch the eye.

**Detail:** Exaggerate details so that they are visible from the sidewalk. Small and intricate details won't be seen from a distance, but they are fun for people to see when they are up close.

**Create a scene:** What is the story playing out on your float?

**Movement:** Things that move mechanically or that move with the motion of the float.

**Use everyday household objects and materials in creative ways:** Frayed rope, exhaust tubing used for dryer vents, cardboard boxes, empty jugs and food containers, wrapping paper tubes, swimming noodles...look around your house or wander through DI for ideas.

**Reuse materials from previous years:** Festooning, fringe, costumes can all be repurposed.

**Encourage participation:** Try to include your entire neighborhood or group. Make the float building an event/party. Be flexible and encourage everyone to share ideas and thoughts on what to put on your float and how to build it. Hidden talents always emerge when creativity is encouraged.



**Focus on having fun:** Working to create a prize-winning float is a great goal. We want your mini float to be beautiful and fun to look at, but if it creates too much stress or hurt feelings then it detracts from the purpose of this historic parade, which is to celebrate Lehi City and spotlight the children.

## Costumes

Don't forget the costumes! They help develop your theme. Encourage everyone (even adults) who walks with your float to wear a costume. Remember that it's usually pretty hot during the week of Roundup so make sure they are comfortable, light and breathable. Children have a hard time holding props for that length of time so if you plan on using them consider attaching them to their costumes. Also, make sure everyone wears comfortable shoes.



## Float Making Resources

### Places to get materials

- Borrow from ward/organization members- float building materials, costumes, costumes making materials
- Thrift stores- cheap everyday objects to repurpose, costumes materials
- Discount stores- costume items, props, float decorating materials, cheap everyday objects to repurpose
- Modern Display- festooning, fringe, petal paper, glitter, spray paint that doesn't melt foam
- Party stores- costume items, float decorating materials
- Shindigz.com- float decorating materials
- paradefloatsuppliesnow.com- float decorating materials
- paradefloatstuff.com- float decorating materials
- oriental trading.com- float decorating materials, costume items
- Lowes or Home Depot- tons of things to use to build your forms (just walk the aisles), paint

**Helpers-** feel free to call on these experienced float builders for ideas and construction help.

Amy Jones (801)361-4392  
Emily Jones (801)690-8739  
Ivana Shearer (801)319-8666  
Kellie Jo Jones (801)822-2513

## Parade Tips

1. Have the children participating wear tennis shoes or other comfortable shoes. They will walk about 2 miles each day, so sandals, flip flops, or dress shoes can hurt their feet.
2. Make sure children have plenty of water as they walk the parade route. In years past, group leaders have provided each child with their own water bottle necklace so that the children have water while they walk in the parade. Home Depot sells black rubber round washers (probably not really what they are called) that fit snugly over the mouth of the Costco water bottles. Stringing ribbon through the washer then forcing it over mouth of the water bottle will allow the bottle to be worn around each child's neck. Freezing the water is a good idea.
3. Form a float committee! You do not have to do this alone...ask for assistance. Meet together and plan the theme and overall design for your float. Assign each member one aspect of the float to be responsible for. Give them the overview of what the end result should look like and then let them go! Check in periodically to make sure everyone is doing ok and on track. Assignments might include costumes, props, detail work for the float, float building, float decorating, banners, etc. Set a finish deadline a week or so before the parade just in case you experience unforeseen issues.
4. Utilize the children of the committee members, their friends, and neighbor children. Children who are familiar with one another will be more likely to enjoy the experience and be happy while riding or participating in the parade. Children riding on the float should be small, but able to ride alone without parental supervision.
5. Invite parents (of children older 5) to watch with their family, rather than walk with their children in the parade. Too many adults walking can crowd the children and makes it hard for the spectators to see the full effect. The parade is for the children!
6. The wait on Saturday morning can get long (the mini floats are intermingled with the big floats), bring snacks, or have the parents bring snacks for the kids.
7. Get creative! Regular items can be easily transformed into costumes, float building materials, etc. One-year clear umbrellas carried by children were decorated with ribbon, lace, feather boas, etc. to be jelly fish. Foam noodles can be manipulated to become fish fins, or decorated to become "truffula" tree trunks, etc. We will be covering more ideas at our float building workshops.
8. Walmart has inexpensive fabric and white t shirts which can be decorated or dyed for costumes. Reach out to parents for old Halloween costumes. Hobby Lobby craft supplies are on sale 50% off every other week. IFA has chicken wire which can be molded to make most any shape.
9. Make a plan NOW so that if things need to be tweaked or fixed, there is time without causing undue stress. The parade should be FUN...REALLY!
10. Keep your float fairly simple, let the children be the focus. Coordinate costumes: matching pajamas, dresses, shirts, etc. Dress the children up as parts of the whole...one year the float was "The HungryCaterpillar" and the children were the pieces of fruit or food that the caterpillar ate through.



11. Design your float to have a “hiding spot” for your tools, containers, etc. That way you can carry the things you bring on parade day with you all along the route without distracting from your float.
12. Music is welcome, but keep in mind that the parade route is loud! There will be LOTS of cheering from the sidelines, Lehi LOVES the mini parade! Also, depending on where the music is coming from, it may be loud for the children participating.
13. The sky is the limit...no idea is a bad idea. Think outside the box, use your committee’s strengths and skills and have fun!

*For more ideas, tips, and answers to your questions, please come to our **float workshops on Saturday, May 15 and Thursday, May 18.** Both meetings will be at the Lehi Legacy Center at 7 pm.*

**Float Judging Criteria continued on next page.**



## Float Judging Criteria

These are the specifics the judges will be looking at. Floats will be judged before and

The winners will be announced at the Friday rodeo and will also receive a phone call.

<b>*WORKMANSHIP &amp; OVERALL APPEARANCE OF FLOAT</b>	40 PTS
-Basic Construction (quality, neatness, skill)	
-Design (visually pleasing, creative)	
-Work	
-Color Scheme (coordinated)	
-Special effects (moving pieces)	
<b>*ORIGINALITY</b>	20 PTS
-Creativity	
-Uniqueness	
-How well does it fit with Parade Theme?	
<b>*COSTUMES</b>	10 PTS
-Pullers, Riders, Walkers, Banner Carriers (do they fit with the float)	
-Neatness/Organization	
-Design and Color (coordinate)	
-Relationship to float	
<b>*BANNERS</b>	10 PTS
-Design	
-Color Scheme	
-Relationship to float (do they match?)	
<b>*PARTICIPATION</b>	10 PTS
-Child involvement (Remember there must be children on the float)	
<b>*OVERALL APPEARANCE DURING PARADE</b>	10 PTS
-How well does everything look and relate to the float and each other	

There is a possible total score of 100