



Springfield Puerto Rican Parade 2023 Logistics Guide

Overview

The Springfield Puerto Rican Parade is a time-honored celebration that embraces the culture, heritage, and contributions of the Puerto Rican community in Springfield. With 33 years of history, the parade reflects pride, unity, and cherished traditions. This event has not only garnered popularity but has also attracted the interest of neighboring partners like Boston's Puerto Rican Parade, Las Fiestas Patronales de Holyoke, and Springfield's Salsa Sal Pa Fuera. Beyond the festivities, the parade has evolved into a platform to address critical issues and celebrate the achievements of the Puerto Rican community. It stands as a symbol of resilience, pride, and unity while promoting cultural expression, education, and community bonds.

Theme: *Nunca Olvides Tus Raíces* (Never Forget Your Roots)

This year's theme emphasizes cultural preservation, social justice, education, and community empowerment. Beyond being a celebration, the parade serves as an avenue to address significant issues and commemorate the Puerto Rican community's accomplishments. It's a testament to resilience, pride, unity, and the power of collective voices.

Parade Day Details

Get ready for an exhilarating day of celebration at the Springfield Puerto Rican Parade 2023! We're thrilled to share the specifics that will make this event a memorable experience for your contingent.

1. **Date and Timing:** On Sunday, September 17, 2023, our parade will commence promptly at 11:00 AM.
2. **Starting Point and Route:** The journey begins at the intersection of Main Street and Wason Avenue, spanning approximately 1.97 miles through Springfield's North End and ending downtown.
3. **Arrival Times:**
 - For floats and vehicles: Start arriving from 8:30 AM, ensuring ample time for setup.
 - For walkers: Aim to arrive no later than 10:30 AM to give yourself time to enjoy the other marching groups.
4. **Parking:** Ample parking will be available at the intersection of Main and Wason on either side. Please follow the event signs for guidance to find convenient parking options.
5. **Transportation and Buses:** The parade has partnered with First Student to provide transportation back to the staging area. The bus stop is located at the intersection of Harrison and Dwight. Buses will stop running at 2:30 PM, so please plan accordingly.
6. **Main Viewing Stand:** As the parade unfolds, a main viewing stand awaits at the corner of Main Street and Bridge Street. This stand offers a vibrant stage for our Master of Ceremonies to highlight each contingent's unique bio.

7. **Live Streaming:** The Main and Bridge Street stand also becomes the epicenter of live-streaming, allowing friends and family worldwide to partake in the festivities.

Risk Assessment

We've taken a thorough look at potential challenges based on past events to ensure a smooth parade experience. These challenges are specific to the parade route and venue:

1. **Traffic Congestion:** Due to the parade's popularity, there might be increased traffic causing delays. We kindly ask that you share this information with your marching group and suggest carpooling as a way to alleviate congestion.
2. **Bottle-Necking on Parade Route:** Some segments along the route might experience bottle-necking due to the large number of participants. To maintain a smooth flow, please make a conscious effort to keep a reasonable distance from the group ahead of you.
3. **Crowd Density:** Certain locations, notably the intersections of Jefferson and Main, Church and Main, Emery and Main, as well as all of downtown, may have higher crowd density. These spots require special attention for safety. Additionally, these areas offer excellent opportunities for short performances. To maintain even intervals between groups, opt for shorter performances in these zones.
4. **Potential Disruptions:** Although our aim is a celebratory atmosphere, unforeseen disruptions can arise. Rest assured, our entire community will be present, including law enforcement, fire, and EMT personnel. If you have any concerns related to logistics, please direct your inquiries to our dedicated volunteers or staff who will be available for guidance.

Communication

To ensure a smooth and informed parade experience, we've structured our communication approach as follows:

1. **Contingent POC:** As part of your application, kindly designate a Contingent POC. This individual will be our primary point of contact, receiving all updates, reminders, and important information on behalf of your group.
2. **Contact Information:** Reach out to us at admin@springfieldparade.com or at (413) 314-0088. As you can imagine, our planning committee is very busy during the days leading up to the parade. We will try our best to respond as quickly as possible.
3. **Website Updates:** Expect more information to be added to our website. Keep an eye out for updates that will enhance your parade experience and address your questions.
4. **Newsletter and Social Media:** Stay connected by subscribing to our newsletter. Through this channel, we'll provide timely updates, announcements, and valuable insights. Also, follow us on social media for real-time updates and a sneak peek of the parade's offerings.

Coordination

To create a secure and harmonious atmosphere, we engage in close collaboration with the following entities:

1. **Local Law Enforcement:** Our commitment to safety involves a strong partnership with law enforcement agencies. The Springfield Police Department, State Police, and Chicopee Police are actively supporting us. We're also fortunate to have the presence of various civil service sectors to enhance security.
2. **Emergency Services:** Swift response is of utmost importance. To ensure this, we have secured an ambulance stationed at our main registration area. This enables us to promptly address any medical concerns.

3. **City Departments:** Seamless logistics are essential for the parade's success. This requires the involvement of relevant city departments and organizations that contribute to the municipality's operations. This collaborative effort ensures the event runs smoothly.

Most importantly, our community elders are our greatest assets in enforcing our code of conduct.

Their wisdom and guidance play a vital role in upholding the values of respect and inclusivity that define our parade.

Infrastructure, Logistics, and Crowd Management

1. **Crowd Flow:** For a smoother experience, we employ barricades, signs, and dedicated personnel to guide and manage crowd flow, especially in high-traffic areas. Along the parade route, strong barriers and fencing are strategically positioned to define spectator zones and effectively restrict unauthorized access.
2. **Uniforms and Identification:** Staff members, board representatives, and dedicated volunteers are easily identifiable through their distinct colored shirts. This streamlined identification process enhances communication and assistance throughout the event.

Practical Information

- **Plan Ahead:** Familiarize yourself with the route and potential congestion areas.
- **Stay Hydrated:** The Springfield Water Commission's water station will be located at 100 Wason.
- **Follow Instructions:** Let's support your Contingent Leader by following their instructions.
- **Emergency Contacts:** Know emergency exits and medical stations.
- **Communication:** Check our social media for regular updates.
- **Be Patient:** Exercise patience during congestion.

Your participation and cooperation are pivotal to the success and safety of the Springfield Puerto Rican Parade. Let's celebrate together in a secure and memorable way!