

2023 Takoma Park Independence Day Parade

Car Directions

The Takoma Park Independence Day Committee is pleased that you will participate in our 134th Independence Day Parade on Tuesday, July 4, 2023. Thank you very much for agreeing to drive a dignitary in the parade this year.

Parade Route

The parade starts at 10am and ends by 12pm. It begins at the intersection of Carroll and Ethan Allen Aves, winds along Carroll Ave through Old Town Takoma, turns right on Willow Ave, turns left on Tulip Ave, turns right on Maple Ave, and ends at the intersection of Maple and Ritchie Aves. **Please take note of the route change (turning right at Willow rather than Maple) this year.**

The parade is about 1.25 miles long. You are in Division 1, which leads the parade.

Please note that the parade doesn't end at the reviewing stand, but instead at Ritchie Ave 3 blocks past the reviewing stand. Please proceed until you reach Ritchie Avenue, where there's water for all participants. In the final blocks of the parade are many older or less mobile community members who look forward to seeing you.

Parade Assembly

This year, the parking lot directly behind Takoma Park Library is unavailable due to construction. **Instead, cars will assemble in the parking lot of the Takoma Park Silver Spring Co-Op** (201 Ethan Allen Ave, Takoma Park, MD, 20912). Because you will assemble at the parade's start, we hope it will be more convenient for you as well.

Please note that assembly will take place in the parking lot directly at the intersection of Carroll Ave & Sycamore Ave (to your left as you face the Co-Op). Please enter the parking lot from Carroll Ave so that your vehicle will be oriented correctly for the parade.

Division Directors Jared Garelick, Julius Kassovic, and Andy Saindon will be there to direct you to your spot based on the order of dignitaries and which dignitary is assigned to your car. We asked that you arrive by 9:30am so we can get the cars in order and get dignitaries in the cars by 9:45am to start the parade on time!

Enclosed is a map of the staging area around the parade. Please review and make sure you understand the staging area and how to access it.

Please note that major roads into the parade area will close at 9am. Therefore, in order to reach the staging area, you will need to pass through the police barricade at Ethan Allen Ave & Jackson Ave (Barricade D). Enclosed is an entry pass for you.

Please note that this is a different police barricade than you have used in the past, due to this new assembly site. Please do not enter the staging area at the old barricade at Philadelphia Ave & Piney Branch Road – your pass will not allow you to enter there, and it will be challenging to navigate from that entrance to your assembly site.

If any members of your group forget or do not have a pass, let the police officer at the barricade know the name of their group and you should be allowed to proceed. If you have any trouble getting through a police barricade, please contact Tara Egan at 240-863-8837.

Parade Viewing

We understand that some dignitary drivers may wish to stay and watch the remainder of the parade but not feel comfortable leaving their vehicles unattended. If you would like to stay and watch the parade you are welcome to return to the TPSS Co-op parking lot after your duties are complete and watch from the parking lot. You should be able to get a good view from within or very near your vehicle.

Appreciation

We very much appreciate your willingness to do this every year. As has been the practice for the past several years, we will give you \$20 to help with gas costs.

Safety & Resources

Please do not throw anything into the crowd of parade watchers from the street (it is dangerous and can incentivize kids to run into the street).

A first-aid station is located under the canopy by the reviewing stand on Maple Avenue.

A portable toilet will be available in the staging area at the intersection of Ethan Allen and Carroll Avenues. Restrooms are also located in the Takoma Park Community Center at 7500 Maple Avenue.

Map

A map showing the parade route, staging area, police barricades, parking areas, and restrooms is attached.

Inclement Weather

If it rains the parade will be canceled; it is not possible to reschedule. If the parade is canceled, we will post a notice on [our website](#) immediately and will email all groups' points of contact. As the parade point of contact for your group, also can call Tara Egan at 240-863-8837 if you would like information about an inclement weather call.

Thank you for helping to make this another memorable Independence Day Parade in Takoma Park. We look forward to seeing you on July 4th. If you have questions or comments between now and July 4th, please contact Tara Egan at 240-863-8837 or tara.marie.egan@gmail.com.