



Miniature Float 2024 Theme

“Once Upon A Time...”

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 whom 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. The 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 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 tips 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 1
Registration Deadline - Friday, June 15
Parade dates and times - Friday, June 28 at 6 p.m. and Saturday, June 29 at 10 a.m.
Float base return deadline - July 15

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 to be fair to every participant.

1. **Registration:** To avoid duplicate or similar themes, all floats must be registered at <https://www.lehi-ut.gov/miniature-parade-information/>
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:** There is a \$1000 spending limit to building your float. This should include donated materials, but not costumes. Plan on spending the whole amount to make the best float you can.
4. **Reimbursement:** Wards and groups will be reimbursed for the cost of their float materials from the proceeds of the rodeo. Most years it is for the whole \$1000. Checks are sent to the bishop or organization leader by August or September.
5. **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. Those that don't will be disqualified from the judging.
6. **Float Drop-off:** Floats can be dropped off at the park beginning at 3:00 pm (no earlier) on Friday, June 23rd. **Please bring your float to the corner of Center St. and 600 N. from the south.** I know this sounds picky, but it makes it easier for everyone. It is shocking how many people assume this rule doesn't apply to them. You will be assigned your number on a first-come, first-served basis. *Please plan to WALK your float into line. Vehicles (4 wheelers included) will not be allowed past the barricades.* You must leave your float and the area by 4:30 pm in order for your float to be judged. If for any reason your float is disqualified, we will inform you of that.
7. **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 are able to pull the float bases without trouble. Plan for 6 pullers.
8. **Parade Participant's Drop-off and Pick-up:** The parade will start both days at 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 parking lot on the north side of Lehi High. 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.
9. **Participate in Both Parades:** By registering your float you are agreeing to be in the Miniature Float Parade and the Grand Parade.

(Float Building Guide below...)

Float Building Guide:

Basics

Float Base: The float can't 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. If you are using a float base from Lehi City, pick up and drop off are at the city yard on north 300 West.

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

Items you can use are chicken wire, balloons, soldered wire, plywood, 1 X 2s or 2 X 4s, foam (sheets, sculpted blocks or sculpted spray foam), pvc pipe, construction tubes, or any household objects you have around. Remember, most of this won't show anyway. Also, the float will be pulled by children, 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 are papier mache, fabric or sheets, clay, masking tape and crumpled paper, foam. Thin big sheets of cardboard that Costco uses to separate their items is also great to use. It is free if you ask them.

Decoration: Paint, pom-poms, glitter, texture (spackle, spray foam, crinkled paper burlap, paint, petal paper).

Use your imagination. Frayed rope that has been spray painted can be used for lots of needs.

Finishing touches: Petal paper (keep out to the sun until parade day because it can shrink), festooning, fringe (you might consider putting it on at the parade, you can use double layers, alternating colors, or cut shapes in it to add texture and interest).



Principles to Remember

Space: Use all of it. Picture your float as a 8' X 10' X 10' cube and try to fill the entire thing.

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

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

Detail: Consider using small and large details. Include exaggerated details so that they are visible from the sidelines and small and intricate details that are a fun surprise for spectators to find when looking at your float up close before the parade.

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 add interest and can bring your float to life.

Use everyday household objects and materials in creative ways: frayed rope, exhaust tubing used for dryer vents, cardboard boxes, empty jugs and food containers, paper plates, wrapping paper tubes, swimming noodles. The more creative, the better.

Reuse materials: Things like festooning, fringe, costumes can be saved and repurposed.

Encourage participation by your entire neighborhood. Encourage others to share their ideas and talents. Focus on having fun.

Costumes: Costumes can elaborate on the theme or story of your float. Neighbors' costume boxes, D.I., Oriental Trading, etc. are great places to find stuff. As you plan your costumes keep in mind that the parade is usually on a pretty hot day. Keep costumes light and breathable. The parade route is about 1.5 miles. Insist that comfortable shoes are worn. Most young kids won't carry something for very long so focus on costumes that don't have parts that have to be carried.

Banner: Each ward or group should have a banner that fits with their theme and says the name of their ward or group. They can be made of any material and be any size, just make it so it can be easily seen from the sidelines. Usually, 2 older children or youth carry it in front of your float.

Need Help or Advice? We have a group of experienced float makers that will meet with your group and give you any help you need. Contact Whitney Pulham at 801-368-0228.

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, costume 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.
- orientaltrading.com- float decorating materials, costume items.
- Lowes or Home Depot- tons of things to use to build your forms (just walk the aisles), paint.

Parade Tips

- Have the children participating wear tennis shoes. They will walk about 2 miles each day, so sandals, flip flops, or church shoes can hurt their feet.
- Make sure children have plenty of water as they walk the parade route. Freezing the water for the Saturday morning parade is a good idea.
- Form a float committee! You do not have to do this alone...ask for assistance. Assign each member one aspect of the float to be responsible for, give them an 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.
- 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.
- Encourage the parents and children in your group to walk behind your float so that the spectators will be able to see it.
- 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.
- Throwing candy is discouraged, but if you choose to do so don't throw it from the float. It encourages those catching candy to stand in the middle of the street, which is dangerous and makes it hard for other spectators to see the parade. Have adults walk along the sidewalks and toss it to the spectators.
- The wait on Saturday morning can get long (the mini floats are intermingled with the big floats), you may want to bring snacks, or have the parents bring snacks for the kids.
- 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!
- You might consider designing a "hiding spot" in your float 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.
- 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.
- The sky is the limit...no idea is a bad idea. Think outside the box, play to your committee's strengths, and have fun!
- For more ideas, tips, and answers to your questions, contact Anna Standage at 801-380-5956.



Float Judging Criteria

These are the specifics the judges will be looking at. Floats will be judged before and during the Friday parade. There are 4 prizes: Sweepstakes, 1st Place, 2nd Place and 3rd Place. The winners will be announced at the Friday rodeo and will also receive a phone call.

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

There is a possible total score of 100