

The Gaspee Day Committee presents the Parade on the second Saturday in June as part of its annual celebrations. The purpose of the Parade is to commemorate the burning of the HMS *Gaspee* in 1772, while at the same time, providing family-friendly entertainment to the public. The Parade is composed of the following groups and individuals, all of whom are invited to participate:

**I. Elected Officials****A. General Officers of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations**

1. Governor
2. Lieutenant Governor
3. Secretary of State
4. Attorney General
5. General Treasurer

**B. Rhode Island Senators in US Congress****C. Rhode Island Representatives in US Congress****D. City of Warwick Mayor and City Council****E. City of Cranston Mayor and City Council****F. City of Providence Mayor****G. Warwick RI State Senators and Representatives****H. Cranston RI State Senators and Representatives****II. Honored Guests (to include but not limited to):****A. Grand Marshal****B. Gaspee Day Committee Charter Members, Past Presidents, President, and Parade Chairman****C. Carrier of the Rhode Island Mace****D. Adjutant General of the Rhode Island National Guard and the 88th Army Band****E. Rhode Island State Police, Warwick, Cranston, and Providence Color Guards****III. Colonial Fife and Drum and Militia****IV. Modern Drum and Bugle Corps and Bands****V. Floats and Fillers**

The final composition of the Parade (participants and line-up) are left up to the discretion of the current Parade chairman. The Parade Chairman has the right to refuse anyone for inclusion in the Parade.

(Source: *The Gaspee Daze* 1998-1999 Edition, Handbook of the Gaspee Days Committee, Karleen Wrath, President)

**WEATHER:**

This is a **rain or shine** Parade. Only in extreme weather circumstances will the Parade be canceled. In the event the Parade is canceled, an announcement will be placed on the Gaspee Phone Line: **(401) 781-1772** by 6:00 AM the morning of the Parade. Efforts will be made to personally contact each group marching in the Parade. Announcements will also be made on **local TV** channels.

**PARKING:**

**[Click here for Map & Directions to Gaspee Days Parade Staging/Line-Up Area](#)** (for Parade participants only)

We have parking available at several lots located convenient to the Parade staging area. These lots are located at the John Brown Francis Elementary School, and the shopping center lot, both on Miantonomo Drive, parallel to the Parade staging area. Priority parking for **cars will be at John Brown Francis Elementary School**, and for **buses at shopping center lot (East of Planet Fitness)**. Alternate parking lots are available at **Pilgrim High School, and the Pilgrim Senior Center**, both on Pilgrim Parkway. Note that there is a cut-through at the rear of the John Brown Francis Elementary School parking lot to allow easy pedestrian access directly onto the Narragansett Parkway Parade Staging Area. Please see the accompanying map for directions and details. In general, simply follow the crowds, but you can ask specific directions from any of the Gaspee Days Committee members wearing red polo shirts. Traffic congestion along the Parade route will be so intense just before the Parade that it becomes impossible to maneuver. Therefore, **all Parade participants must park near and report to the beginning of the Parade route.**

## BUSES:

We will have **shuttle buses available at the Parade end** to return Parade participants back to parking lots near the Parade Staging/Line-Up area. Participants will board these shuttle buses (past the end of the Parade review stand at Rhodes Place) which will depart when full. Because of traffic, we cannot allow drivers to bring their own buses to the Parade end area until the Parade has ended sometime after 1:00 PM.

## CHECK-IN:

The Parade check-in and staging area is along **Narragansett Parkway east of Warwick Avenue**, Warwick, RI on the Saturday of the Parade. Your group is expected to be in place along the Parade route at 9:00 A.M. All **floats and other vehicles must be in position no later than 9:00 AM**. It is likely that units arriving late will not be able to be placed in the Parade.

In general, **marching groups line up on the South side** of Narragansett Parkway (even house numbers), while floats and tow **vehicles line up on the North side** (odd house numbers). **Support vehicles are not allowed** into the Parade unless towing a float or cannon, etc. This will be enforced.

**The leader of each participating group must check in directly with the assigned Division Coordinator** along the Parade staging/line-up area. If your group is under contract, get an **acknowledgment receipt** from your Division Coordinator. Please bear in mind that your previously assigned division number may change.

We strive to give musical groups enough separation to play their music **free from interference** by other musical groups. We accomplish this by carefully planning each group's position in the Parade, and by using various non-musical filler groups or floats to provide adequate spacing. **The Parade is, however, a dynamic event that requires much last minute adjustment.**

## PARADE GENERAL RULES:

The Gaspee Days Committee is licensed by both the Cities of Warwick and Cranston to conduct the annual Gaspee Days Parade under its supervision. Upon discovery of any rule violations, the appropriate **police department** will be contacted to rectify the situation. The following Gaspee Days Parade Participant Rules apply to all persons or groups (including **politicians**) applying to participate or participating in the Gaspee Days Parade. These rules are general, and are subject to revision by the Gaspee Days Committee and by the Parade Chairperson prior to the event.

1. Current and future participation of any person or group in the Parade is a decision made **solely by the Gaspee Days Committee**, which reserves the right to exclude any such person or group not conforming to these guidelines and other considerations.
2. Only those individuals and groups that have **been invited and accepted** by the Gaspee Days Committee will be allowed to march in the Parade.
3. Acceptance will be based on **theme, logistics, spacing, and other needs** of the Gaspee Days Committee.
4. The position in the Parade line of march of each and every participant will be at the sole and complete discretion of the Gaspee Days Committee.
5. **All float applicants must submit the theme of their float** as part of their application.
6. **No one may use a public address system, loudspeaker, or bullhorn** without specific authorization from the Gaspee Days Committee as this interferes with the Parade enjoyment by our audience.
7. **No overtly commercial, sexual, political, or religious themes** are allowed during the Parade. We will remove from the Parade any float, person, or group that violates this rule.
8. **No signage may be displayed that is not in accordance with the patriotic theme and celebration** of the Parade. Sponsors and tow vehicles may display only minimal signs on truck doors, etc., so as to not detract from the aesthetic value of the float or group.
9. **Support vehicles other than those towing a float are not allowed** to be in the Parade unless specifically authorized by the Parade Chair.
10. **No one may interfere with the progress of the Parade** anywhere along the Parade route. There should **never be more than 100 feet between groups** (the distance between two telephone poles). Groups should perform as they are marching. A group may not stop to perform unless the entire Parade has stopped ahead.
11. **No Parade participant may in any way solicit funds or donations** from the Parade audience.

## PARADE SAFETY RULES:

**The Safety of our Parade audience and participants are our utmost concern. Violations of Parade Safety Rules may result in immediate expulsion from the Parade.**

1. Each Parade participating group or person must be responsible not only for their own safety, but also for the safety of the **public audience** around them. Please immediately bring any unsafe or troublesome conditions to the attention of a police officer or Division Coordinator.
2. Vehicle drivers are **solely responsible** for the safe operation of their vehicle.
3. **No scooters, bicycles, Segways, skateboards, wagons, or shopping carts**, etc. are allowed in or along the Parade route unless specifically allowed by the Gaspee Days Committee.
4. **No** one may carry or wear **stiff or firm signs** as these both obstruct views and can injure members of the crowded Parade audience.
5. **No objects of any kind may be handed, thrown, sprayed or otherwise distributed** from any vehicle or float or by any Parade participant. **No items are allowed to be given away to spectators, including but not limited to balloons, toys, candy, trinkets, literature, pamphlets, and buttons.**
6. **Parade vehicles and floats may not be approached by persons along the Parade route**, whether by a spectator or Parade participant, and whether or not the vehicle or float has stopped. The vehicle or float **may not be used as a base of operations** for groups or persons accompanying such vehicle or float.
7. **No dangerous acrobatic stunts**, including but not limited to, gymnastic and cheerleading acrobatics, are allowed.
8. **No alcoholic beverages may be consumed** by Parade participants until after they have finished their Parade route. All Parade participants are responsible for observing state and municipal laws and regulations pertaining to alcohol possession and consumption.
9. **Military reenactment groups** must not fire in the immediate vicinity of horses in the Parade. All firearms must be aimed away from people, and **fired only under the command of a uniformed officer**. Musket charges are limited to 100 grains of black powder. Cannons may not be fired along the Parade route except by the special contingent stationed at Pawtuxet Bridge.
10. Parade groups with animals of any kind must each provide people to **perform immediate pooper-scooper duties**. This is, of course, in fairness to those who march behind you as well as for the well-being of our Parade audience. If you do not provide this very important duty, we will be unable to allow your animals to participate in the Parade.
11. Due to crowd safety concerns, **we do not allow privately owned horses** in our Parade. Corporate or municipal horses must be insured.
12. Participants **must obey uniformed police officers and red-shirt Gaspee Coordinators at all times**, including respect to spacing.

## AFTERTHOUGHTS:

- Members of Colonial Units are invited to stop by the **Encampment of Colonial Troops in Pawtuxet Park** where impromptu jam sessions and various skirmishes may occur.
- If you have not already done so, **please set up a website and e-mail account** for your organization so that we can contact you in the future.
- Please e-mail all **comments about your Parade experience**, good or bad, to [GaspeeParade2012@verizon.net](mailto:GaspeeParade2012@verizon.net)
- Mark your calendar for next year now: The next Gaspee Days Parade (after the upcoming one) will take place on **Saturday, June 8, 2013**. We hope to see you then as well! For further information please visit our web site at [gaspee.com](http://gaspee.com) or call (401) 781-1772

**We hope to see you there!**

Jerry Peloso  
Chair, 2012 Gaspee Days Parade  
[GaspeeParade2012@verizon.net](mailto:GaspeeParade2012@verizon.net)  
Cell: (401) 440-6319