



**MANATEE COUNTY
VETERANS COUNCIL**

WWW.MYMCVC.ORG

6402 Mercer Road
Bradenton, FL 34207



To: All Veteran Service Organization Leaders, OIC JROTC, High Schools, Bandmasters, Sponsors and friends

From: Jim Klocke - Chair Veterans Day Parade

Subject: Invitation to Veterans Day Parade, November 11, 2026

Date: Aug 13, 2026

On Wednesday, November 11, 2026 the Manatee County Veterans' Council will co-host with the City of Palmetto the Veterans Day Parade, to be held in Palmetto at the Grand Stand located in Sutton Park. All Veteran organizations, JROTC, High Schools and other bands are invited to participate. The Parade will form and begin at the Manatee County Fair Grounds at 10:15 and end at Sutton Park. After the Parade will be the annual Veterans' Day Memorial Service beginning at 11:00 AM in Sutton Park. This is an opportunity for your organization to demonstrate your support for all veterans young and old.

Staging for the parade will begin at 9:00 AM and parade movement time will start at 10:15 AM.

Any organization that provides us with a Veteran's Day menu or program, will have it announced at the memorial service along with other post event information.

I have enclosed additional Veterans' Day parade information in the attached document. Please complete your **online** APPLICATION no later than Friday, October 23, 2026. Release forms should be printed, signed and mailed to 6402 Mercer Road prior to October 26th or brought to the staging area on the day of the event. You **must** have a signed release form prior to parade movement to participate in the parade. If you have any further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jim Klocke
Chairman of Manatee County Veterans Council

jvklocke@hotmail.com



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2026 Veterans Day Parade Rules and Regulations

Celebrating Manatee County Veterans on November 11, 2026

Manatee County Veterans' Day Parade hosted by the City of Palmetto and the Manatee County Veterans' Council

The safety of parade participants and spectators is our primary concern. Parade monitors and safety marshals will be stationed along the parade route. Each entry and participant is subject to immediate ejection from the parade for any action or actions deemed to be in violation of these parade rules or engaged in an unsafe action or activity. Your cooperation is anticipated and appreciated.

Parade Rules & Regulations

All applications are subject to acceptance by the Manatee County Veterans' Parade Committee.

A photo, sketch, or design plan, dimensions of your float must accompany your completed application. Entries not conforming to the description on the application will be prohibited from participating in the parade.

Float Specifications:

Maximum Height 13.5 feet

Maximum Width 10 feet* (unless movable outriggers are used)

Maximum Length 50 feet (without pull)

Pull Unit Length 16 feet

*Because of travel restrictions placed on vehicles more than 10 feet wide, we recommend that your float's width be no more than eight feet.

Towing units must be fully powered and decorated in the same themes as the floats. All entries, except military vehicles, must be well lit with a self-contained lighting system. Additionally, if drivers are visible to the public, they must be in costumes or dressed in styles consistent with the theme of their floats.



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NO TOWING UNIT MAY DISPLAY A COMMERCIAL NAME OR LOGO OTHER THAN THE APPLICANTS NAME FOR THAT ENTRY.

Walking units are limited to musical organizations, drill teams, Color Guards or unique units approved by the Parade Committee. No children under the age of 14 years old may walk the parade route except for those accompanied by an adult guardian. The minor to guardian ratio must be no greater than 10 minors to one adult chaperone.

Vans and other vehicles do not qualify as a float but may be approved as a miscellaneous unit.

Persons riding horses must be dressed in some type of costume or uniform. Each horse unit must provide a clean-up unit. Failure to keep the parade route clean will result in immediate removal from the parade.

No material, favors, or any other items may be thrown from floats along the parade route. No paper materials, i.e., flyers, booklets, pamphlets, brochures, etc., may be distributed along the parade route. Persons walking along the sidelines in the official parade lineup may hand out favors to spectators, but such favors may not be thrown. If anything is thrown from an entry, the entry will be removed from the parade immediately.

No open fires are permitted in the parade line-up area. Suitable areas will be provided for groups who desire to cook.

No firearms or fireworks of any kind may be fired from any float during the Parade or by any participants in the Parade.

No sirens may be blown by entrants during the parade.

Drinking alcoholic beverages in or around the Parade is prohibited.

General liability or automobile liability insurance policies, at limits of \$1 million, combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage, shall be carried for each entry. A Certificate of Insurance must be filed with the office no later than October 23. Each Certificate of Insurance must contain an additional insured clause and cancellation clause per the instructions below.

Additional Insured Clause: The Manatee County Veterans' Council of Manatee County, and the sponsors are to be named as an additional insured but only with respect to liability arising out of any operation of named insured in connection with the Veterans Day 2026 Parade.



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Cancellation Clause: This policy of liability insurance shall not be canceled or suspended or terminated nor shall the limits of liability be reduced until after 30 days' notice thereof be given by certified mail to Manatee County Veteran's Council, 6402 Mercer Road, Bradenton, FL 34207.

Entries are approved by the Task Force based on overall show value. Understanding that a parade, by its nature, is an entertainment medium, the contribution of each unit to this concept is critical. Use of theme, artistic beauty, use of color, animation, special effects, originality, rider personnel, costumes and visual appeal all come into play to determine the acceptability of the entry. The Parade Committee strives to present a parade that will be enjoyed by the General community. Because of this "total appeal concept," the Veterans Day 2026 Parade is not a platform for political, religious, or social issues, or targeted special groups. No entry will be permitted to participate if, in the judgment of the Parade Committee, it reflects such issues. By making application for entry, it is understood and agreed that the decision of the Parade Committee is totally discretionary and final. Parade participants may custom build or rent floats from various suppliers.

Please direct any questions to:

**Veterans Day Parade Committee
6402 Mercer Rd
Bradenton, FL 34207**

Or email:

jvklocke@hotmailcom



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RELEASE FORM – PRINT AND MAIL BY OCTOBER 23rd

2026 VETERANS DAY PARADE

A signed Release Form from each participant must be received by the Manatee County Veterans' Council Veterans' Parade Committee, as soon as possible, but no later than Friday, October 23, 2026.

THE MANATEE COUNTY SCHOOL FORM IS ACCEPTABLE.

The undersigned assumes responsibility for any and all risk of damage or injury that may occur to the undersigned during participation in the Veterans Day Parade, Nov 11, 2026. In consideration of being accepted as a participant in the parade event, the undersigned hereby releases and discharges the Manatee County Veterans Council, the City of Palmetto, their officers, directors, members, agents and sponsors from all claims, demands, rights of causes of actions, present or future, whether known, anticipated or unanticipated, and resulting from or arising out of an incident to the undersigned's participation in the Parade. If applicant shall not have attained the legal age of 18-years, the signature of a parent or guardian is required.

I have read, understand, and signed the foregoing Assumption of Risk Agreement and Release this _____ day of _____, 2026

Name of organization or Group: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____

Email: _____

Participant (PLEASE PRINT): _____

Parent/Guardian (PLEASE PRINT): _____

Participant Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____



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Commercial Entry Fees:

Commercial Floats are subject to a \$100.00 entry fee

Non-Float Commercial entries are subject to a \$50.00 entry fee

There is **NO** entry fee for Non-profit, non-commercial entries, Military or Veteran Units.

Participants in the Veterans Day Parade do so at their own risk. The Manatee County Veterans Council and the City of Palmetto, cannot and will not be liable for any claims or damages arising from property damage or personal injury sustained by participants in any event. Participants assume full responsibility for any injury or damages which may occur during or about the event and do **HEREBY FULLY AND FOREVER RELEASE, DISCHARGE AND HOLD HARMLESS** the Manatee County Veterans' Council and the City of Palmetto, their sponsors, affiliates and members from any and all claims, damages, demands, right of action, or cause of action, present or future, whether the same be known, anticipated or unanticipated, resulting from or arising out of the Veterans Day Parade.

I have read the parade rules and regulations and we/I will abide by said rules.

Authorized Signature and Title: _____

Date/Time: _____

Print Name: _____

Please return this form as soon as possible. Applications must be received by Friday , October 23, 2026.

Return to: Manatee County Veterans Council
6402 Mercer Road
Bradenton, FL 34207

Questions: Jim Klocke 941-228-3166 jvklocke@hotmail.com

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date Insurance Cert Rec'd: _____ Entry Accepted By: _____

Date Entry Accepted: _____