

News Release

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Rock Island Labor Day Parade Deadline for Entries Approaching

Monday, August 24, 2009, is the entry deadline for the 2009 Rock Island Labor Day Parade. This year's "#25: Silver Celebration" event is scheduled for Monday, September 7, 2009.

The first Rock Island Labor Day Parade was held in 1984 as part of the City's Sesquicentennial (150th Birthday) Celebration. Over the past 25 years, the parade has grown into a popular event that averages 150 entries and draws thousands of spectators. This year's theme was chosen to honor the 25th year of the parade. Participants are encouraged to develop an entry around a significant event or special milestone. The arrival of a new family member, winning a competition or promoting a major accomplishment, celebrating a special anniversary year of a business, organization, or church – are all good reason to celebrate!

Staging for the parade begins at 8:30 a.m. in the area around Washington Junior High School, located at 33rd St. and 18th Ave., with the start of the parade set at 9:30 a.m. The parade route travels west along 18th Ave., beginning at 33rd St., turns left on 24th St., and then right on 25th Ave. and disbands into the Rock Island High School Grounds at 25th Ave. and 17th St. The parade route is approximately two miles long and takes about 90 minutes to complete.

Non-theme related entries are always welcome in the Labor Day parade. The parade provides an excellent opportunity to promote an organization, to announce a special promotion, or to call attention to an upcoming special event.

Parade organizers are excited about the number of musical groups returning to this year's line-up. The Western Illinois University Marching Band will be back for an 11th year along with high school marching bands from Alleman, Rock Island, and Rockridge. The outstanding Metropolitan Drill Team or "MetroSteppers" and the Blackhawk Bagpipers are also returning to the line-up. New this year is the German Band from Waterloo, IL. Quite the variety show on parade!

Interested parties should contact the City of Rock Island at 732-2923 for more information. Parade information and an entry form are also available from the City's website under Important Links at www.rigov.org.