

## 2026 DETROIT GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE MARCHING ORDERS

Parade date: Sunday, May 3, 2026

- Time** All participants must line up by 2:40 p.m. The parade will begin at 3:00 p.m. The parade committee reserves the right to refuse to allow latecomers to march.
- Weather** The parade will proceed, rain or shine. (Or snow.)
- Parking** You must find your own parking. The city's ParkDetroit app (available on the Apple App Store and Google Play) can be used to find municipal parking. Limited parking will be available at Annunciation Cathedral for a fee. Private lots/garages may also be available. Some churches may provide bus transportation; contact your church for info.
- Check-in & line-up** **Because of construction, the route map has changed since earlier this year. An updated map is attached.** The parade will line up on Brush behind the Old County Building. Consult the marching list for your group's place in the parade procession and check in at the check-in point for your division. Look for your group's leader.
- Please line up neatly. Follow the directions of the marshals, who will be wearing yellow jackets, and your group leader. If your group holds a marching practice, please attend.
- Floats and other vehicles will be in a separate line. Do **not** line up with your group's float or vehicle unless you are actually riding on the float/in the vehicle.
- SAFETY** Unlike the traditional route on Monroe, where traffic is closed in both directions, **traffic will be open on the other side of the boulevard on East Lafayette.** To avoid anyone (especially children) wandering into traffic by accident, **nobody will be allowed to stand on the median. PLEASE HELP KEEP CHILDREN OFF THE MEDIAN!!!**
- Marching** The parade route is about a half-mile. **Please continue past the reviewing stage and do not stop on the street or block the route.**
- Dress** Authentic Greek costumes are encouraged if available. Some groups may order custom t-shirts, sweatshirts, or jackets. Contact your group leader for information.
- Metropolitan Nicholas will designate the appropriate dress for clergy. Altar boys may wear their altar uniforms.
- If costumes or uniforms are not available, we recommend a dark coat and tie for men and corresponding women's attire. For children, we recommend a light sweater/shirt with navy or black pants or skirt. **Blue jeans are highly discouraged.**
- The most important thing is that your group looks neat and uniform.
- Decorum** Alcohol, smoking, and throwing candy or other objects to the crowd are prohibited while marching. Pets/animals are also prohibited without advance permission.
- Vehicles** All groups wishing to include cars, floats, or other vehicles in their unit must notify the parade committee in advance, or the vehicle will not be allowed in the parade. **All vehicles must be decorated.** Float themes must be approved in advance. Vehicles must line up by **1:30 p.m.**, before marchers arrive. Drivers must be licensed and insured. See the attached vehicle instructions for more information.
- Emergency** Police and an ambulance will be on standby. Contact a parade marshal in a yellow vest.
- Children** If children are separated from their parents, "lost and found" will be at the review stage.
- More info** Contact your group leader, Yanni Dionisopoulos (president@greekparades.com), or Tom Christy (tchristy@greekparades.com) or visit our website: detroit.greekparades.com
- X (Twitter) updates will be available on parade day. Follow us at @DetGreekParade.

<b>2026 Detroit Greek Independence Day Parade</b>	
<b>Parade date: Sunday, May 3, 2026 at 3pm</b>	
<b>Marching list version 5 (issued April 30) (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)</b>	
<b>Unit #</b>	<b>Honor division</b>
1	Detroit Police lead car
3	Detroit Police Dept. Color Guard
5	Dignitaries
7	Archons of the Archdiocese of America
<b>Unit #</b>	<b>1st division</b>
109	St. John the Baptist GOC, Sterling Heights
111	Hellenic Healthcare Professionals of Michigan
113	Hellenic Bar Association of Michigan
117	St. George GOC, Southgate and the Kefi Dancers
119	Pan-Thessalian Union
123	Rhodian Society of Detroit "Ibiscus"
125	Detroit Pistons Extreme Crew and Dancers
127	Holy Trinity GO Cathedral, Toledo (incl. dancers)
129	Hellenic Museum of Michigan
<b>Unit #</b>	<b>2nd division</b>
201	Sts. Constantine & Helen GOC, Westland
205	Assumption GOC, St Clair Shores
207	Pseloretas Pancretan Association, Cretan Ladies, Levendoyenna Cretan Youth
209	Dearborn Dance Academy
211	St. Nicholas GOC, Ann Arbor
213	Messenian Association of Michigan, Messenian Nea Yenias
217	Chios Society Agia Markella
219	Holy Cross GOC, Windsor and the Terpsichorean Dancers
221	University of Windsor Hellenic Student Association
222	Pan-Rhodian Association of Windsor "Colossos"
225	Holy Cross GOC, Farmington Hills
229	Association of Stereoelladites
<b>Unit #</b>	<b>3rd division</b>
303	AHEPA District 10
305	Daughters of Penelope
307	AHEPA 371 Omega Chapter
308	AHEPA Chapter 195
309	Pan-Icarian Brotherhood of America "Icaros"
311	St. George GOC, Bloomfield
315	Annunciation GO Cathedral, Detroit
317	Pan-Macedonian Association - Aristotelis Chapter of Detroit
319	St. Nicholas GOC, Troy and the Opa Dancers
321	American-Cyprus Association of Michigan
323	Nativity of the Virgin Mary GOC, Plymouth (incl. Revma Dancers)
325	Panagia Soumela Society, Pontians of Detroit & Cleveland
327	Epirotic Society of Michigan
329	Detroit Police Trailing Car

## **2026 DETROIT GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE INSTRUCTIONS TO FLOAT AND VEHICLE DRIVERS**

Instructions for vehicles and floats in the 2026 Detroit Greek Independence Day Parade:

1. You must inform us about your vehicle or float before the parade or it will not be allowed in the parade. All float themes must be approved in advance. The parade committee reserves the right to reject inappropriate themes.
2. No advertising is permitted, except for official sponsors, without the parade committee's advance approval. Because the parade is intended to unify the community rather than divide it, no political advertisements or statements are allowed.
3. No cars will be permitted in the parade unless decorated or pulling a float.
4. By law, all modern traffic signals, bridges, and other overhead clearances on surface streets are supposed to be at least 13 feet, 6 inches. However, older areas often have lower clearances (some bridges near downtown are marked as low as 11 feet, 7 inches). We cannot guarantee clearances on the parade route, nor on your way to the route. Accordingly, we recommend that floats be built no higher than 10 feet. You are solely responsible for checking clearances when transporting your own vehicle/float.
5. Have your vehicle/float at the marshaling area at **1:30 p.m.** Because of the **different route** this year, the vehicle marshaling area is on Fort between Randolph and Brush, next to the Old County Building. Approach from Randolph and turn east onto Fort. Barricades will be set up and we will let you through. We need you to arrive before the marchers because it is too difficult to position the vehicles/floats when people are walking around.
6. Please bring your driver's license, vehicle registration, and proof of insurance to the parade. We will check this information before you are allowed to drive.
7. We will have many small children in the parade. We do not want any of them injured by a vehicle. Please be alert at all times.
8. **Do not allow anyone to throw candy or other objects from your vehicle or float.** Our insurance company insists that we enforce this policy. Other parades have had incidents where children ran into the street to fetch the candy and were hit by a vehicle.
9. If you are using music, it must have a Greek theme.
10. At the end of the parade route on Lafayette, just before the I-375 service drive, turn right into the turnaround in the median, then turn immediately turn left onto the other side of Lafayette to exit the parade route. **Traffic will be "live" on the other side of Lafayette, so be sure to watch for other vehicles.** Do not park your vehicle on the parade route.

Questions should be directed to Tom Christy (248-910-8662, [tchristy@greekparades.com](mailto:tchristy@greekparades.com))  
Version 2—last updated April 30, 2026.

