Cradle of Liberty Council
Safety Tips for Parades

Apply the “Sweet Sixteen of BSA Safety”

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
   - Good walking shoes
   - Rain gear
   - Water bottle
   - Sunblock
   - Insect repellant
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.

For additional health and safety information, consult the Guide to Safe Scouting and the other resources available at the Scouting Safety webpage at www.scouting.org/HealthandSafety.aspx.