

How to Build A Pancake Day Parade Float



2016

Pancake Day is coming soon! Start planning your float today!

The Pancake Day Parade is one of the biggest highlights of Pancake Day! The bands are the soundtrack to the parade, the Shriners are the spice, but the floats - they are the **jewels of the parade with their colorful, shimmering, fluffy appearance.**

We encourage your organization to make this year's Pancake Day better than ever by entering a beautiful float to represent your organization in this year's Pancake Day Parade!



What a Float IS :

Hiding the wheels of the vehicle, trailer or hayrack with long fringe or chicken wire stuffed with crepe paper gives the it the appearance of 'floating' above the ground. So don't forget this step of float building - Make it look like it's floating!

You can make them self-propelled so they look like they're floating even more!



What A Float IS NOT :

A company vehicle with just advertising on the sides!

- If you would like to bring a non-classic or company vehicle through the parade, IT MUST BE DECORATED.

Like this one!



We are anxious to help you build a successful parade float, so we've put together some great resources to get you started!

RESOURCES

We have found some great instructions from www.valleydecorating.com to share with you on building a parade float using two different types of trailers.

Also, here is a list some websites where you can buy float-building materials.

www.valleydecorating.com

www.spiritline.com

www.paradefloatsuppliesnow.com

www.paradefloatstuff.com

www.andersons.com

www.shindigz.com

www.stumpsparty.com

The final pages of this booklet include the parade guidelines and the entry form for the 2016 Pancake Day Parade. Please read all of the rules and fill out your entry form and return it to the Centerville Chamber of Commerce by Friday, September 23rd.

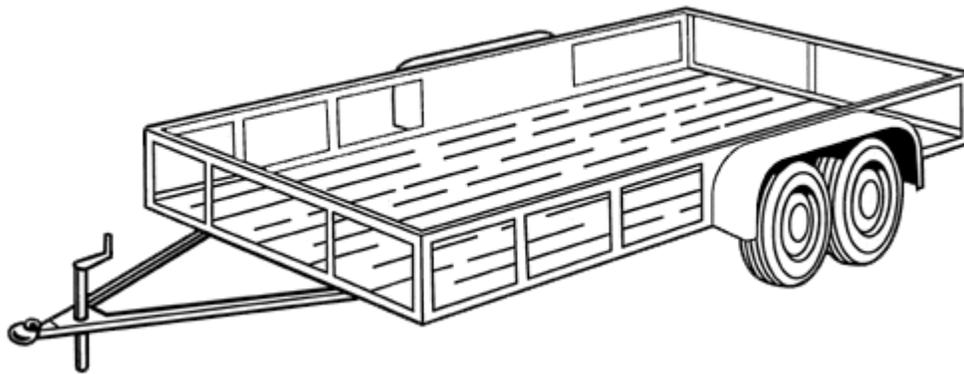
Build a Parade Float Using a Low-Boy Trailer

After you choose your float size, try to determine what message you want to convey, staying within the parameters of the parade theme. If your theme is humorous, make sure that no one will be offended by it. Always use good taste and remember that no one likes a blatant advertisement so try to keep your message subtle and positive.

Another important design consideration is the capabilities of your float builders. If you're planning on having elaborate props or woodwork, make sure that you have access to someone who is a capable technician, with proper tools and equipment. If you have electrical requirements, consult a qualified electrician*. Animations and prop movements can also be human-powered. Simple pulleys and rope can be used to make props rotate and move.

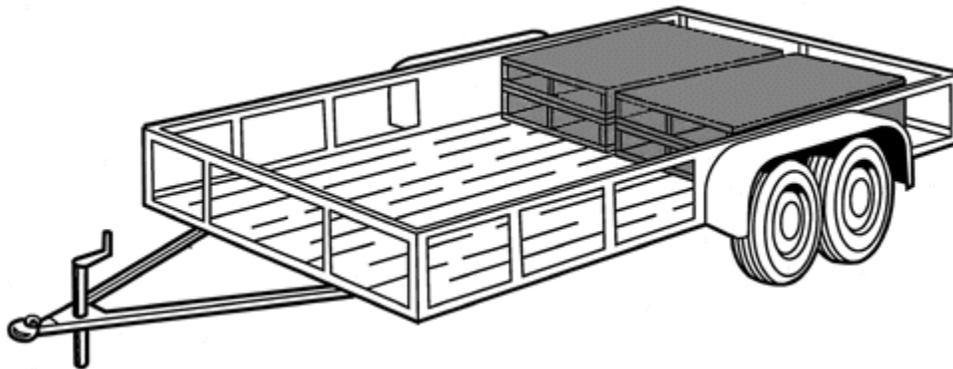
Beginning Construction

There are a few items you will want to have on hand before building your float. A staple gun, nails, wire, chicken-wire, 1" X 1" and 2" X 2" construction grade wood and plywood can be purchased at your local hardware store. Once you have an approved* float design and all of the necessary materials you are ready to begin construction.



Low-boy trailers are great for float building!

Low-boy type trailers usually have rails around the perimeter. The instructions below will show you how you can create a great looking basic float for your next parade!

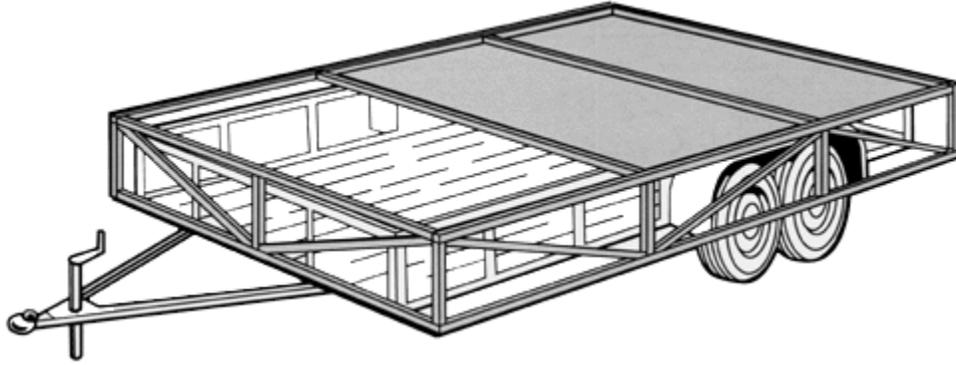


Pallets can be used to build a partial or full sub-structure to elevate the platform of the float.

It is a good idea to build a partial deck that will be even with the top rails of the float. You can use good quality pallets to make a platform. Make sure the pallets are firmly fastened to the bed of the float.

Next, lay sheet plywood over the pallets. Now you will have a platform for your props and an area in the bed where float riders can stand or sit. If your float riders will be standing, make a stanchion and secure it to the trailer bed so that they have something to hold onto while traveling the parade route.

Remember... ***Safety first!***

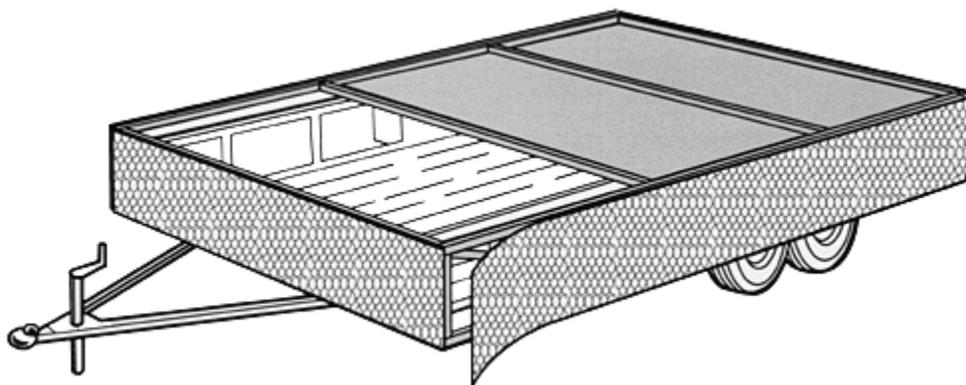


Attachment of skirt frame and sheet plywood.

After the plywood is laid over the pallets, build a skirt frame using 1" X 1" or 2" X 2" pieces of wood and fasten the frame to the trailer rails and the plywood. The skirt frame is used to hide the wheels and undercarriage. Any number of items can be used to fasten the skirt frame to the rails: plumbers tape or construction U-shaped brackets are ideal for attachment of the skirt frame to the trailer bed rails. Be sure to terminate the skirt frame approximately 16" from the ground and allow for tongue movement at the front of the float.

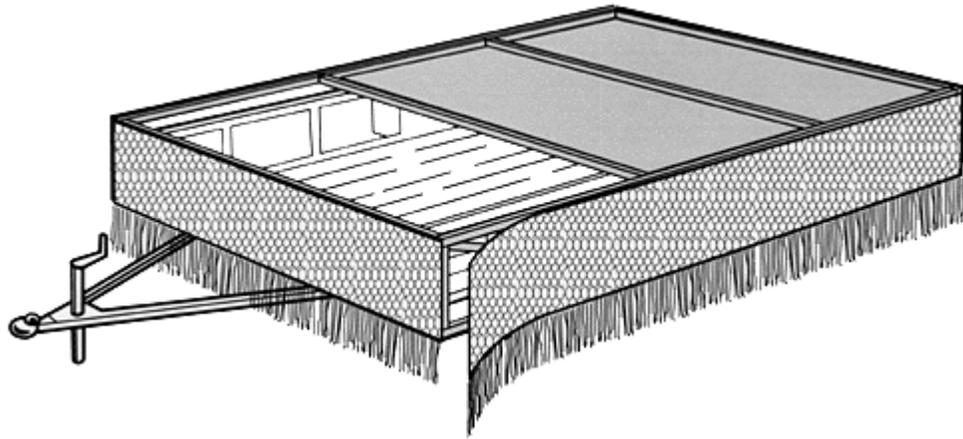
Decorating the Float

Deck and side skirts: Calculate the floral sheeting requirements in square yards by multiplying the length times the width of each differently colored area, (floral Sheeting comes 36" wide by 10 or 25 yard lengths). Cut the floral sheeting as needed and attach to the bottom of the skirt and staple to the deck of the trailer.



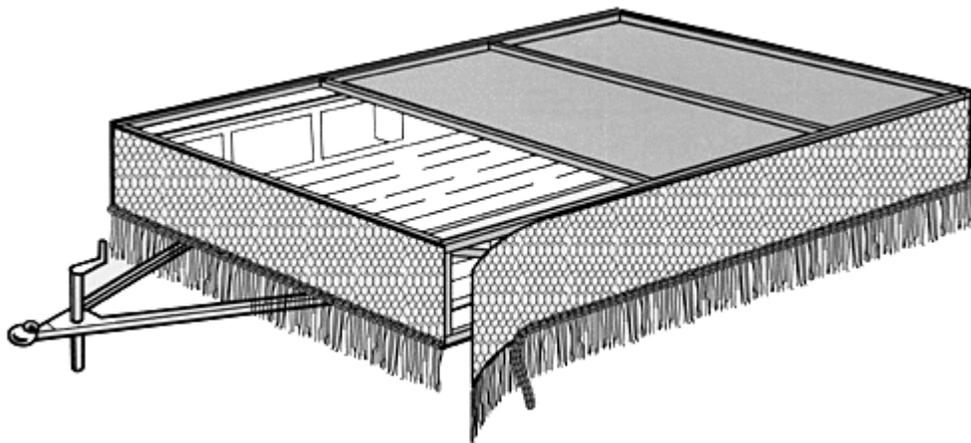
Attachment of floral sheeting to the skirt frame

Next, apply Valley's floral sheeting by stapling it to the wood skirt frame as shown above. Additionally, you can use our floral sheeting to cover the deck-platform as well as on the bed of the float.



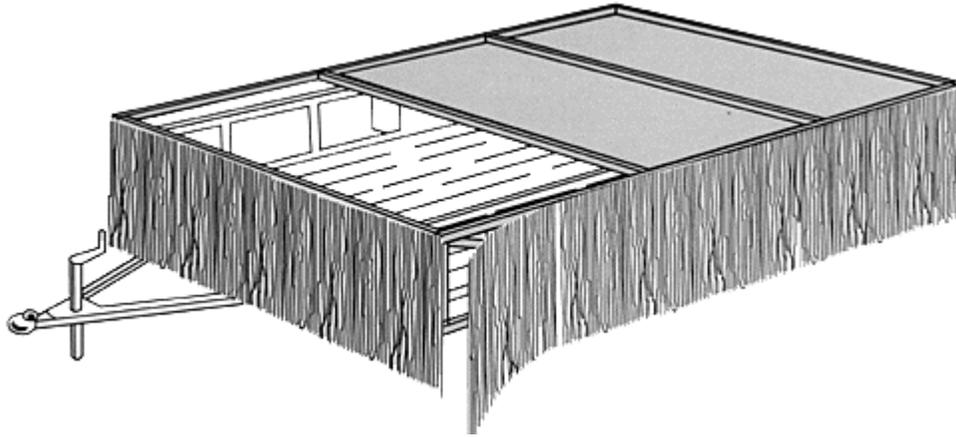
Attachment of fringe to the floral sheeting and wood skirt frame

Next, staple "float away fringe" into the wood skirt frame at the bottom of the frame. It is ok to staple through the decorating material and into the wood frame. This will give your float the "floating" appearance.



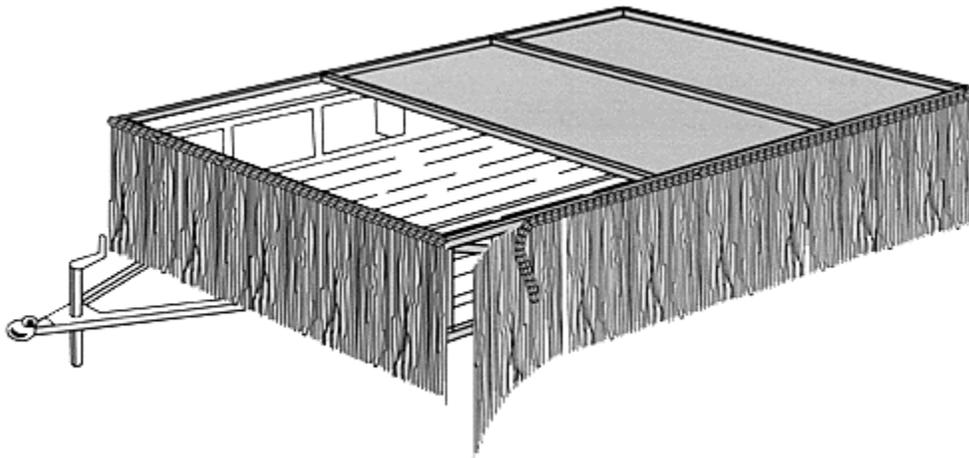
Using Festooning to hide the seam between the floral sheeting and fringe

To hide the seam between the float fringe and floral sheeting, use Valley's petal festooning (a stiff-wire petal garland). The festooning color you choose allows you to add even more color to your float! Festooning can be stapled through the fringe and floral sheeting materials and into the wood frame.



An alternative to using floral sheeting, you can also use "fringe panels"

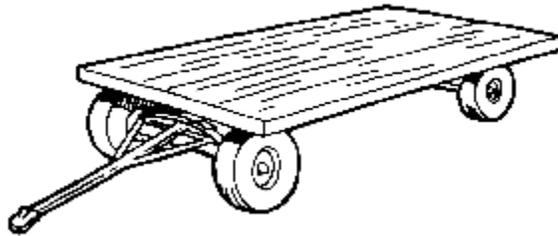
The above sketch uses a longer fringe-skirt instead of a floral sheeting product. This skirt is approximately 30" tall and is designed to give the float a taller "floating" appearance. Many float builders like to use our fringe-panels because of the ease of decorating.



Attachment of festooning to top of fringe panels.

Whether you use floral sheeting or fringe-panels on the sides of your float, it is a good idea to use festooning to finish the edges of the float. You can use festooning in a color other than your fringe panels to add more color to your float!

Build a Parade Float Using a Hay-Rack



Try to find a trailer with a wood bed. A hay trailer is ideal for float building.

After you choose your float size, try to determine what message you want to convey, staying within the parameters of the parade theme. If your theme is humorous, make sure that no one will be offended by it. Always use good taste and remember that no one likes a blatant advertisement so try to keep your message subtle and positive.

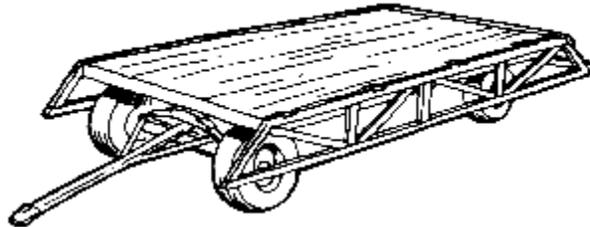
Another important design consideration is the capabilities of your float builders. If you are planning on having elaborate props or woodwork, make sure that you have access to someone who is a capable technician, with proper tools and equipment. If you have electrical requirements, consult a qualified electrician*. Animations and prop movements can also be human-powered. Simple pulleys and rope can be used to make props rotate and move.

Beginning Construction

There are a few items you will want to have on hand before building your float. A staple gun, nails, wire, chicken-wire, 1" X 1" and 2" X 2" construction grade wood and plywood can be purchased at your local hardware store.

Once you have an approved* float design and all of the necessary materials you are ready to begin construction.

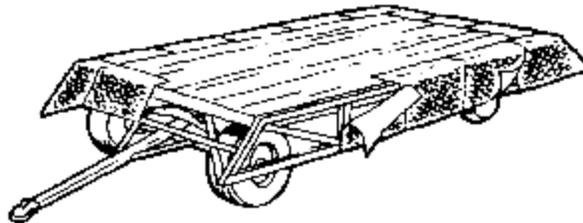
First, build a skirt frame from 2" X 2" pieces of wood and fasten the frame to the trailer bed with hinges, (so that the sides can be folded onto the bed of the trailer for ease of transportation to and from the parade). The skirt frame is used to hide the wheels and undercarriage. Be sure to terminate the skirt frame approximately 16" from the ground and allow for tongue movement at the front of the float.



Build a skirt frame and attach with hinges to the deck of the float.

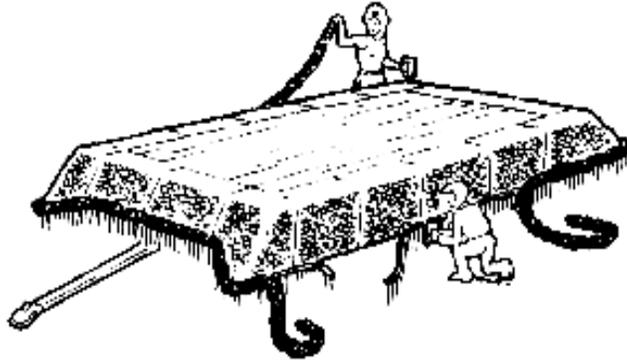
Decorating the float

Deck and side skirts: Calculate the floral sheeting requirements in square yards by multiplying the length times the width of each differently colored area, (floral Sheeting comes 36" wide by 10 or 25 yard lengths). Cut the floral sheeting as needed and attach to the bottom of the skirt and staple to the deck of the trailer.



Attaching floral sheeting strips to the skirts and deck

After attachment of the floral sheeting, use a staple-gun to attach our decorative fringe to the bottom of the 2" X 2" frame. Then use our petal festooning to hide the seam line between the floral sheeting and fringe. You can calculate the amount of fringe and petal festooning you will need by adding the total running length of the perimeter of the float.



Attachment of fringe and festooning.

Topside: The amount of floral sheeting needed for covering curved areas and props is determined by visualizing these areas as if they were boxes. Make sure you order enough material to cover the box. Valley's floral sheeting can be attached to the props by using nails, staples, hog-rings, twist-ties etc.



Parade Guidelines and Float Fact Sheet

Prepared by the Centerville-Rathbun Lake Area Chamber of Commerce

Pancake Day Big Parade Guidelines

Pancake Day Parade is intended to be fun and entertaining. Many individuals and businesses work very hard to put together attractive and entertaining entries; we require all entries to add value to the parade. Following are some guidelines that might be helpful in your decisions about activities at our parade. These guidelines supersede anything that you may have been told previously. We trust that you will act in good taste and good faith by following the guidelines set out by the Pancake Day Committee.

- The parade starts promptly at 1 p.m. on Pancake Day. Parade line-up begins north of the city square at 12 noon. Convertibles carrying dignitaries line up on Washington Street--east of Main; Marching bands line up on Washington Street--west of Main; all other entries line up on Main Street north of Washington—floats on the west side of the street, other entries on the east side.
- Cars or trucks that do not fall into the classic, antique or novelty vehicle categories must be decorated in a manner reflecting the year's theme or Pancake Day in general, or they must be pulling a float. Exceptions to this rule are vehicles carrying individuals being honored by the Pancake Day Committee, elected officials and those running for public office. Undecorated vehicles with business or organization advertising that do not fall into one of the above categories are prohibited (a sign or banner with your business' name is not a decoration!). No blatant advertising.
- Due to the potential of injury to spectators, throwing candy and other objects from vehicles is **not allowed**. If you wish to hand out candy, have a representative walk beside the crowd and distribute the candy.
- Horses will not be allowed in the Big Parade.
- Float registrations **must** be submitted by the Thursday before Pancake Day to be eligible for competition or in the parade.
- Floats will be judged on the following: overall appearance, theme, originality, mechanical animation, humor and construction. Prizes of \$350 for First Place and \$150 for Second Place will be awarded in two categories: 1) Businesses and Industries; 2) Churches, Clubs and Organizations, Schools and Families; Decisions of parade judges are final. In addition, "The Owl Prize" of \$500 will be awarded to the "best of" parade entry.
- Floats should provide two 12-inch squares on each side of entry for a number that will be assigned and provided at line up.
- All entries, with the exception of bands, will appear in the parade in the order they line up unless directed otherwise by the Parade Chairperson. Numbers will not be issued prior to line-up.
- The Parade Chairperson has the right to prohibit any entry he or she considers in poor taste or any entry falling outside the above guidelines.
- **Additional guidelines for political entrants:**
 - The person holding or running for public office must be present (not just a representative for that person).
 - Political entries can only go through the parade route once. You may not switch vehicles and go through again as a political entry.
 - Once the parade has started, the political entrant must remain in his/her vehicle until off the square. You may have representatives walk with your vehicle and hand out materials to the crowd.
 - A sign with your name and the office you're running for or currently hold is allowed.
 - You may not play loud music or use any device to amplify your voice.

Centerville Pancake Day---Parade Entry Form---September 24, 2016
Parade Time: 1:00 p.m.
THEME: Under the Big Top

Name of Business, Organization or Person being represented in parade _____

Name of persons(s) participating in parade (if political entrant, person holding or running for office must participate in parade) _____

Type of entry

_____ Float (complete back of form also)

_____ Antique or Classic Vehicle, describe _____

_____ Novelty Vehicle, describe _____

_____ Antique Tractor, describe _____

_____ Mascot or character

_____ Decorated car or truck (décor must reflect theme or PCD in general)

_____ Convertible

_____ Other entry, explain

Contact Person Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Please read and follow all Pancake Day Guidelines. If you have any questions, contact the Centerville Area Chamber of Commerce at 641-437-4102. Return this completed entry by Thursday, September 22, 2016 to: Centerville Area Chamber of Commerce, 128 North 12th Street, Centerville, IA 52544 FAX 641-437-0527

2016 Pancake Day Parade Float Fact Sheet

Float Number

(To be assigned)

Float Entries only must complete this form

Name of Business or Organization _____

We wish to compete in the following division:

_____ Schools

_____ Businesses/Industries

_____ Churches/Clubs/Organizations

The theme of our float is _____

Our float was designed by _____

How many people worked on the float? _____

Other information _____

Completed Float Fact Sheets must be submitted with Parade Entry Form by Thursday, Sept. 23, 2016 for float to be eligible for competition. Prizes of \$350 for First Place and \$150 for Second Place will be awarded in two categories: 1) Businesses and Industries; 2) Churches, Clubs, Organizations, Schools and Families. In addition, "The Owl Prize" of \$500 will be awarded to the "best of parade" entry.