

PARADE

This committee is fully responsible for producing and staging the annual Oktoberfest Thanksgiving Day Parade. Parade participation promotes fellowship and pride in our community, Ontario and Canada. Volunteers work on a year-round basis to build floats, arrange band entries and solicit entries that represent the theme of Oktoberfest and Thanksgiving. The Parade has grown in stature over the years to a point where it is now the second largest parade in Canada. A huge committee is required to produce the Parade, which is comprised of several sub-committees.

Bands: Responsible for booking all entertainment and bands for the Parade including local, out-of-town, international and various marching ethnic groups. Also responsible for hosting, housing and feeding the approximately 1,200 participants after the parade and arranging Bands on Parade. A knowledge of marching bands is helpful, as is the ability to multi-task, negotiate, objectively judge the entrants and serve as a positive representative of the committee. There are monthly meetings.

Bleachers: Responsible for placement and sales of bleacher seating on the parade route. The ability to effectively develop and follow procedures and superior interpersonal skills are essential to success on this committee. Volunteers must be able to attend 2 meetings during the year.

Floats/Maintenance: Construct, maintain and ensure safe floats and storage of floats and other parade related equipment. Highly developed skills in the areas of float construction and/or automotive repair are essential. Volunteers must be able to work with minimal supervision and to implement effective trouble-shooting measures. This group generally does not meet during the year, but volunteers must be willing to donate the hours necessary to ensure the safe operation of all floats.

Marshaling: Police parade, enforce rules and regulations, develop parade route and ensure efficient movement of the Parade. Coordinating the involvement of local emergency and city personnel and acting as the official “*Starter*” are also key roles. A background in emergency responses or First Aid/CPR training would be very beneficial, as is the ability to travel the 5 km parade route or “*stand*” for several hours. There are 3 - 4 meetings per year.

Production: Developing the order of the entrants and coordinating sign carriers are the main responsibilities. Volunteers must be able to attend the 3 meetings per annum.

Signs: Arrange all signage for sponsors, places and collects the signs along the parade route; coordinates the maintenance and rental schedule of the “*Onkel Hans Balloon*”. Graphic design and display skills would be helpful. This sub-committee meets 3 times per year.

Sponsors' Reception/Judges: Select the judges and act as their guides, host the Sponsors' Reception, facilitate the judging of the floats and the awards ceremony. Excellent attention to detail, the ability to plan, a decorating aptitude and a knowledge of the festival's history are important.

Skills

- Able to work 15 - 20 hours during the last weekend of the festival, especially on parade day.
- Work as needed during the year.
- Problem solving, multi-tasking, interpersonal, conflict resolution & negotiation skills.
- An ability to speak German, knowledge of Waterloo Region and the festival's history and First Aid/CPR training would be an asset.