

Build a Junior Parade Float!

The Basic Framework

Base:

- A float must have a solid foundation on which to build the design and to which you can attach wheels. Plywood, at least ½ in. thick, is recommended.

Wheels:

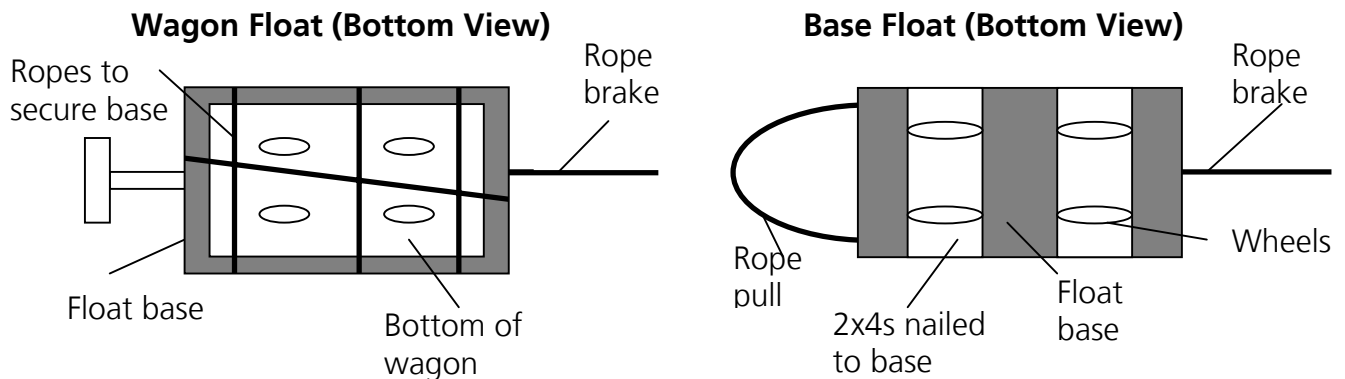
- Attach your base board to a little red wagon or a furniture dolly. The easiest way to do this is to drill holes on either side of your base board according to the width and length of your wagon or dolly. Then use a cord or rope to secure the base to float. (Please note: A more secure arrangement may be needed if you plan to carry riders on your float.)
- Nail a 2x4 to your base, and attach wheels to directly that. Wheels should be in proportion to the size and weight of your float.

Steering:

- Your float will need a handle to push or pull it. You may use the wagon's handle, or create a simple horseshoe rope handle by attaching either end of a rope securely to the underside of the float, near the front.

Brakes:

- Because most of the Junior Parade route is downhill, your float should also have 'brakes' or a way to slow down. The simplest 'brake' is another rope at the back of the float that is held by one of your parade marchers.



Design & Shape

- Remember, wagons and dollies can turn sharply, or even flip—so use caution in how high you build your float.
- Simple designs often make the best floats! Pick something that is meaningful to your group or relates to the Rose Festival or the city of Portland. (Please remember to read our Junior Parade rules, and avoid content that contains religious, social or political messaging.)
- Also, keep in mind that your creation will need to be transported to the Junior Parade Formation Area from wherever you are building it. You may want to work on different pieces of the float, then assemble them on-site parade morning. Remember, you will not have access to electricity in the formation area, so bring battery-powered tools, or have pieces that can be secured with a hammer and nails.

Here are some materials that will help you create your design:

- PVC Pipe. Small diameter pipe can be bent into circles or arches. Larger pipe can be secured into squares, rectangles or triangles with elbow joints. A simple saw can cut through most PVC Pipe.
- Chicken Wire. Chicken wire can be bent into lots of shapes, then stuffed or covered with paper or plastic.
- Cardboard boxes. All shapes and sizes can be useful, from shoeboxes to large appliance boxes. Stores or warehouses may have empty boxes available.
- Wood.
- Lattice and fencing pieces.

Decorations

Let your imagination run wild! Visit thrift stores, dollar stores and party stores and keep your eyes open for inexpensive ways to make your float colorful and festive.

- Flowers! Both real and silk flowers are pretty and colorful on floats.
- Paint. Cover cardboard or wood with paint to add color.
- Other Natural Materials. Copy the pros! Cover your painted surfaces with natural materials of the same color, such as coffee beans, rice, seeds or leaves.
- Crepe paper or tissue paper. Festive and effective (but not very rain-proof).
- Plastic tablecloths. These can be cut into fringe, gathered into flower shapes or spread over large surfaces.
- Indoor/outdoor carpeting.
- Balloons.
- Aluminum foil.
- Colored plastic wrap.
- Fabric.

Ideas

- Hook wagons together to create a train, snake, worm, or other multiple-piece float
- Build your base across two side-by-side wagons or dollies to create a wider float
- Use a large appliance box to create a big car, boat or other solid float. Cut out window shapes, attach 'fins' to a 50s car, etc.
- Use cardboard cut-outs or boxes of different sizes to imitate famous Portland landmarks or the city skyline
- Use chicken wire or cardboard to create a person or dress form, then decorate it in a cultural costume
- Use chicken wire or cardboard to develop a giant rose or other flower

Use Caution

Always remember to use caution and common sense when building and using your float. The Portland Rose Festival is not responsible for any actions arising from the use of these ideas or instructions.