

Taking part in a parade is a great way to help girls learn about citizenship and increase your community's awareness of Girl Scouting. Remember to follow all *Safety-Wise* checkpoints (pages 81-83 and pages 132-133) regarding parades and large-group gatherings. This will help your group think through:

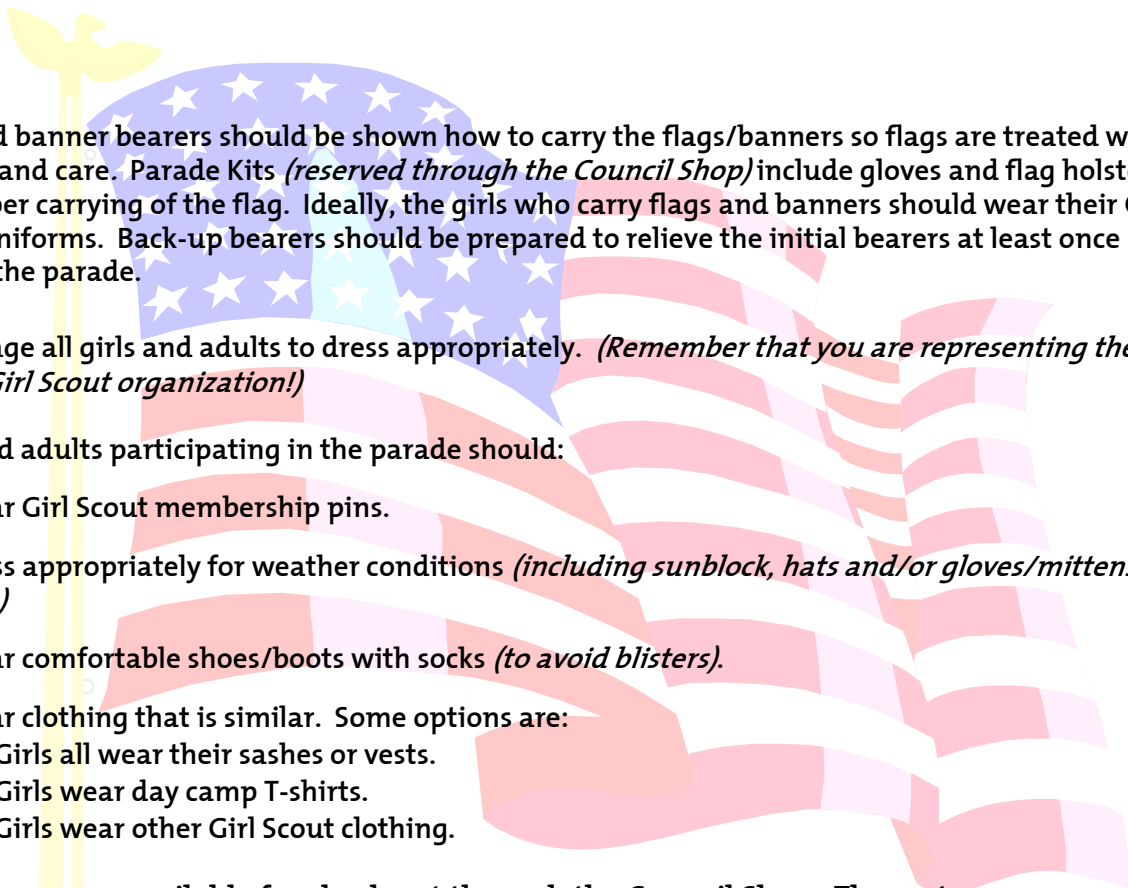
- ☆ Planning and supervision
- ☆ Appropriate clothing
- ☆ Riding on floats
- ☆ Distributing candy or other items
- ☆ Site safety and emergency procedures

These guidelines from “seasoned” parade participants will help your group have a meaningful and fun experience.

- ☆ Make sure that all girls have a signed parental permission form, that emergency information is brought along for each girl, and that you are carrying your Emergency Procedures card. In case of emergency, have a vehicle at the start and end of the parade route and assign designated drivers.
- ☆ While you want to assure that the appropriate adult: girl supervision ratio is met – check page 69 of *Safety-Wise* – you also want to not have the adults outnumber the girls! Adults should monitor the situation to ensure that girls drink plenty of fluids.
- ☆ Parents must be told when and where to drop off and pick up their daughters – be sure to designate these places and have someone assigned to check girls in and out.
- ☆ Flag and banner bearers should be shown how to carry the flags/banners so flags are treated with respect and care. Parade Kits (*reserved through the Council Shop*) include gloves and flag holsters for proper carrying of the flag. Ideally, the girls who carry flags and banners should wear their Girl Scout uniforms. Back-up bearers should be prepared to relieve the initial bearers at least once during the parade.
- ☆ Encourage all girls and adults to dress appropriately. (*Remember that you are representing the entire Girl Scout organization!*)

Girls and adults participating in the parade should:

- ☆ Wear Girl Scout membership pins.
- ☆ Dress appropriately for weather conditions (*including sunblock, hats and/or gloves/mittens, etc.*)
- ☆ Wear comfortable shoes/boots with socks (*to avoid blisters*).
- ☆ Wear clothing that is similar. Some options are:
  - ◆ Girls all wear their sashes or vests.
  - ◆ Girls wear day camp T-shirts.
  - ◆ Girls wear other Girl Scout clothing.
- ☆ Cookie costumes are available for check out through the Council Shop. The costumes are small and are generally suited for younger girls.

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