

FRIENDLY FOURTH

CITY OF MADEIRA'S FRIENDLY FOURTH PARADE UNIT DECORATING TIPS & IDEAS

STREAMERS. Tie ribbons or streamers to the car antenna. Let them hang down approximately 6 to 8 inches as you don't want them distracting your driving. If you can find one, place an antenna topper on there as well. The same ribbon or streamers can be hung along the sides of the car. Do this by using regular clear tape, but affix it to the black trim of the window only. Tape could damage the paint.

FESTOONING. Festooning is a colorful garland that can be attached to edges of vehicles and floats or wrapped around parts of each.

FRINGE. Both tissue and metallic fringe can be attached to edges of vehicles and floats.

FLORAL SHEETING/PETAL PAPER. This is a bit pricey, but it covers large areas quickly and looks good.

CHICKEN WIRE AND POMPS. After securing the chicken wire to the unit — usually with staples, spray the wire with spray adhesive. Then, take a single pomp sheet, form it into a cone at the end of your index finger, and tuck it into the wire opening. For large areas, consider putting a pomp into every *other* wire hole.

CAR CHALK. Decorate the windows with window chalk, writing appropriate messages. For example, if your vehicle is pulling a parade float, you can give information about the organization involved (Girl Scout Troop 123). Also, have fun decorating around the words by drawing stars, hearts, flowers, sports equipment, etc.

TIN CANS. String some tin cans and tie them to the rear bumper. Use empty soda cans, or those from canned vegetables. Clean the cans by rinsing them with water. For the soda cans, you can tie the string to the pop top. For other cans, you can drill a small hole or tape the string to the bottom of the can. Fishing line makes a very good string for this project. The noise from the tin cans will let your presence be known from a mile away.

BALLOONS. Fill balloons with helium and attach them to the top of vehicles and high parts of floats.

FOAMBOARD LETTERS. You can use these letters to identify your unit or group. Make sure they're large enough to be easily read from a distance.

GRASS MATS. You can use these mats to dress up the floors and sides of trailers and other units.

POSTERS. Create posters for the sides of each car. Decorate them with markers, and then adhere them to the window trim with several pieces of tape.

MUSIC. Consider bluetooth speakers and appropriate playlists to excite and engage the crowd along the route.

Some local stores will carry many of these materials; however, some are available only at specialized party shops and online sites. Just do a Web search of "parade decorations."

Use these materials or get creative for your own style and design.

Visit the following websites for more ideas (these websites do not have an affiliation with the City of Madeira).

[13 Awesome Tips for Inexpensive Parade Float Ideas - Ultimate DIY Guide \(sengerson.com\)](https://www.sengerson.com/13-Awesome-Tips-for-Inexpensive-Parade-Float-Ideas-Ultimate-DIY-Guide)

[14 Budget friendly DIY Parade Float ideas - DIYs Craftsy](#)