



April 9, 2016



VIP & SWU  
In Sparks Parking Lot

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## What do we expect?

Here we stage both VIP entries and also Small Walking Units.

Puyallup's mayor & council will ride in or walk with the city's tiny fire truck.

- A. The "teacher of the year" nominated by each princess will again ride in a Mustang. Those cars are told to arrive via 5<sup>th</sup> Street SW and make a right turn on 7<sup>th</sup> Ave SW to enter the Sparks Stadium Lot. Expect 24 cars.
- B. We get some unique & unusual units in this staging area. These are units that do not fit into easy descriptions such as float, band or horse. They get names such as Small Walking Units or Special Units.
- C. A few car clubs might be invited to be in the parade as filler between bands as we get near the end of the parade. When you have room in the Sparks Stadium lot, please call Chris Kucklick (253) 845-2345.

## What is the same?

1. Many participants are told to park at 1<sup>st</sup> Christian and walk to your site. **If participants have support vehicles that must depart from your lot for Sumner before the parade ends, we suggest you get them out of Sparks Stadium before the parade begins. They can [a] park at First Christian Church 623 9<sup>th</sup> Ave SW. or [b] [park on West Main Ave near Sound Transit parking lot.**
3. Participants departing Sparks will be merged with units that stage on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue right in front of Sparks.
4. Should an emergency vehicle need to use 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW, your crew will be responsible to clear a space on 7<sup>th</sup> by moving participants to the curb and sidewalks.
5. Drivers should be told that when these vehicles get to the starting line, they should move to the footprint format. Vehicle 1 uses right lane, vehicle 2 uses left lane keeping front bumper equal to rear bumper of #1. Then vehicle 3 is again in right lane with front bumper equal to rear bumper of #2 etc. To get every unit on TV we must keep the parade moving & we must avoid gaps between entries.
6. We will have a team of volunteers assigned to get band students to cross 7<sup>th</sup> Ave near the blinking light at 5<sup>th</sup> Street SW. Band members should enter and exit Sparks at the gates nearest the blinking light.

## What is the dream?

SPARKS STADIUM LOT:

- A. We think we have plenty of space here for all your varied needs. Parade volunteers should park at the extreme east end of Sparks parking lot.
- B. Drivers transporting small walking units should park near the volunteers
- C. VIP vehicles that will be in parade will line up at west end of lot so they can exit the same gate as bands.

## What were the participant's instructions?

1. School buses and their support vehicles will park in Red Lot and participants will assemble inside Sparks Stadium. Buses enter Red Lot via gate on 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW.
2. Drivers transporting small walking units were told to park at First Christian. But we expect some will arrive at your staging area. Try to park them here.
3. VIP units and Special units were told to arrive at Spark's parking lot by using 5<sup>th</sup> Street SW turning right onto 7<sup>th</sup> Ave SW.
4. Small walking units with animals should assemble in the Sparks parking lot.
5. Small walking units with props like library carts or weed whackers assemble in the Sparks parking lot with the VIP's. They were told to line up with floats this year, but that is different than they were told in past years. Some will just return to the same spot as last year. Just deal with it.
6. The typical small walking unit will come directly from Tacoma and park at 1<sup>st</sup> Christian Church. The typical VIP vehicles should enter the gate in the middle of the Sparks lot. You should stage them in parade order.

## What does our volunteer do?

- A. Create Separate zones in Sparks lot:
  - a. Volunteers – Far East
  - b. Drivers of Support Vehicles: Middle (see "What is the same" item 1 on reverse side of this page)
  - c. Parade participants Far West
- B. Stage units into parade order. The volunteers inside Sparks Stadium are responsible to get participants to the gate that separates stadium from parking lot. Here you take over.
  - a. You will assemble the parking lot participants into parade order.
  - b. You will merge the bands, the VIP's and small walking units before they enter onto 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW into parade order.
  - c. Floats assemble on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW. We can merge with bands & VIP units inside the Sparks Parking Lot, then merge again with floats as they enter street. The good news is that you have an entire block on 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue SW between gate and 5<sup>th</sup> street SW to "fix" mistakes.
  - d. Other than "fixing mistakes" remember we need to keep a fire lane open all along 7<sup>th</sup> Ave SW.
- C. **Before they depart the VIP lot, remind drivers that cars will travel down the road in "footsteps". Use both lanes keeping front bumper close to rear bumper of car ahead. This is the longest parade ever. We are trying to keep the time short by condensing space.**