

We want to say **Thank You for participating in the transformative Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday Parade!**

Please be sure to read the following procedures and parade rules carefully. Failure to adhere to the rules will disqualify your organization from participating in future parades by the Martin Luther King Jr. Commission of Florida.

First things first: The Basics

Date: Monday, Jan. 20, 2025

Time: Parade begins at noon directly between Bo Diddley Plaza & the MLK Gardens.

Route: Walkers - University Ave heading East (Bo Diddley Plaza)

Route: Vehicles/Floats Marching Bands staging area - School Board Complex. Alachua County District Office 620 E. University Avenue.

Staggered Arrival Times:

- 8-9 a.m.: cars, floats, large vehicles (School Board Complex 620 E. Univ. Ave)
- 9-10 a.m. bands and animal units (School Board Complex 620 E. Univ. Ave)
- 10-11 a.m.: walking units (between Bo Diddley & MLK Gardens)

Parade Volunteers will be in marked t-shirts. Please follow any directions given by them, city staff or police.

MLK Parade Rules

- **No vulgarity, honking** of vehicle horns or sirens.
- **No throwing** of any items from floats or vehicles (candy, beads, favors, flyers, election items, pamphlets, etc.)
- **No open flames** or smoking in the parade
- **No stopping** to perform along the parade route. This may hold up the parade flow and risk disruption. Dances or performances must be done on the move.
- **No parking** available within the staging area. Only vehicles in the parade will be allowed to enter the staging area.
- **Bring water and snacks** for your participants for the staging area.
- **Do bring helmets** for any unit that includes bikes, scooters, skates, etc.
 - Dress participants as a **group in uniform, jersey**, or Dr. King Apparel.
 - **Clean up** after your group, including trash.
 - All animal units must have people to **clean up animal waste** immediately.
 - Junior equestrian riders under the age of 10 must have a lead line to a handler on the ground at all times.
- All floats and trailers must have a **portable fire extinguisher**.

Any group/unit behaving dangerously, ignoring staff directions, or acting inappropriately will be immediately removed from the parade.

Hate speech, profanity, and political grandstanding will not be allowed.

Procedures for Groups/Units

Staging (School Board Complex): Parade staging is expected to be in the East parking and field area at 620 E. University Ave

Once you reach the staging area, the **staging crew will give you your unit number**, and you will proceed to where your group/unit number has been placed in line.

Please turn off all engines once you find your unit space in staging line order.

Only vehicles in the parade will be allowed in the staging. If you are dropping off participants, you can park near Bo Diddley or across from the School Board Complex. Do not expect to park **INSIDE** the staging area.

Parade Route: No stopping to perform along the parade route, performances must be done on the move. Absolutely no throwing of any items from vehicles or floats.

Pay attention to the group/unit in front of you so you don't create large gaps in the parade. Also pay attention to the parade staff along the parade route, who will help you speed up or slow down, as needed.

Dispersing at end: When parade ends, you can continue driving to leave the parade caravan, if you like. Others will opt to unload their participants North of Citizens Field, just past the swimming pool facility, if they care to enjoy our free, fun festivities.

Lost Children: Before 12 Noon, bring lost children to the MLK Gardens across from Bo Diddley Plaza. **After 12 Noon,** see nearest law enforcement officer, or bring child(ren) to the main stage at Citizens Field, which is where the parade ends.

Acknowledgement of Receipt of Rules and Procedures

- I have read all the parade rules and procedures that were provided by the Martin Luther King Commission of Florida & the City of Gainesville.
- I understand that violating these rules and procedures may cause our unit to be immediately removed from the parade and may prevent our ability to participate in subsequent parades hosted by the MLK Jr. Commission of Florida, local groups, or even by the City of Gainesville.

Organization Name: _____

Name of Contact (please print): Signature: _____

Email & Cell Phone contact #: _____ / _____

Mandatory Waiver and Release Form

Each member of your unit in the parade must fill out one of these forms. If the participant is under 18 years of age, the participant's parent or guardian must sign as well.

In consideration of the MLK Jr. Commission of Florida and the City of Gainesville's MLK National Holiday Parade for accepting this entry, we the Participant(s), Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s) jointly, severally, and intending to legally bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, do hereby waive, release and discharge the MLK Jr. Commission of Florida and the City of Gainesville, the Gainesville City Commission, Alachua County, the owners and managers of any public and/or private facility used for the MLK National Holiday Parade, all parade sponsors, all parade staff, including City of Gainesville community builders, authorized volunteers, or security and police, all supervising or coordinating organizations and all of the above members, agents, employees, representatives, successors and assigns from any and all liability and/or claims for illness, injuries, death, disfigurement and loss of property that may arise directly or indirectly as a result of participating in the MLK Jr. Commission of Florida National Holiday Parade, or of his/her travel to and from event venues.

Consent for Media Productions: We the Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s) and Participant, hereby grant full consent to the MLK Jr. Commission of Florida for the free use of any pictures or name in any broadcast, telecast, or other account of any of the Martin Luther King Jr. National Holiday Parade meetings and/or events, for any purpose whatsoever. I give consent.

We the Parent(s) and/or Guardian(s) and Participant have read, understand and agree to abide with the parade regulations as set forth in this application.

Group or Unit Name / Sponsoring Organization	
Participant name	Parent/Guardian name
Participant Signature	Parent/Guardian signature
Address (also include Apt./condo #)	
City, State ZIP	
Email	
Cell phone #	Home phone #