

Summer Parades

Does your community have a summer parade? Many communities hold an annual parade as part of their Canada Day or more general summer festivities. If you would like your library to participate in this event – to advertise library services or raise awareness of your summer reading program – Shortgrass is able to support you by providing our Summer Reading banner, our branded Dodge Caravan, and a Shortgrass driver.

Parade Scheduling

You will be asked early in the spring – typically April or May – if there will be a parade in your community and whether you would like us to help you participate. Please note that while we only have one “outreach” vehicle to drive in the parade, if your parade falls on the same day as another community’s, we may be able to join you as walkers with our summer banner.

Parade Options

Shortgrass has one vehicle that can be used for the parade- the Dodge Caravan. This vehicle can only be driven by Shortgrass staff. We also have a large banner that can be carried, either on its own or ahead of the vehicle.

Libraries will need to supply any candy to be distributed to the crowd; any decorations for the vehicle; and any additional staff that are needed to carry the banner/pass out candy/etc.

Parade Staffing

Shortgrass provides the vehicle or banner, and one staff member. Our presence is minimal, as this is about your community! We will require at least one staff person, board member, or volunteer from your library to be available at the time of the parade to set up, ride in the van with Shortgrass staff (or walk alongside it), and clean up after the event. Your representative will not be responsible for driving the parade float. For insurance reasons, we are unable to allow you to drive a Shortgrass vehicle.

Additional staff/volunteers are encouraged, and may be required if you want to use the banner as well as the vehicle.

Parade Float Decoration

Shortgrass is not able to fully decorate our vehicle, due to the risk of damages. No adhesives may be used on the vehicle’s exterior. If you wish to decorate the van, you can do so by hanging balloons, streamers, etc., from the van’s side mirrors, or from the windows. Please speak to the Client Services Librarian when booking a parade if you have further questions.