

Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival Grand Parade

Carla Rumsey, Chairperson

303 S Ionia Road

Vermontville, mi 49096

517-652-9129

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Hello!

I would like to welcome you to the 2026 Maple Syrup Festival Grand Parade. This is my third year as your chairperson, and I hope the success of last year's parade will encourage you to plan an entry for this year's parade.

The date for the 2026 Grand Parade will be Saturday, April 25, 2026. The parade will begin promptly at 3 PM. Please read the Grand Parade Rules and Regulations carefully. These rules will be enforced. If you would like to enter your float in the float decorating competition, please indicate this on your entry form.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me with the information above. Please return your application form by **March 31, 2026**, to reserve your place in the 2026 Grand Parade. You may also find the form on the Vermontville Maple Syrup Association website at www.syrupfest.org.

Looking forward to a great parade,

Carla

Maple Syrup Grand Parade Committee

Carla Rumsey, Chairperson
303 S Ionia, Vermontville, MI 49096
517-652-9129—leave a message letshaveaparade24@gmail.com

Grand Parade Rules and Regulations

Line Up

1. The parade line-up area is on North Ionia Road between Vermontville and Gresham Highway.
2. All parade units must be in the parade line-up area by 1 PM. Large units should approach the line-up area from the north. This can be accomplished by coming in on Ionia Road from the north by way of Gresham Hwy (hard gravel), Kelly Road, Mt Hope Hwy, St. Joe Hwy, M50, or M43. Buses and vans, horse trailers, and large vehicles may be parked on Gresham Hwy during the parade. Other vehicles can be parked in the areas around Spring Street at the end of the parade route. There may be a charge for parking in a manned lot. This fee is your responsibility.
3. Horses will be positioned in the middle of the parade to allow them time to return to their trailers before the road is reopened to traffic.
4. When you arrive, please park your entry at your designated spot and then check in with the parade staff at the beginning of the parade route. There will be parade staff available to assist you. You will be given a number to attach to the left side of your unit. This lets the announcer know who you are.
5. There will be a float decorating contest. Prizes will be awarded for the top three entries. Judging will begin at 2 PM. Winners will be notified before the parade begins. Please indicate on your form if you wish to participate in the float contest.
6. Port-a-johns will be available at the parade line-up area. April weather is unpredictable, and the wait for the parade start time will seem long. Please be prepared with jackets, sunblock, water, and snacks.

Parade Route Rules

1. Floats should not exceed 11 feet in height.
2. **Every entry must finish the parade route, and floats should be constructed to withstand the entire route. THE PARADE ENDS AT THE INTERSECTION OF SECOND AND ELM. YOU MUST COMPLETE THIS ENTIRE ROUTE AND NOT DISEMBARK THE LINE UP UNTIL YOU REACH THIS POINT. If you have questions, please ask a parade official.**
3. Please refrain from honking or horn blowing when approaching and in front of the grandstand area.
4. **Please pay very close attention to the unit in front of you as well as your position in relation to the crowd. Try to maintain 15-25 feet between parade units. Do not allow gaps in the line-up.**
5. Walkers accompanying floats may pass out candy. **PLEASE BE AWARE OF CHILDREN CROWDING INTO THE STREET TO GATHER CANDY! For the safety of our spectators, please do not toss anything from a moving vehicle into the crowd.**

These rules are in place to ensure the safety of everyone involved and to make sure this event is enjoyed by all. Your cooperation is appreciated.

Let's have a parade!!

**Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival
2026 Grand Parade Application**

Please fill out this application and return it by **March 31, 2026**

Name of Entry

Person in charge of entry

Mailing address

Phone _____ email _____

Type of entry

I will be participating in the Float Competition: Yes _____ No _____

Size of entry (please include the length of the vehicle towing the entry when quoting your entry size) _____

Will there be any loud noise or music? _____

Please complete both pages of the form.

Please write a summary of your entry. This will appear in the printed program and will be used by the announcer when your entry passes the stage area. Attach an extra page if necessary.

It is hereby understood and agreed that the applicant will abide by the rules and regulations of the Vermontville Maple Syrup Corporation and the Vermontville Maple Syrup Festival Grand Parade Committee. The parade committee reserves the right to establish the parade unit order and how many units will be in the parade.

Signature of the person in charge of entry

Date

Please return your entry form to:
Carla Rumsey, 303 S Ionia, Vermontville, MI 49096

It can also be scanned and emailed to letshaveaparade24@gmail.com.

If you have questions, you can also call 517-652-9129.
Please leave a message and I will return your call.