

# Independence Sicilian Heritage Festival

## Downtown Independence, Louisiana



**Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The Independence Sicilian Heritage Festival invites you to participate in its annual parade on Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025! We are celebrating our 17th year of the Independence Sicilian Heritage Festival! This year our parade theme is "Bringing it Back in Time-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 by order of the Louisiana Department of Transportation. Plan your entry into Independence accordingly!

### **RULES AND REGULATIONS**

1. **APPLICATIONS ARE DUE BY Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025.**
2. There will be **NO REFUND** on any application fees paid.
3. This year's theme is "Bringing it Back in Time-Sicilian Style"! As we celebrate 17 years of our festival, we encourage all entries to include Italian music and decorate their floats to reflect an old Sicilian theme.. **BE CREATIVE!**
4. Prize plaques will be awarded as follows: 1<sup>st</sup> Place for Best Decorated Float; 1<sup>st</sup> Place for Best Decorated Vehicle; 1<sup>st</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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 left 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. All animals must be on a leash, lead, or rein. Owner(s) of all animals (including mounted horse entries) must provide their own cleanup crew equipped with their own appropriate scooper and broom.
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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SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

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

GROUP \_\_\_\_\_

**“Bringing it Back in Time-Sicilian Style” : Saturday, March 8th, 2025**

### PARADE ENTRY APPLICATION FORM (Registration Deadline is Wednesday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025)

ORGANIZATION NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

CONTACT PERSON: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

NUMBER OF ENTRIES: \_\_\_\_\_ NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS \_\_\_\_\_

#### Entry fees:

- School Participation- NO CHARGE
- Non-political- \$25.00
- Floats- \$50.00
- Political- \$75.00

PARADE CLASS: (PLEASE CIRCLE ONE)

- |                        |                       |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. BAND – MUSIC GROUP  | 4. BUSINESS           | 7. COLOR GUARD  |
| 2. DANCE GROUPS        | 5. DECORATED VEHICLES | 8. INDIVIDUALS  |
| 3. CLUBS-ORGANIZATIONS | 6. MOUNTED GROUP      | 9. OTHER: _____ |

(PLEASE CIRCLE ONE) CAR TRUCK BUS FLATBED WALKERS MOUNTED BICYCLES

Parade entries will be announced to the public. Please supply a maximum of 4 total lines of information about your entry for the announcers. Due to announcing time constraints, information longer than 4 total lines will be edited to fit in the allotted space.

**ENTRIES NOT SUBMITTING ANNOUNCEMENT INFORMATION WILL RECEIVE NAME ONLY RECOGNITION IN THE PARADE.**

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- ENTRY FEES: By March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025

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Mail all required documentation to: **Independence Sicilian Festival Attn. Carlie Vaccaro 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.**

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SIGNATURE

DATE

PRINTED NAME

TITLE/GROUP

For questions or information please e-mail [info@indysicilianfest.com](mailto:info@indysicilianfest.com) or call Carlie Vaccaro @ 985-974-7860