

**City of Hutto “Hippos on Parade” 21st of October, 2017 - Olde Tyme Days**

# Parade begins at 10:00 am, check-in starts at 8:45 am

Come join the City of Hutto for its 3rd annual Hippos on Parade scheduled for the morning of the Hutto Chamber of Commerce’s Olde Tyme Days Festival on October 21, 2017. 2015 marked the 100th year anniversary of when the Hippo got loose from the train and found its way into Cottonwood Creek.

# SAFETY REGULATIONS

Reckless or dangerous driving will not be tolerated.

No participant can possess or be under the influence of alcohol, drugs or illegal substances. Smoking is not allowed at any time. Bottled water and soda cans are permitted. No glass containers are allowed.

***If your group is distributing candy, prizes or any other material, your group must have an adult walker beside each tire and behind the float or vehicle to ensure spectators or children do not reach near or under the vehicles. Candy or giveaways may be handed to the crowd and must be distributed hand-to-hand by walking along the parade route next to the spectators and never from a float or vehicle. The throwing of any object of substance, or spraying of liquid, into the crowd is prohibited. If a group would like to pass out any other items other than candy, it must be approved by the Parade Committee and should be included on your entry form. Flyers and brochures may not be handed to the crowd. Exhibiting dangerous behavior and/or tricks may also lead to disqualification and expulsion.***

There must be at least one (1) adult per five (5) children below the age of sixteen (16) on the float at all times. The adult must be associated with the organization sponsoring the float.

Open flames, including torches, matches, flame throwing, fire starters, lanterns, or any other burning object are not permitted.

Bike riders must wear helmets.

All floats, trailers, trailers and tow vehicles must be equipped with working brake lights, fire extinguishers and properly inflated tires. All floats and trailers must be pulled by a motorized tow vehicle, and all floats and trailers must be attached to tow vehicles with safety chains. No persons may ride on top or on the sides of any fire trucks and/or farm equipment that is in the parade. The number of persons allowed to ride in the cab of the fire truck/farm equipment shall equal the number of seatbelts available.

Children below the age of eighteen (18) that are riding in the back of pickup trucks must be seated at all times behind rails or sides of the truck. Trucks must have closed tailgates or enclosed backs. No parade participant may ride with feet hanging over the side of the float/vehicle.

Each pulled float must have a spotter in the pulling vehicle, other than the driver, viewing the back and communicating with the driver if/when a problem arises. If no cab is present, spotter must be present beside the float.

All vehicles in the parade must be able to navigate the entire parade route and make all turns and clearances without difficulty. It is the responsibility of each driver/entrant to see to it that their float clears all obstacles (tree limbs, traffic lights, overhanging utility wires, etc.).

All participants should be aware of the possibility of heat exhaustion and look for signs of fatigue in your marchers. Participants are encouraged to bring plenty of drinking water.

# GENERAL REGULATIONS

Participants must follow the directions of parade officials.

Each applicant shall be responsible for the conduct of each and every one of its participants and agrees to notify each and every participant of these Rules & Regulations. Entries must be appropriate for a family audience. The City has the right to deny participation of any entry or person failing to comply with these Rules & Regulations and/or which does not serve the purpose of the parade.

No animals will be permitted unless under the control of a trainer or experienced handler or rider. If your entry includes animals, you are expected to have a waste detail walking immediately behind your entry with the appropriate shovels and buckets. If you do not have the appropriate clean-up detail, entry in the parade will be denied. Animals must be listed on the entry application. You are expected to maintain control of your animal(s) at all times; riders not exhibiting control will be removed from the parade for their own and spectator safety. Animals must have updated vaccinations and be in good medical health and be able to cope with crowds and other animals. Animals must be kept on a leash or other restraint. Entrants are not permitted to allow animals any contact with parade spectators. Any entry that uses animals is required to furnish proof of insurance for coverage of a parade or exhibition event. Horses must be bagged or followed by “scoopers” during the parade. The staging area shall be left as clean as you found it, or you may be removed from the parade and barred from future participation.

Unless there is an emergency, participants are not allowed to get on or off of floats or vehicles while it is in motion or anywhere on the parade route.

Drivers of any vehicle must have a valid driver’s license and vehicle liability insurance as required by the State of Texas. All motorized vehicles in the parade must be operated by an individual at least eighteen (18) years of age. Each vehicle must have proof of vehicle liability insurance for float inspectors to see.

Participants should be aware that it is possible that an emergency vehicle may need to leave the parade suddenly in the event of an emergency.

All vehicles should be checked thoroughly for gas, water, oil, etc. prior to the start of the parade. An antique vehicle is defined as twenty (20) years or older and must be in good running condition.

This is a controlled, forward-motion parade. If your entry experiences problems during the parade, please exit the parade route immediately and locate a volunteer for assistance. We do not want to block or delay the procession for any reason.

To reduce gaps, vehicles should limit their speed to the pace of a slow walk (approximately 5 miles per hour) and stay within two car-lengths of the preceding entry. Please take into consideration that marching bands may move at a slower pace due to hot and humid weather. Entries must maintain steady movement of parade with twenty (20) to thirty (30) feet between each entry. At no time may any vehicle travel at more than 5 mph.

In order to limit clean-up costs, each entry is required to be equipped with plastic trash bags for depositing trash and litter accumulated by the entry’s participants before, during and after the parade.

The theme of the 2016 parade will be “Hippos on Parade” with a focus on the circus train and telling the hippo story through the parade. Participants are encouraged to utilize the theme when planning out their involvement. There will be a “Best in Show” contest for theme-related participants with prizes. The theme must be incorporated into your entry to be eligible for the contest. The theme, however, is not a requirement to participate.

Companies or organizations that will walk in the parade are encouraged to carry a banner displaying the name of the group or company. Banner carriers must be capable of maintaining the parade pace.

All conduct shall comply with federal, state, or local laws, statutes, ordinances, rules, regulations, and policies, and the City has the right to deny participation to any entry failing to comply therewith.

# LINEUP INSTRUCTIONS

Non-parade vehicles are not allowed in the staging area. Formation check-in begins at 8:45 am and closes promptly at 9:20 am on the day of the parade. Entries arriving after 9:20 am will not be eligible to participate. There will be a check-in table at the staging area. Each entry will receive an “Entry” Number prior to October 21st. We ask that you please print this entry number and display it on the vehicle’s dashboard before approaching the check-in area. You must follow the parade route and the instructions provided by the Parks & Recreation Department.

The lineup areas may become congested with vehicles, pedestrians (including many young children) and all types of parade entries. Watch out for and yield to pedestrians. Pedestrians need to watch out for and be aware of moving vehicles throughout the lineup area.

Speed limit in all lineup areas is 5 mph.

# ABOUT HUTTO CITIZEN’S UNIVERSITY

Hippo’s On Parade was originally created and organized by the 2015 Hutto Citizens’ University class. Hutto Citizens’ University is a year-long program that provides an “inside look” into City government and an opportunity for citizens to converse with City Council, boards and commission members, and staff members who provide services, establish budgets, construct capital programs, plan for growth, keep our neighborhoods safe, and create recreational opportunities

**THE STORY OF THE HIPPO**

According to local legend is that in 1915 a circus train stopped in Hutto at the depot to take on passengers, pick up and deliver mail and possibly take on water and fuel for the steam locomotive. The circus train workers also would have taken this opportunity to care for their animals. At some point during this historic layover, a hippopotamus got out of the rail-car and made its way to the nearby Cottonwood Creek, which is next to the rail line. This caused much consternation for the circus workers. Local farmers and merchants watched the commotion in amusement and with interest as unsuccessful efforts were made to extricate the hippopotamus from the muddy waters of Cottonwood Creek. The Depot Agent telegraphed the communities of Taylor and Round Rock that were eight miles to the east and west of Hutto to the effect of: “Stop trains, hippo loose in Hutto." After much effort the hippo was prodded from the mud and water that resembled its natural habitat and was reloaded back onto the train car. Soon afterward the Hutto school adopted the hippopotamus as its mascot and as early as 1923 the hippo appeared on official Hutto High School graduation announcements. Hutto is the only community in the United States with the hippo as its mascot.