

## The Days of '47 Inc. Parade Entry Statement

2014



THE DAYS OF '47, INC.  
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2014

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The Days of '47, Inc. is a decades-old Utah corporation, founded in 1943, with historical roots going back to 1849 when the first celebration was held. Among its purposes are the promotion of the pioneering spirit through celebration of the accomplishments of the Utah pioneers who settled the Great Salt Lake Valley in 1847 and thereafter, the pioneers who settled other parts of the Western United States during the mid-1800s, and the pioneers of today whose vision has led to new innovations, progress, industry and excellence that uplifts and benefits humanity.

The organization provides to the public opportunities to attend and participate in activities, events and functions that include rodeos, horse parades, children's parades, art shows, dances, pageants and historical reenactments. The objective of those events is provide a non-partisan celebratory atmosphere each July to allow residents of Utah and the Intermountain West to reflect on the sacrifices of those who settled what is now Utah and to consider how those sacrifices might best be remembered.

The position of The Days of '47, Inc. has always been to provide wholesome events, currently nine in all, that are non-controversial, with The Days of '47 Parade adhering to the strict standards and guidelines as outlined in the requirements of entry contained in the Parade application. These guidelines have evolved over the decades to promote that objective. The current version can be found in the Parade Entry Application and Parade Entry Information documents. These documents can be found at [www.daysof47.com](http://www.daysof47.com).

The guidelines are meant to discourage unqualified or unsafe entries and may also deny entry to those that apply which are deemed political or controversial, that advocate a position or agenda, or support illegal activity as described in General Standards, paragraph 1. The purpose of the guidelines is to ensure that the purposes of the organization are always the central theme of the Parade and are not diluted by sub-themes which are not congruent with the purposes of the organization or are considered inappropriate.

The Days of '47, Inc. Parade Committee has handled this application process for some 70 years or better; and so far this year approximately five applications have been denied.

*Pioneers – Pushing Toward Our Future!*

The entry proposed by Mormons Building Bridges was rejected because the Parade Committee's review determined that the proposed entry does not meet the outlined criteria as noted in the General Standards referred to above. The General Standards were not developed with any specific group in mind but were developed to ensure that the principal message of the Parade, the celebration of our pioneer history, is a singular and clear message.

The Days of '47 strives to maintain a fun, energetic and celebratory environment that is free of polarizing and controversial issues. It is the organization's intent to create that same environment this year.

We are disappointed by the fact that Mormons Building Bridges feels unfairly treated by the Parade Committee's decision. But, the Parade Committee determined that the group's purposes, as stated on their website, are advocacy of a position other than the theme of the Parade, and their proposed entry could be considered controversial. The Parade Committee was concerned that, by granting entry to Mormons Building Bridges, they could become obligated to grant similar privileges to opposing organizations and might then be required to grant entries to advocates of any number of other issues or any number of political candidates. The Parade Committee was concerned that the core message of the Parade would become lost in the process. The Parade Committee did not want to set a precedent that it would not be able to follow in the future. The potential consequences for this traditional Utah event are great.

We understand that some people feel that the rejection or denial of an application might convey approval or disapproval of a sponsoring group's purposes. We make no judgment related to their purposes, with the exception of considering whether the application is consistent with the General Standards outlined in the Parade Entry Application.

The Parade is not the appropriate venue for the advocacy of issues that are not related to the purposes of The Days of '47, Inc. We wish Mormons Building Bridges success in their efforts to advocate for their cause, but, after careful deliberation, the Parade Committee declined their application for the reasons outlined above.