



# FINDLAY MARKET OPENING DAY PARADE 2026

## PARADE RULES & REGULATIONS

Thursday, March 26 | 12 PM

[www.findlaymarketparade.com](http://www.findlaymarketparade.com)

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It is important that all participants read the Rules and Regulations in their entirety. Please note that Parade Marshals have the authority to remove any unit that does not comply with the following guidelines. The applicant is responsible for ensuring that the individual bringing the vehicle or float, along with all participants in the unit, receive this information.

### ARRIVAL TIMES & SETUP

#### Setup Time

The parade begins at 12 PM to accommodate the length of the parade and ensure that all spectators have sufficient time to get to the ballpark by the start of the game at 4:10 PM. To ensure all units are in their designated spot and to assist with maneuverability within our limited space, we have updated the required time units should be on-site. See below for the final setup time requirements per unit group:

- **Units 1 - 9:** Arrival of 8:30 AM
- **Units 10 - 30:** Arrival of 8:45
- **Units 30 - 33:** *Specific arrival times will be communicated*
- **Units 35 - 42:** *Specific arrival times will be communicated*
- **Units 43 - 51:** Arrival of 9:15 AM or earlier
- **Units 52 - 59:** Arrival of 9:30 AM
- **Units 60 - 73:** Arrival of 9:45 AM
- **Units 75 - 92:** Arrival of 10 AM or earlier
- **Units 94 - 104:** Arrival of 10:00 AM
- **Units 105 - 110:** Arrival of 10:15 AM
- **Units 112 - 123:** Arrival of 10:30 AM or earlier
- **Units 124-136:** Arrival of 10:00 AM or earlier
- **Units 138 - 148:** Arrival of 10:30 AM
  
- **BANDS:** Arrival of 10:00 AM or earlier
- **HORSES:** *Specific arrival times will be communicated*

**Please note:** Some units may receive direct communication regarding a more specific arrival time based on their location or the size of their unit. The Parade Committee will reach out separately with these details via the Contact Email you provided. If you do not receive a special request, please follow the schedule outlined above.

### **Gate Entrance**

Your unit will be provided a Gate Entry Map as well as communication of which gate to enter the staging area. Units will not be permitted to enter through the incorrect gate on the morning of the parade. Marshals will not allow entry if you arrive at the wrong gate. To avoid congestion, please be sure to arrive at your designated gate the morning of the parade. All gates will be marked with Aframes and color-coded to match the Gate Entry map.

### **Drop-Offs and Vehicles**

Only approved vehicles are permitted in the parade space. If your vehicle is not participating in the parade and was not previously listed with your unit, you will be asked to remove it.

**For drop-offs**, vehicles are not permitted in the staging area unless they are going through the parade. Please plan accordingly for your marchers or additional participants. Extra participants should be dropped off outside of the staging area and walk to your unit's designated lineup zone.

### **Vehicle Attendance**

At least one person must remain with your vehicle in the staging area at all times. While not everyone in your unit needs to be present during setup, a designated representative must be available to move or adjust the vehicle if directed by parade marshals to accommodate other units.

### **Position Cards**

All units will receive a position card with your Unit # via email the week of the parade. Units must print the cards, which should be displayed in a visible location upon arrival at your gate entry. If your entry has multiple vehicles, please print an entry card for each vehicle. Parade Marshals will provide additional cards on the day of arrival at each unit's designated entry point.

### **Band / School Buses**

Band buses should enter the marshaling area from the corner of Liberty and Elm Streets (Gate A). Buses will not be able to go through the staging area past the Market House and must exit out of Gate B on Central Parkway. Once unloaded, the buses should be moved to the demarshaling area: Buses are staged along Fifth Street, East of Broadway to Pike Street (both sides of the street) down to Sentinel Street (both sides of the street). Marshals and CPD will be there to assist.

## **RULES & REQUIREMENTS**

### **Performances**

Parade performances must be executed at parade marching speed. **Stopping to perform, unload, or pick up performers is strictly prohibited.**

### **Throwing Materials**

Per a City of Cincinnati ordinance, throwing hand-outs of any kind, including campaign literature, samples, or products are prohibited during parades.

### **Alcohol**

Consumption of alcoholic beverages during the parade or in the parade staging area is strictly prohibited.

### **Amplified Sound**

Please keep the volume on your sound systems turned down prior to the start of the parade while in the staging area. Too much noise in the marshalling area causes confusion and makes it difficult for parade marshals to communicate with other entries. Your cooperation is appreciated.

### **Fire Extinguishers**

All units, except those consisting only of marchers, must have a fire extinguisher. The Cincinnati Fire Department may be inspecting units for compliance with this rule.

### **Proof of Insurance**

Any unit that includes a motor vehicle or animals must have proof of liability insurance. Be prepared to provide proof of insurance upon a parade marshal's request.

### **Horses & Animal Units**

Any support vehicle, including horse trailers, not participating in the parade should be unloaded and moved from the lineup area to the demarshaling area by 11 AM. We will connect with all horse units separately on the status of leaving trailers in the staging area.

Please leave the street as clean as it was prior to your arrival. You are responsible for the cleanup of any materials dropped by your animals.

**Note:** Air vents for the Fountain Square Garage are located on Fifth Street between Vine and Walnut (adjacent to Fountain Square). They may act as a "cattle guard". If your unit will not cross the vents/grates, be prepared to proceed in the far-left lane (a single lane) to avoid these grates.

## **GENERAL INFORMATION**

### **Parade Marshals**

Parade Marshals will ensure that the Parade is staged and proceeds in as orderly a manner as possible. They will be wearing neon yellow vests. They are authorized to remove any unit causing issues with the safe and efficient flow of the parade. Please follow their instructions. If you need assistance, seek out a Parade Marshal or call **Erin Matulis at 513-504-6886**.

### **Food and Drink**

Several Findlay Market Merchants will open at 9 AM. You can find more information on which Merchants will be open, and the Opening Day Specials they'll be serving here:

<https://www.findlaymarket.org/news/openingday2026>.

### **Restrooms**

There will be a number of portalets stationed at Findlay Market's North parking lot. The Findlay Market Public Restrooms will also be open, located on the North side of the Market House, between Eckerlin Meats and Madison's.

### **Exiting the Parade**

The parade ends on Fifth Street between Sycamore and Sentinel streets near the Taft Theatre. Entries will not be permitted to remain in this area after their unit has completed the parade. If you wish to view the remainder of the parade, you must move to the sidewalk area. Parade Marshals and police officers will be in the demarshaling area to ensure the streets remain as clear as possible.

### **Marshaling Area**

The parade stages on Race, Elm, Findlay, Elder, Green, and Henry streets. Parade Marshals will be stationed at all staging area entrances. Please follow their instructions upon arrival.

### **Parade Route**

The Parade will follow the same route as last year. Beginning at 12 PM, it will move South on Race from Findlay Market, turn right on Fifth Street, and end at the Taft Theatre.

### **Parking**

The streets in the staging area will be closed to non-parade traffic starting at 8 AM sharp. This includes access to the Findlay Market South and North Parking Lot. Please arrive early to find parking accommodations outside of the staging area and avoid a last-minute rush. The Findlay Garage off of Central Parkway will be open and accessible past 8AM. You can find more information about parking in the Findlay Market District [here](#).

### **Television Coverage**

The Parade will be streamed live on several local TV stations as well as the jumbo screen at Fountain Square. Cameras will be stationed at various points along the parade route.

### **Weather**

Unless the game is canceled, the parade will go on, rain or shine.

**Questions? Please email [fmparade@gmail.com](mailto:fmparade@gmail.com).**