



# 2025 PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURATION PARADE WASHINGTON, DC

## FACT SHEET

### **WHAT IS THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL PARADE?**

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Beginning with the inauguration of George Washington in 1789, through Joe Biden in 2021, Inauguration Day has always presented an opportunity for the nation to begin anew. Traditionally, Inauguration Day takes place on the 20th of January, following the national presidential election of the previous November.

The day begins, by tradition started by Franklin D. Roosevelt, with a Morning Worship Service in the nation's capital at the church of the President-elect's choice. This is followed by the Procession to the Capitol, the swearing-in ceremonies of Vice President and the President on the steps of the United States Capitol, an Inaugural Luncheon, and then the day is capped off by the Presidential Inaugural Parade and various Inaugural Balls.

The first organized parade occurred in 1809, at the Inauguration of James Madison. A troop of cavalry from Georgetown escorted him to the Capitol. After taking the oath of office, Madison sat in review of nine companies of militia. Future Inaugurations saw these military escorts grow more and more elaborate. William Henry Harrison's parade in 1841 featured floats, and for the first time, military companies from outside the Washington, D.C. area accompanied the President-elect to the Capitol. Citizens clubs, political clubs, several military bands, and groups of college students also marched in the parade, setting future precedent.

### **WHO ORGANIZES THE PRESIDENTIAL INAUGURAL PARADE?**

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All inaugural activities are organized and executed by the Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC).

The Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies (JCCIC) plans and executes all Inaugural activities at the United States Capitol, including the Inaugural swearing-in ceremony of the President and Vice President of the United States and the traditional Inaugural luncheon that follows.

Upon passage of a concurrent resolution, the JCCIC is established and the members are appointed. The Vice President appoints Senators and the Speaker of the House of Representatives appoints House members. The JCCIC comprises the Senate Majority Leader (at the time of appointment), the Chairman and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the Majority and Minority Leaders of the House of Representatives.<sup>1</sup>

In coordination with the JCCIC, the parade is organized by the Joint Task Force National Capital Region (JTF-NCR) – which produces the parade application, and also coordinates all United States Armed Forces participation in inaugural events.

It is standard for parade participants to be selected by the Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC), which is typically formed by the President-elect and the political party of the winning nominee following Election Day.

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<sup>1</sup> Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies; "Inauguration of the President: Committee Home"; <http://www.inaugural.senate.gov/about/committee>. Accessed 12/01/2015.



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### HOW CAN MY BAND APPLY TO PARTICIPATE? WHEN CAN I APPLY? WHERE CAN I FIND AN APPLICATION?

You will need to submit an application in order to be considered for parade participation. The Joint Task Force National Capital Region (JTF-NCR) will make the parade application available on the World Wide Web shortly after election day. The web address for the application differs every four years. The Music Celebrations International website will have a link to the application when it is online.

We recommend monitoring the following website for updates:

- Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies
- Joint Task Force National Capital Region
- Music Celebrations International Presidential Inaugural Parade Page

**Requests to participate in Inauguration Day events are always best received when sponsored by your local U.S. congressional representative, U.S. senator, or state governor.**

### WHEN WILL I FIND OUT IF I'M ACCEPTED?

Following Election Day in November, it is standard for the JTF-NCF to release the parade applications to the Presidential Inaugural Committee (PIC), and the PIC will then review and decide upon the status of each applicant. Status notifications are customarily delivered between 3-6 weeks following Election Day.

### WHAT CAN I DO TODAY TO INCREASE MY ODDS OF BEING ACCEPTED?

- Contact your local Congressperson via email, letter and phone (and, if possible, try to visit him or her in person), informing them of your intent to apply to the parade and represent your respective state. Let them know how important it would be to their community and constituents if your band were accepted.
- Contact your U.S. Senators with the same information.
- Urge friends, fans, students and alumni to call and e-mail your senators, congressperson and governor to endorse your band's participation.
- Create a web page and/or Facebook page stressing the band's parade experience, awards and accolades. Use it in your promotional efforts.
- Send each presidential campaign a promotional packet on your band, letting them know how much you support their efforts in running for President and how you would proudly represent the ideals that formed and have given strength to America. Make yourself known!
- Start fundraising now! Waiting until after your band has been selected, which at times has been as late as mid-December of the election year, may be a disastrous decision. **It would be regretful to be accepted to one of the world's most prestigious parades and in turn not be able to participate due to lack of foreplanning.** Consider using social networking sites such as Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, to connect with your community and help with fundraising efforts.



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Following application submission, Music Celebrations International (MCI) recommends that bands prepare a robust fundraising and logistical campaign in the case of acceptance. Once a band has been notified of acceptance, it will have no more than 2-4 weeks to prepare logistics, and submit all funds to vendors for travel, meals, and accommodations. Having a plan in place is critical to a band's successful venture to Washington, D.C. to participate in the parade. **Many bands have not planned accordingly, and have had to forfeit their acceptance in the event. Don't let this be you!**

Hotels within the vicinity of the inaugural activities know they may be able to charge an exorbitant premium for their rooms during the days leading up to the event, and many will require a minimum length stay at their properties – often two or three nights. Therefore, to adhere to these restrictions and to maximize a band's use of time in Washington, MCI recommends a three-day travel package including educational sightseeing, guided visits to the Smithsonian and other museums, various monuments, a private wreath-laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery, and other activities that provide visiting bands an awe-inspiring exposure to our nation's history, institutions of government, modern civics, and heritage.

### **CAN ANYONE APPLY TO THE PARADE ON MY BAND'S BEHALF?**

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Unfortunately, no. Applications to all inaugural events must be submitted and authorized by the organization that wishes to participate. That said, Music Celebrations International (MCI) has years of experience with inaugural applications, different as they may be every four years, and will be able to assist you completing your application.

### **WHY SHOULD I USE MUSIC CELEBRATIONS INTERNATIONAL'S SERVICES?**

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MCI is well equipped to handle all travel arrangements for your marching band. MCI has historically assisted many of the marching units in each of the Presidential Inaugural Day Parades. This is due to the following reasons:

1. MCI organizes both the National Independence Day Parade and National Memorial Day Parade annually in Washington, D.C. – two of the largest parades not only in the nation's capital, but in the United States. Because of this, **no other travel agency in the world has the experience of moving large marching bands in our nation's capital with ease as does Music Celebrations International.**
2. With former band directors and band managers on staff, MCI can expertly handle all logistical arrangements while in Washington, D.C. MCI's mastery in dealing with security details, road closures, assembly and disbursal area protocol, interfacing with Department of Defense personnel, credentials, government permits, and a myriad of other details, make MCI the perfect partner to make your experience in the Presidential Inaugural Parade a great success.
3. Perhaps above all, due to the beneficial relationships MCI has developed over the years with hotel properties in and around the District of Columbia, no other operator in the country has the ability to secure large blocks of hotel space, and no other operator has the leverage to negotiate the best rates.



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We'd like to thank you for taking the time to read the 2025 Presidential Inaugural Parade Fact Sheet! We hope you've found some value in it and can use it as a guide to help you in the process of applying, and hopefully being accepted, to the event.

To learn even more about the Presidential Inaugural Parade, or to address any questions you may still have, please feel welcome to contact us anytime and we'll be glad to help. Here's where you can find us:

Website: [musiccelebrations.com](http://musiccelebrations.com) | email: [info@musiccelebrations.com](mailto:info@musiccelebrations.com)



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