



March 5th, 2025

Dear Prospective Parade Participant,

On behalf of the City of Oakland Park, it is my pleasure and honor to invite you to participate in the upcoming Youth Day Parade. On Saturday, April 12, 2025, the City of Oakland Park will celebrate Youth Day "***Game On!***". This theme focuses on celebrating all forms of games, from sports and board games to video games and team spirit.

Youth Day begins with the Youth Day Parade leaving from Jaco Pastorius Park (4000 N. Dixie Hwy) at 10:00 am and making its way to Wimberly Athletic Field (4000 N.E. 3rd Avenue) via NE 38th Street. This is where the remainder of Youth Day will then take place, a carnival packed with food, rides, and activities, concluding with fireworks in the evening.

We invite your organization to participate in one of Broward County's longest-running parades by riding alongside some of Oakland Park's elected officials, community groups, and athletic teams. Come join the beautifully decorated floats, incredible marching bands, and thousands of smiling faces as the parade winds its way through Oakland Park.

Attached is the 2025 Parade Entry Form and Parade Guidelines. Please fill out the form entirely and return it to me via email or to the address listed. The entry deadline is Wednesday, April 9, 2025. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at 954.630.4502 or Daniela.Schonis@OaklandParkFL.gov.

Sincerely,

Daniela M. Schonis

Recreation Leader
Parks & Leisure Services
City of Oakland Park



Name of Organization: _____

(SELECT ONE) Judging Class:

Business/Civic Group Youth Club/Team Musical/Marching Unit

A trophy will be awarded in each judging class, plus an overall award for the Best Overall Themed unit and an award for Most Unique entry.

Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime phone: _____ Cell phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Estimated number of participants: _____

Please list type of unit(s) that will be involved: _____

Parade Starting Point: Jaco Pastorius Park—4000 N. Dixie Highway

Judging Criteria

Floats will be judged on creativity and adherence to the parade theme, use of decorations, construction and originality.

Entry Criteria

Please fill out the parade form completely. Completed entries may be emailed to daniela.schonis@oaklandparkfl.gov, or mailed to:

**City of Oakland Park
Parks & Leisure Services Department
3650 NE 12 Avenue
Oakland Park, FL 33334
Attn: Daniela M.
Schonis**

Entry deadline is Wednesday, April 9, 2025

For more information, please call **954.630.4500**





Parade Rules & Information

Thank you for signing up to be a part of the City of Oakland Park's Youth Day Parade "**Game on!** Please read the following rules and regulations and initial/sign each page indicating your understanding and agreement.

- All entries MUST decorate to the theme of the 2025 Youth Day Parade... "Game On!" and must be appropriate to all viewing audiences. Entries may not solely depict the products or services of a float sponsor. The City reserves the right to approve all parade entries and to deny participation on day of parade.
- To be included in the parade and be part of the judging all entries must be received by **Wednesday, April 9th, 2025.**
- Entries received after the above date may not be permitted to participate in the parade.
- Please schedule your arrival at the parade line-up area between 8:30 a.m. and 9:15 a.m. All drivers must stay with their units during the staging process.
- Awards will be given out for the Best Business/Civic Group, Best Youth Club/Team, Best Musical/Marching Unit, Most Unique and Best Overall Theme.
- The City of Oakland Park has the authority to reject and/or remove from the parade any unit or entrant who does a disservice to the parade in word or deed, or who in any way misrepresents the conditions of original acceptance.
- Public Safety entries are exempt from decorating to the Youth Day theme.
- Candidates who are running for office ride in the main body of the parade. Vehicles must include the actual candidate and are exempt from decorating to theme.
- Elected officials desiring to be in the parade are placed with the Dignitary line up in front of the main parade body.
- No political comments may be made by candidates/elected officials at any time along the parade route; elected officials and candidates are exempt from decorating to theme.
- Walkers are permitted but must be costumed according to the Youth Day theme and have the ability to walk the entire parade route. (1 miles)
- All children under the age of 18 must be supervised by an adult.
- Alcohol consumption or possession is prohibited while participating in the parade.
- No printed material may be handed out along the parade route.
- Candy, toys and trinkets may be handed out but for safety purposes **may not be thrown.**
- Stopping along the parade route is only permissible in the judging area.
- Entry size must not exceed 14 feet in height and 9 feet in width.
- Float driver is required to be 18 years old or older, have a valid driver's license and proper insurance.

Initial _____





- All participants are expected to perform courteously, in good taste and with safety in mind at all times. Lewd behavior or decorations will not be tolerated.
- All entries and participants are to be free of decorations, signage, music or audio effects that seek to harass or discriminate against any other group. Please refrain from any behaviors that would demean any segment of our community.
- Displays of sovereign, foreign governments, flags, crests or symbols will be subject to review and approval.
- Seditious, criminal or otherwise subversive organizations' representations are strictly prohibited.
- The purpose of the parade is entertainment. The Committee does not discriminate against any units based on race, creed, religion, sex, national origin or sexual preference. As a general rule, we do not accept political or social action units.
- Weapons or any depictions of violence, drugs or illegal activities, implied or demonstrated, are strictly prohibited.
- Squirt guns may not be used at any time during the parade.
- Water balloons or other harmful objects may not be thrown from entries during the parade.
- Drones and fireworks are not allowed.
- Riders must stay on their floats at all times and may not jump on or off during the parade.
- Go-peds are prohibited per Florida State Statutes.
- Generators or other equipment that use flammable fuel will not be allowed on the float.

The conduct and movement of the parade will be under the command of the Broward Sheriff's Office as the parade leader. Each participant will be expected to keep pace and maintain a proper interval of not less than 15 feet and not more than 25 feet throughout the parade. Anyone who operates a vehicle unsafely or who fails to obey any police officer or parade official will be immediately removed from the parade.

By signing my name below, I certify that I have read and agree with the above information.

Print Name: _____ **Sign Name:** _____

Date: _____



Youth Day Parade April 12, 2025

For the theme "Game On!," participants can decorate their floats to bring all forms of games, from sports and board games to video games and team spirit.:

- 1. Giant Game Gear:** Create floats adorned with massive replicas of iconic sports equipment, but with a video game twist. For example, oversized football helmets or soccer balls could look like 8-bit or pixelated versions from old-school games like *Tecmo Bowl* or *Super Mario Strikers*. The float could also include power-ups or game items like health packs or speed boosts, and participants could dress as video game athletes or characters from sports-themed games like *Wii Sports* or *Rocket League*.
- 2. Team Spirit: Video Game Edition:** This float could combine team pride with the fun of video games. Imagine floats showcasing team colors and mascots, but with a game-inspired spin. Participants could dress up as characters from popular sports video games, like *NBA 2K*, *FIFA*, or *Madden NFL*, or even sport the colors of eSports teams or local game tournaments. Mascots could have pixelated features, and game controllers, consoles, or game logos could replace traditional props.
- 3. Board Game Madness:** This float could bring a twist to classic board games, with larger-than-life game pieces like giant dice, playing cards, and game boards. The float could be decorated to resemble a massive *Monopoly* board, with game pieces like top hats and race cars, or it could celebrate *Candy Crush*, with colorful, oversized candy icons. You could also feature elements from strategic games like *Risk* or *Chess*, with enormous chess pieces as the focal point. Participants could dress as game characters or famous board game pieces.
- 4. Pixelated Playground:** Take inspiration from classic video games and apps like *Minecraft*, *Roblox*, or *Candy Crush*, but also go back to the 8-bit days of *Super Mario* or *Donkey Kong*. Floats could be decorated with giant game blocks, pixelated structures, or app icons, while participants dress as their favorite video game characters or apps. This float could be interactive with elements like large, playable gamepads or controllers, or even a screen that simulates gameplay on the float itself, allowing spectators to engage with the game.
- 5. Competitive Reality Show:** This float could be inspired by popular competitive reality TV game shows like *The Amazing Race*, *Survivor*, *The Challenge*, or *American Ninja Warrior*. The design could showcase obstacle courses, trivia challenges, or mini-game stations, with participants dressed as contestants battling it out in different challenges. The float could be decorated to resemble a game show set, complete with neon lights, scoreboard screens, and props like buzzers or giant challenge wheels. Spectators could watch as participants "compete" on the float, adding an interactive element that mimics the drama and excitement of a reality game show!

By incorporating these elements, participants can create visually stunning floats that capture the imagination and spirit of the "Game On!" theme, delighting spectators of all ages during the Youth Day parade.

