

# Armed Forces Day ★ FESTIVAL ★

OUR AMERICAN STORY, 250 YEARS OF PATRIOTS AND PROTECTORS

## General Information

Greater Kitsap Chamber proudly presents the Kitsap Credit Union Annual Armed Forces Day Parade

**10:00am, Saturday, May 16, 2026**

**Entry Deadline: Friday, May 1, 2026**

### APPLICATION SUBMISSION

- No entry fee is required on applications submitted on or before Friday, May 1, 2026.
- Applications received after the deadline will be required to pay the late fee of \$150.00
- Applications can be completed online at [GreaterKitsapChamber.com/parade-application](https://GreaterKitsapChamber.com/parade-application)

### RULES AND REGULATIONS

- The Greater Kitsap Chamber must approve all entries. Entries will not be accepted from individuals, groups, or organizations whose mission, agenda, or message is contradictory to the organizational mandate of the United States Armed Forces and the federal law under which it operates.
- Entries must observe all applicable rules and regulations and follow all instructions from law enforcement and parade officials. The Parade Committee reserves the right to remove any entrant from the parade, prior to assembly, at assembly, or at any time during the parade.
- Entries will receive written information about your assembly area, time, map, and instructions for the parade in mid-May.
- **No items may be tossed or thrown out along the parade route for safety reasons.** However, parade participants may hand away items to parade route spectators.
- Parade participants may not mingle with or accost parade route spectators.
- No items may be sold along the parade route.
- Marching units are permitted only forward movement maneuvers. A spacing of 50 feet between each unit will be enforced. All units are required to close the gap between units when instructed by the parade officials.
- Marching units will have a ONE-MINUTE performance time in front of the reviewing stand at Pacific and 5th for the judges and VIPs.
- All entries must have some form of patriotic decoration, and all narratives must reference the military or Armed Forces Day. Remember, this is a celebration for members presently serving in our Armed Forces.
- The parade lineup is in a residential area. Please stay on the street, sidewalk, or in the park. (Parade officials will direct all participants during the parade lineup.)
- A fire extinguisher is required on all motorized entries.
- Alcoholic beverages, vaping, or smoking are forbidden on any float, in any vehicle, or on the person of any participant. Participants consuming alcohol prior to or during the parade will be removed from the lineup.
- Discharge of firearms is prohibited. Refer to Bremerton Municipal Code BMC 9A.24.160 Firearms.
- Floats or other units advocating, opposing, or depicting political and social issues or endorsing political candidates will not be authorized to participate in the parade.
- Participants are responsible for their travel and lodging expenses, food, etc.
- Except for individuals on floats and in vehicles, all parade participants must be 12 years of age or older to walk. Participants under 12 must be accompanied at all times by an adult while walking or secured in a wagon pulled by an adult.
- A Hold Harmless Agreement applicable to type of entry (vehicle or non-vehicle) must be signed and submitted with application.



### CAR & MOTORCYCLE UNIT REQUIREMENTS

- Car and motorcycle group entries are limited to 10 cars or 25 motorcycles.
- **Cars and motorcycles cannot rev their engines while idling or may be asked to leave the parade.**

### FLOAT & TOWED DISPLAY REQUIREMENTS

- **Cash Prizes for the Best Judged Top Three Community Floats! Awards will be \$500, \$300 or \$200!**
- Floats are not to exceed 13 ½ feet in height and 16 feet in width. Maximum length is 60 feet per unit, and clearance to the ground from the frame is at least 8 inches. The float must be so constructed that it will be able to make the turns at street intersections.
- Entries must furnish drivers for their floats. If in view, drivers must be appropriately attired. Drivers must remain with their float until the parade is dispersed.
- **All participants standing on floats must wear a safety belt or have handholds while the float is in motion. Floats without safety belts or handholds will not be allowed in the parade. Safety belts must be worn on the outside of garments.**

### EQUESTRIAN UNIT REQUIREMENTS

- Due to safety reasons, no stallions are allowed in the parade.
- Each rider or group must provide its own cleanup unit.
- Equestrian units may disembark from their trailer only when the unit's cleanup crew is onsite.
- Any rider demonstrating an inability to control their animal will be asked to leave the parade.
- All minors (under 12) walking or riding must be accompanied by an adult.

### BAND & MARCHING UNIT REQUIREMENTS

- A performance of no more than One (1) minute will be allowed in front of the reviewing stand at Pacific & 5th Street; however, judging will take place throughout the parade route.
- If a gap greater than 50 feet is created for any reason, bands must increase their pace to close the gap. You will not be asked to increase your pace in front of the judge's stand.
- Marching bands must maintain a forward motion, no stopping or reverse motion will be allowed on the route.

### JUDGING CRITERIA

- Judging criteria for all categories have been developed and are available upon request.

### PARADE AWARD CATEGORIES

- |                                       |                                 |                            |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Color Guard                         | • Equestrian Group              | • Military - Band          |
| • Community Business/<br>Organization | • High School Drill Team        | • Military - Float         |
| • Community Car Club                  | • JROTC Drill Team              | • Military - Marching Unit |
| • Community Float                     | • Marching Band - High School   | • Sponsor                  |
| • Community Youth Group               | • Marching Band - Middle School | • Veteran's Car Club       |
|                                       | • Middle School Drill Team      | • Veteran's Group          |

