

Guidelines for Marching in a Parade

1. **Qualified Supervision:** Do you have enough adults to supervise scouts and monitor for hazards?
2. **Physical Fitness:** Both adults and youth need to be fit for the length and conditions of the route.
3. **Buddy System:** Always essential -- especially in crowded environments!
4. **Safe Area or Course:** Parades can bring risks that might not ordinarily be present:
 - Moving vehicles and machinery
 - Animals
 - Firearms or fireworks
 - Hazardous weather
 - Large or unruly crowds
 - Potential for thrown objects
5. **Equipment Selection and Maintenance:** Any vehicle used for transporting passengers should be equipped with a secure passenger compartment and approved safety belts.
6. **Personal Safety Equipment:** Dress for the weather. Be sure to bring:
 - First aid kit
 - Rain gear
 - Good walking shoes
 - Water bottle
 - Sun block
 - Insect repellent
7. **Safety Procedures and Policies:**
 - Allow adequate space between marchers and any vehicles
 - No walking next to or near floats or vehicles
 - No riding on floats, truck beds, or trailers
 - Designate a lookout to watch out for vehicles and other hazards
 - Take head counts before, during, and after parade
8. **Skill Level Limits.** Walking on asphalt can be very hot on a sunny day. Is marching in the parade too much for young Cub Scouts or older adults who are not accustomed to much walking?
9. **Weather Check:** If you hear thunder, seek safe shelter immediately.
10. **Planning:** Permission slips. Meeting spots for before and after the parade. Distribute maps and emergency cell phone numbers. Hold a pre-parade meeting with adult leaders. Consider shelter options in case of severe weather. Consider having a chase vehicle nearby or an ability to call for support.
11. **Communications.** Have radios or cell phones, and phone number lists.
12. **Permits and Notices.** File your application for a BSA tour permit and any other required permits
13. **First Aid Resources.** Have first aid supplies handy. Have trained adults. Find out what resources will be available at the parade, where they will be located, and how to contact them.
14. **Applicable laws.** Follow all parade rules and regulations.
15. **CPR Resource.** A CPR-trained adult is strongly recommended.
16. **Discipline.** Essential for safety.

From the Cradle of Liberty Council BSA