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GOVERNOR KIM REYNOLDS  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR CHRIS COURNOYER

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND IOWA VETERANS HOME  
COMMANDANT TODD JACOBUS

February 2026

It's time to mark your calendar for the Veterans Day Parade at the Iowa State Fair, which will be the **ONLY Monday of the Fair**, beginning at 11:00 a.m, each year. This year we anticipate Aug. 17th will be the date, but continue to watch for the Iowa State Fair schedule for any changes. Unless we are informed otherwise, we **plan** on the same route and staging area as last year.

(See attached map.)

This year's theme will be the America 250, in concert with the national celebration.

The entrance is at Gate #2 only, which is on E. University at E. 33rd St (stop light). You will only be able to turn right to enter Gate #2. This means you can only enter going east and making a right hand turn into the gate. Please be sure to enter at Gate #2 with your parking permit hanging from your rearview mirror. You will be directed to the staging area by staging personnel. Please adhere to their instructions and directions.

Also attached with this cover letter is the Entry Application. Carpooling is the norm, and the State Fair Shuttle is encouraged, so expect about one parking pass per three participants unless a specific reason is provided. IDVA office needs to receive your entry application no later than **Friday August 1st** by Noon. Please do not delay in getting your entry submitted before the deadline.

The parking permits and the wristbands will be sent in the mail to the designated person on the Entry Application in the order they are received; on a first-come, first-served basis. This means even though your entry application is in our office on time, we still may not have enough parking permits and wristbands to distribute. The parking permits are only for the entry application participants and not for family and friends attending the Fair. The wristbands are only for the participants in the parade entry. The wristbands and parking permits will be sent in the mail together.

The recipient that receives the parking permits and wristbands will need to distribute them to the members of your entry before staging takes place. The staging area is only for people with wristbands and are a part of the entry.

This parade honors our veterans of every background. This is NOT a political campaign event, as this can distract from the spirit of the parade's intent. Elected officials and dignitaries will be invited to participate, recognizing their current official offices and positions of leadership. However, no overt campaigning will be allowed, and no entrants will be accepted from individual campaigns, or overtly party-affiliated groups such as partisan floats or political ads. Party-affiliated groups and individuals are encouraged to work through the State Fair who arrange appropriate designated venues for campaigning activities.

**Iowa State Fair Veterans Day Parade Entry Application**  
**Parade date is THE ONLY MONDAY of the State Fair**  
**Entry Deadline is August 1st**

Staging will begin 7:00 - 10:00 a.m. - Parade begins at 11:00 a.m.

Must be present for lineup no later than 9:30 a.m.

Any political or partisan entries will be disqualified from participating in the Parade  
**NO CANDY, FLIERS, HANDOUTS, "SWAG", ETC. IS ALLOWED DURING THE PARADE.**

**Write legibly if by hand**

**Entry Name (Group/Unit/Post/Organization):**

**Entry Contact Person:**

**E-mail Address:**

**Mailing Address** Where Parking Passes and Wristbands will be sent:

**Telephone Number:**

**Number of Wristbands Required** (one wristband per entry participant):

**Number of Parking Passes Required** (3 people per permit unless justified below):

Reason for more parking permits if applicable (music instruments, wheelchairs, etc):

*Leaders! Encourage members not transporting an entry vehicle or significant gear, to take the State Fair Shuttles in lieu of driving individually. This is often a 'quicker' way into the Fair, and reduces traffic on University Ave, that can impede the entry of participating vehicles. Shuttle schedules and park & ride locations are available on the ISF website.*

**Entry Type/Description** (float, truck, car, walkers, color guard, etc.):

How your entry should be **announced** (must be read in less than 30 seconds):

Send Parade Application to:  
[IOWAFAIRVETSPARADE@IOWA.GOV](mailto:IOWAFAIRVETSPARADE@IOWA.GOV)

Or:

Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs  
Attn: State Fair Veterans Day Parade  
7105 - NW 70th Avenue, Camp Dodge, Bldg. #3465  
Johnston, Iowa 50131-1824

Contact Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs for additional information or clarifications.  
515-252-4698 or 1-800-838-4692

