

# Independence Sicilian Heritage Festival

## Downtown Independence, Louisiana

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**Saturday, March 14th, 2026**

The Independence Sicilian Heritage Festival invites you to participate in its annual parade on Saturday, March 14th, 2026! We are celebrating our 18th year of the Independence Sicilian Heritage Festival! This year our parade theme is **"Making Groceries-Sicilian Style"**! The parade will begin at **10:00 AM sharp**, with formation on Marretta St. behind Independence High School. The parade will start at the corner of Marretta St. and Tiger Ave. and continue along the city approved route. **Check in time begins at 9:00 AM.** The registration table will be located at the north end of Marretta St. *Please note: Hwy 51 will be closed to through traffic. Plan your entry into Independence accordingly!*

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### **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

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1. **APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY Wednesday, March 11, 2026.**
2. There will be **NO REFUND** on any application fees paid.
3. This year's theme is "Making Groceries-Sicilian Style"! As we celebrate 18 years of our festival, we encourage all entries to include Italian music and decorate their floats to reflect the old, local grocery store, and groceries Sicilian theme. **BE CREATIVE!**
4. Prize plaques will be awarded as follows: 1st Place for Best Decorated Float; 1st Place for Best Decorated Vehicle; 1st Place for Best Marching Group. Judges will be chosen by The Independence Sicilian Heritage Festival. Entries will be judged on appearance, creativity, enthusiasm, and relevance to the theme.
5. Entries are to line up on Marretta St. via E 6th St. where they will be assigned a number that is to be taken to the registration table.
6. Entries **must check in** at the **registration table** at the North end of Marretta St.
7. Entry numbers will be provided on a first-come first-served basis. Affix numbers on front **RIGHT** side of entry.
8. Parade participants will maintain numerical order and should not trade with other entries.
9. Parade sponsors reserve the right to remove any inappropriate float(s) or people from participating in the parade.
10. When in motion, parade participants must maintain fifty (50) feet between entries.
11. Each parade entry **must** complete a "Waiver, Indemnification and Release of Liability Agreement".
12. Control of motorized vehicles and animals must be maintained at all times.
13. No Animals
14. Living entities on floats must be secured.
15. Sound entries will maintain volume not to interfere with other entries. **Italian music is encouraged!**
16. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by an adult.
17. No consumption of alcoholic beverages while in the parade or in the staging area.
18. All parade participants must follow the direction of parade staff.
19. **The Independence Sicilian Heritage Festival is family oriented. You will be asked to leave and be disqualified for vulgar/ inappropriate behavior.**

**I hereby acknowledge that I have read the Rules and Regulations and agree to the above terms and certify that I am an authorized representative of the participant:**



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## Downtown Independence, Louisiana

Mail all required documentation to: **Independence Sicilian Festival Attn. Ashley Hill**  
**P.O. Box 457, Independence, LA 70443**

Documentation should include: 1. Signed Rules Acknowledgment, 2. Application form, 3. Signed Waiver, 4. Proof of Insurance for parade vehicle (copy), 5. Driver's License of Parade Driver (copy)

### WAIVER, INDEMNIFICATION AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT

**FOR GOOD AND VALUABLE CONSIDERATION**, including permission to participate in the *Annual Independence Sicilian Heritage Festival Parade and any related activities*, hereafter known as "**Event**": *The affiliates, employees, volunteers, and any participants associated with \_\_\_\_\_ (name of Organization)*, hereafter known as "**Participant**", agrees to the following conditions, which shall apply to *The Independence Sicilian Heritage Festival, the Town of Independence, its related entities, including sponsors of the event, their officers, directors, employees and volunteers*, hereafter known as "**Sponsor**":

1. Upon arrival at **Event**, **Participant** will inspect the facilities, equipment and areas to be used, and, if believed to be unsafe, will immediately advise the supervisor of **Event**;
2. **Participant** acknowledges and has informed its affiliates that **Event** may involve risk of serious injury or death, including economic losses which may result not only from **Participants'** actions, inactions, or negligence, but also from the actions, inactions, or negligence of others, and the condition of the facilities, equipment, or areas where the **Event** being conducted;
3. **Participant** assumes any and all risks of personal injuries to **Participant**, including, but not limited to, medical or hospital bills, permanent or partial disability, death, and damage to property, caused by or arising from participation in **Event**;
4. **Participant** covenants not to sue or present any claim for personal injury property damage, or wrongful death against **Sponsor**;
5. Releases, waives, discharges and relinquishes **Sponsor** from any liability, loss damage, claim, demand or cause of action arising from or attributable negligence;
6. **Participant** acknowledges that photographs, pictures, slides, movies, or videos will be taken in connection with **Event**, *without* compensation by **Sponsor** to **Participant** and such media may be used for any legal purpose;
7. **Participant** warrants that all individuals affiliated with **Participant** are in good health and have no physical condition that would prevent such individuals from participating in this **Event**;
8. **Participant** acknowledges that **Sponsor** is not a joint sponsor, partner, or otherwise jointly engaged in the **Participant's** activities at the **Event**.

**PARTICIPANT** SHALL INDEMNIFY AND DEFEND AND HOLD HARMLESS, THE **SPONSOR** FROM ANY AND ALL LOSS, CLAIM, DAMAGE, COST, ALLEGATION AND EXPENSE (INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, ATTORNEY'S FEES AND COSTS OF SUIT) ARISING DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FROM THE **EVENT**. BY SIGNING BELOW, **PARTICIPANT** IS REPRESENTING THAT IT HAS COMPREHENSIVE GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE IN THE TYPES AND AMOUNTS THAT WOULD BE SUFFICIENT TO COVER COSTS DESCRIBED HEREIN AND ARISING FROM **PARTICIPANT'S** ACTIVITIES AT OR RELATED TO THE **EVENT**. THIS DOCUMENT RELIEVES THE **SPONSOR** FROM LIABILITY FOR PERSONAL INJURY, WRONGFUL DEATH, AND PROPERTY DAMAGE CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE.

**THE PERSON SIGNING BELOW IS AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF PARTICIPANT.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
SIGNATURE

\_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

\_\_\_\_\_  
PRINTED NAME

\_\_\_\_\_  
TITLE/GROUP

For questions or information please e-mail [parade@indysicilianfest.com](mailto:parade@indysicilianfest.com) or call Ashley Hill @ 985-351-4954