

## Wawa Welcome America, Inc. Announces Festival Schedule for Philadelphia's 16-Day July 4th Festival During the Nation's 250th Celebration Year

*Wawa Welcome America returns with beloved fan favorites and new experiences as Philadelphia takes center stage in America's Semiquincentennial*

Philadelphia, PA (February 5, 2026) – [Wawa Welcome America, Inc.](#) today announced the initial schedule for the 2026 [Wawa Welcome America](#) festival, Philadelphia's annual July Fourth celebration. In honor of the nation's 250th anniversary, the 16-day festival will feature historic firsts and signature programming, plus more to be announced.

New for 2026, the **Salute to Independence Semiquincentennial Parade will feature** representation from all 50 U.S. states and territories and will follow a new and expanded route. The festival will also feature **six nights of fireworks**, the most ever presented as part of Wawa Welcome America. Beloved fan-favorite traditions will also return, including the **Juneteenth Block Party**, Concilio's Annual **Hispanic Fiesta**, **Wawa Hoagie Day**, **Gospel on Independence**, **Free Museum Days**, **Pops on Independence**, the **July 4<sup>th</sup> Concert and Fireworks**, among many others.

### **New in 2026:**

Wawa Welcome America's **Salute to Independence Semiquincentennial Parade** is a favorite tradition of the festival every year and is returning in 2026 as **the largest professionally produced Semiquincentennial celebration parade in the country**. Taking place on July 3 at 11:00am, the parade will feature 250 elements representing all 50 states and U.S. territories, including all 52 Miss America state and territory titleholders representing their home state or territory with thematic elements. The parade will also include 50 marching bands, 13 floats, military elements, special units, and historical elements, as well as international groups from countries around the globe – all traveling through the very streets where the nation's independence was born 250 years ago.

The parade will debut an expanded route this year, beginning at 5th and Chestnut Streets and passing Independence Hall before continuing down Market Street, circling City Hall, traveling along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and around Logan Circle, and returning toward Market Street City Hall before concluding at Broad and Chestnut Streets.

For the first time in festival history, Wawa Welcome America will include **six nights of fireworks**. Fireworks will take place June 20-21 at a new event to be announced soon, June 25 at the Celebration of Black Music Month, June 26 at the Kidchella Music Festival, June 27 at Waterfront Concert, and of course, on July 4 following the star-studded concert on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

### **Returning Fan-Favorite Events:**

**The Annual Juneteenth Block Party at the African American Museum** in Philadelphia is an unforgettable celebration of freedom and culture in partnership with Wawa Welcome America and Visit Philadelphia. All are welcome to unite to celebrate freedom through live musical performances, shop Black-owned businesses, savor delicious local eateries, and experience fun for the whole family!

More details including performers and activities to be announced. *\*Time subject to change*  
Friday, June 19, 12:00pm –7:00pm, African American Museum in Philadelphia, 7th & Arch Street

**The Five Points Night Market** – Experience the energy of the Five Points Night Market, a vibrant celebration bringing food, music, and community pride to Rising Sun Avenue. Enjoy

delicious eats from food trucks, shop local vendors, and take in live performances, summer fun, and activities for all ages—all in one lively neighborhood gathering you won't want to miss.  
Wednesday, June 24, 5:00pm-9:00pm Cottman & Rising Sun Avenue

**Celebration of Black Music Month + Fireworks** – Celebrate Black Music Month, which was founded in Philadelphia, during a special evening curated by music legend Dyana Williams. Enjoy powerful performances highlighting musical styles pioneered by Black artists, along with food, fun activities, and a dazzling fireworks finale at the iconic Dell Music Center. **Headlining performer to be announced.**

Thursday, June 25, 4:00pm – 9:00pm, The Dell Music Center, 2400 Strawberry Mansion Drive, Philadelphia, PA, 19132

**Kidchella Music Festival + Fireworks** – Dance, play, create! Kids of all ages can enjoy this free music festival featuring dynamic performances, art stations, mouthwatering treats, exciting giveaways, and more! This vibrant celebration will take place on Smith's spacious front lawn, promising a comfortable and scenic experience. It's not just a concert; it's a community celebration. The evening will conclude with a kid-tastic fireworks display!

Friday, June 26, 4:00pm-9:00pm, Smith Memorial Playground and Playhouse, 3500 Reservoir Drive

**Concilio's Annual Hispanic Fiesta** – Celebrate culture, community, and tradition at Concilio's Annual Hispanic Fiesta at LOVE Park. Experience a high-energy festival filled with live music, dynamic dance performances, top food trucks, and family-friendly attractions that showcase the rich diversity and vibrant spirit of Philadelphia's Hispanic community — all in the heart of the city. **Headlining performer to be announced.**

Saturday, June 27, 2:00pm - 9:00pm, LOVE Park, 16th Street & JFK Boulevard

**Patriotic Concert & Spectacular Waterfront Fireworks** – Celebrate summer with a high-energy patriotic concert, followed by a thrilling fireworks display over the Delaware River Waterfront. **Performer to be announced.**

Saturday, June 27, 8:00pm - 10:00pm, Independence Blue Cross RiverRink

**Gospel on Independence** will return for yet another moving and soul-stirring performance on Independence Mall with Independence Hall in the background. This powerful celebration of gospel music will bring together an incredible lineup of local artists, choirs, and musicians for a night of uplifting performances you won't want to miss. **Headlining performer to be announced.**

Sunday, June 28, 7:00pm - 9:00pm, Independence National Historical Park at 6th & Market Streets

**Wawa Hoagie Day®** — Join Wawa for historic Hoagie Day, honoring local heroes, building and serving Wawa Shorti Hoagies, and a performance by Voices of Service. Hoagies will be served FREE at Noon, on Arch Street between 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, followed by a free concert from the U.S. Airforce Heritage of America Band on Independence Mall. Guests can also enjoy free admission all day to the National Constitution Center courtesy of Wawa.

Wednesday, July 1, 12:00pm, Arch Street between 5th & 6th Streets at Independence Mall

**Red, White, & Blue To-Do** – The Philadelphia Historic District 250th Committee presents the 2026 Red, White, & Blue To-Do celebration to take place on July 2, commemorating a day of “pomp and parade,” as declared by John Adams in 1776, encouraging visitors to celebrate independence in the place where it all began. A vibrant display of patriotic celebration, Red, White, & Blue To-Do brings together museums, historic sites, and local businesses in America's most historic square mile to honor the nation's founding. The day begins with bell ringings, museum and historic site openings, and a flag-raising ceremony with Betsy Ross, followed by

the **Red, White, & Blue To-Do Pomp & Parade** featuring whimsical red wagon floats, drill teams, cultural dance troupes, and families representing the diversity of the city. As the parade concludes, free fun ensues with an **All-American Block Party** full of music, games, food, and family-friendly activities, plus highlights from Historic District attractions. The afternoon and evening feature a culturally diverse lineup of free street musical performances at **Red, White, & Blue To-Do Independence Folk Festival** at locations throughout the Historic District. The evening also includes festive happy hour specials and extended hours and special events at historic attractions. The evening concludes with Wawa Welcome America's Salute to Service featuring The United States Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus on Independence Mall.  
Thursday, July 2, 9:00am - 9:00pm, Historic District, various locations

**Salute to Service: The United States Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus** – The U.S. Army Field Band & Soldiers' Chorus return to Independence Mall with a rousing performance honoring our Soldiers and Veterans, while showcasing the talented musicians and artists in the Army. Headlining performer to be announced.  
Thursday, July 2, 7:00pm - 9:00pm, Independence National Historical Park at 6th & Market Streets

**Pops on Independence** – Celebrate the 250th anniversary of America with the Philly Pops at Independence Mall. Enjoy a patriotic evening of live orchestral music, favorite tunes, and festive cheer in the heart of Philadelphia's historic district. **Headlining performer to be announced.**  
Friday, July 3, 7:00pm - 9:00pm Independence National Historical Park at 6th & Market Streets

**July Fourth in Philadelphia** will once again begin with the **Celebration of Freedom Ceremony** outside of Independence Hall at 10:00am, honoring America's 250th anniversary in the very place where it all happened. Be part of this historic milestone in Philadelphia's iconic historic district!

And then later on in the day, celebrate the grand finale of the Wawa Welcome America festival at the **July 4th Concert + Fireworks!** Enjoy an unforgettable night of world-class musical performances, followed by a spectacular fireworks display lighting up the city skyline—an iconic celebration in the birthplace of America.

Time: Gates Open: 5:00 PM, Concert: 7:00 PM, Fireworks: 10:00 PM

Location: Benjamin Franklin Parkway

**Welcome America is excited to announce more in the coming months, including new festival events and additional programming and details, and of course, the 2026 July 4th Concert headlining talent!**

*Event times and locations are subject to change.*

**Thank you to our sponsors:**

The annual Wawa Welcome America festival is produced in partnership with the City of Philadelphia, and made possible by the support from generous sponsors, including title partner Wawa, Comcast NBCUniversal and their local broadcast stations NBC10, Telemundo62, NBC Sports Philadelphia, Independence Blue Cross, Bank of America, American Airlines, Jefferson, VISIT PHILADELPHIA®, and Live Nation. Festival events and programming also made possible by The African American Museum in Philadelphia, PECO, Ensemble Arts Philly, iHeartMedia Philadelphia, Philly Pops, Rita's Italian Ice, Herr's Food Inc., Chaddsford Winery, Independence National Historical Park, Global Philadelphia, Historic Philadelphia, Independence Visitor Center Corporation, Smith Memorial Playground & Playhouse, PhillyGoes2College, The Dell Music Center, Pyrotechnico, Visual Infinity, Delaware River Waterfront Corporation, The W and Element Hotel Philadelphia, Zoe Grey, Influence Entertainment, Under the Sun Productions,

MTM Productions, Empress Luxury Events, D.E.B.S LLC, Innovative Catering Concepts, A Choir'd Taste, LLC, HiTouch, Roberts Event Group, Cashman & Associates, Chatterblast Media, AgileCat and Zeit House.

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## **PARADE ELEMENTS:**

### **ALABAMA**

Miss Alabama

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Mobile Azalea Trail Maids

Saraland, AL

For nearly a century, the Mobile Azalea Trail Maids have graced the country dressed in iconic pastel dresses that flutter like the azaleas.

Prattville High School Marching Band

Prattville, AL

"The Pride of Prattville" is an award-winning marching band from Alabama.

### **ALASKA**

Miss Alaska

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

### **ARIZONA**

Miss Arizona

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Sahuarita Mustang High School Band

Sahuarita, AZ

The Marching Mustangs are an entertaining Marching Band from Arizona.

### **ARKANSAS**

Miss Arkansas

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

### **CALIFORNIA**

Miss California

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Arcadia High School Marching Band & Colorguard

Arcadia, CA

The band has made 17 Rose Parade appearances.

### **COLORADO**

Miss Colorado

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

### **CONNECTICUT**

Miss Connecticut

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Colchester Continental Fife & Drum Corps

Hebron, CT

Originally formed in the late 1800s, the current look represents the late 1800s.

Marlborough JR Ancient Fife & Drum Corps

Hebron, CT

The group is made up of members from 8 to 18 dedicated to preserving the art of Fife & Drum Corps.

Mattatuck Drum Band

Cheshire, CT

The Mattatuck Drum Band is an American fife and drum corps organized in 1767 in Farmingbury, CT.

## **DELAWARE**

Miss Delaware

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

1st Delaware Regiment

Newark, DE

American Revolution Reenactment Unit/Living History Group.

Dance 4 Life School of the Arts Training

Wilmington, DE

The school harnesses the dynamic power of human creativity and fuses it with the structure and discipline of movement education.

First State Club

Milford, DE

The club has received multiple Governor's Youth Service Awards.

Lambda Car Club Delaware Valley

Wilmington, DE

A mix of classic and specialty vehicles belonging to members of the club.

Odessa High School Marching Band

Townsend, DE

Odessa High School has been a "Best Communities for Music Education" award winner since 2016.

## **DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

Miss District of Columbia

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Limitless Dancing Warriorettes

District Heights, MD

A faith-based, exclusive dance company offering community majorette, performance excellence and a fun line dance culture.

## **FLORIDA**

Miss Florida

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Second Time Arounders Marching Band

St Petersburg, FL

A vibrant community band that allows former high school and college musicians to continue performing together.

Godfather Limo

Christmas, FL

A 1932 Lincoln Limo.

SOS Warriors Community Marching Band

Riviera Beach, FL

The Marching Warriors are known for their sharp precision, creative field shows, and commanding stage presence.

Segway Riders Club of The Villages, FL

The Villages, FL

A group of Segway riders from The Villages in Florida.

## **GEORGIA**

Miss Georgia

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

## **HAWAII**

Miss Hawaii

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

**IDAHO**

Miss Idaho

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

**ILLINOIS**

Miss Illinois

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Cirques Experience

Chicago, IL

A circus troupe that rolls in German Wheels

Crystal Lake Strikers

Crystal Lake, IL

A marching percussion unit that plays along with popular backing tracks.

**INDIANA**

Miss Indiana

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Ballet Mosaicos, Inc.

Indianapolis, IN

Ballet Folklorico Mosaicos performances provide the opportunity to share the dancers' Mexican cultural traditions and are the source of personal and cultural pride.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Motorcycle Drill Team

Indianapolis, IN

A Drill Team that consists of 18 motorcycle officers. 12 motorcycles carry a letter that can spell Indianapolis.

**IOWA**

Miss Iowa

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

**KANSAS**

Miss Kansas

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

**KENTUCKY**

Miss Kentucky

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

**LOUISIANA**

Miss Louisiana

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Louisiana LunaChicks

Monroe, LA

The group is made up of members in Mrs. Roper costumes, red wigs, and patriotic caftans. They are all things "3's Company".

The Amelia EarHawts & Cabin Krewe

New Orleans, LA

A Mardi Gras Dance Krewe in uniforms that reflect retro flight attendants.

**MAINE**

Miss Maine

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Sanford High School Marching Band

Sanford, ME

Gold Medal band at the 2025 Maine State Marching Band Finals.

Woodside One Wheelers

Topsham, ME

The group is comprised of unicycle riders and stilt walkers.

## **MARYLAND**

Miss Maryland

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

1903 Curved Dash Oldsmobile

Silver Spring, MD

1903 Curved Dash Oldsmobile

Falun Dafa Group

Bethesda, MD

The marching band also include dancers in traditional costumes and a traditional Waist Drum performance.

Gwynn Park High School Marching Band

Accokeek, MD

The Maryland band frequently performs nationally.

Kangaroo Kids Precision Jump Rope Team

Simpsonville, MD

The kids perform jump rope routines while marching in the parade.

National Fallen Firefighters Foundation

Waldorf, MD

Participate in national and local parades to raise awareness for the National Fallen Foundation.

On the Army's Strength

Sparrows Point, MD

A re-enactment organization.

Paint Branch HS Navy JROTC

Burtonsville, MD

Members compete in several events, including drill, orienteering, drone operations, marksmanship, and academic competitions.

Star Struck Superstars

Glenn Dale, MD

Majorette & Hip Hop Dancers performing with a vehicle mounted DJ.

## **MASSACHUSETTS**

Miss Massachusetts

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Massachusetts Army of 1775

Franklin, MA

Dressed to represent the citizen soldiers of the revolutionary war period.

New England Pride Colorguard

Woburn, MA

The group brings people together through the shared love of performance, creating community, sparking conversations, and reminding everyone that pride is something to be seen, heard, and felt.

## **MICHIGAN**

Miss Michigan

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Northern Lights Marching Band

Ada, MI

The marching band is made up of Homeschool students from Western Michigan. They perform at parades during the summer.

Petoskey Steel Drum Band

Petoskey, MI

The group performs on a trailer with 30,000 LED lights that are customized to hold steel drums, speakers, and a sound system.

### **MINNESOTA**

Miss Minnesota

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

KMS Marching Saints

Kerkhoven, MN

The Marching Saints have traveled to many distinct locations including Washington D.C. to march in the National Fourth of July Parade, and a 2016 trip to Hawaii to play for the 75th anniversary of Pearl Harbor.

### **MISSISSIPPI**

Miss Mississippi

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

### **MISSOURI**

Miss Missouri

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

### **MONTANA**

Miss Montana

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

### **NEBRASKA**

Miss Nebraska

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

### **NEVADA**

Miss Nevada

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Foothill High School Marching Band and Color Guard

Henderson, NV

The Falcon Marching Band is the largest band in Nevada with nearly 300 members.

### **NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Miss New Hampshire

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Red Star Twirlers

Derry, NH

Group is comprised of National Champions, as well as Miss Majorettes of New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

### **NEW JERSEY**

Miss New Jersey

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

13th Child Jeep Club

Blackwood, NJ

13c is dedicated to making a meaningful impact in local communities through various charitable initiatives while providing an inclusive, family-friendly atmosphere for every jeep enthusiast.

78th Army Band

JB-MDL, NJ

Band contains rows of soldiers marching in their dress uniform.

Honoring Those Who Serve

Lindenwold, NJ

A wrapped pick-up truck honoring POW and MIA veterans.

Kingsway Regional Marching Band and Alumni

Swedesboro, NJ

The band recently received the national championship in USBANDS Group IV-A

Long Branch High School Marching Band  
Long Branch, NJ  
Award winning marching band from Long Branch Nevada.

Mulford Dancers  
Mt. Ephraim, NJ  
The group has danced in numerous parades and events in the Northeast.

Ocean County Parks & Recreation Department  
Toms River, NJ  
The unit has a trailer wrapped in artwork related to the American Revolution, specifically Ocean County, New Jersey.

Perna Dance Center  
Hazlet, NJ  
The group has performed all over the country in countless events and parades.

Ridgewood High School Marching Band  
Ridgewood, NJ  
The Marching Band is the largest co-curricular activity at Ridgewood High School and has a well-earned reputation as one of the tri-state areas finest marching bands.

South Jersey Caribbean Festival  
Philadelphia, PA  
The group promotes Caribbean culture with colorful masquerade costume dancers and cultural performers.

Tournament of Bands All Stars Marching Band  
The band is made up from members of various high school bands that compete in Tournament of Bands events.

#### **NEW MEXICO**

Miss New Mexico  
Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

#### **NEW YORK**

Miss New York  
Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

New York Marching Band All State All Stars  
Syracuse, NY  
The band is made up top performers from various high school bands from New York State.

Port Chester High School Marching Band  
Port Chester, NY  
The "Pride of Port Chester" has performed at the Rose Parade and Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade.

#### **NORTH CAROLINA**

Miss North Carolina  
Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Salisbury High School Marching Band  
Salisbury, NC  
The music programs at SHS have a long and rich history dating back to 1927, when the school was founded as Boyden HS.

#### **NORTH DAKOTA**

Miss North Dakota  
Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

#### **OHIO**

Miss Ohio  
Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Alter High School Lancerettes  
Centerville, OH

The Lancerettes have Ohio's largest dance team.

Chapparells Baton & Drum Corp  
Akron, OH

Members in Chapparells twirl batons, flags, and play in a percussion band.

### **OKLAHOMA**

Miss Oklahoma

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Union High School Marching Band  
Tulsa, OK

The "Renegade Regiment" is a 12-time Bands of America Grand National Championship finalist.

### **OREGON**

Miss Oregon

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

### **PENNSYLVANIA**

Miss Pennsylvania

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Miss Philadelphia Teen  
Philadelphia, PA

The current Miss Philadelphia Teen.

1st Pennsylvania Reserve Volunteers Field Music Fife & Drum Corps  
Gettysburg, PA

The group performs period music that was important to the early U.S. Army.

28th Infantry Division Band  
Torrance, PA

The 28th Infantry Division Band is part of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard.

Antiqua and Barbuda Association of Philadelphia, Inc.  
Swarthmore, PA

The group will showcase the colors of their culture along with music.

Berlin Fife & Drum Corps  
Berlin, PA

Founded in 1782, the corps is noted for being the oldest, continuous corps of its type in the USA.

Caroline the Electric Carriage  
Philadelphia, PA

Philadelphia's first electric horseless carriage and the first e-carriage, to be introduced, in any major U.S. city.

Central York Middle School Fifes & Drums  
York, PA

The Central York Middle School Fifes & Drums exist as one of the only fife and drum corps in America which is part of a public-school music program.

Cheryl Chickey's All American Performing Arts Center  
Bethlehem, PA

Dancers & Baton Twirlers will perform in silver and red costumes.

Chinese Benevolent Association  
Philadelphia, PA

The marching group will perform with 100s of members in traditional dress.

Civil Air Patrol-Pennsylvania Wing Group 3  
Eddystone, PA

Established in 1941, Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is a public service organization chartered by Congress that functions both as a nonprofit and the civilian auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

Daughters of the American Revolution  
Blue Bell, PA  
They are a non-profit that preserves American history and securing America's future through better education.

Double "R" Twirlettes  
Peckville, PA  
Twirlers perform with batons with red, silver, and blue metallic streamers.

Fame Fire Company #3 Antique Pumper  
West Chester, PA  
The Company will pull an 1884 Silsby Hose Carriage wearing uniforms dating back to the 1800's.

Fantastic Fire Department  
Norristown, PA  
The Department has a fire truck that will fill the street with bubbles.

Filipino American Association of Philadelphia, Inc.  
Media, PA  
The group is ordained in colorful ethnic costumes and traditional attire.

Flying Dutchman Foundation  
Philadelphia, PA  
Special Needs parade marchers

Garrison Carida, Kyber Base and the Mav Oya'la Clan  
Philadelphia, PA  
A local Star Wars cosplay organization with movie accurate recreations and characters.

Gente De Venezuela  
Philadelphia, PA  
They bring cultural and professional development of the Venezuelan community in Philadelphia and promotes connections with other organizations and communities.

Helsel Tractor Restoration Antique Farm Tractors  
Woodbury, PA  
Group consists of four antique farm tractors restored to original condition.

Independence Fife & Drum Corps  
West Chester, PA  
They have performed for U.S. Presidents Gerald R. Ford and Jimmy Carter, Queen Elizabeth, the President of France.

Indiana County Fife and Drum Corps  
Clymer, PA  
The corps made up of students in grades 7-12 who reside within Indiana County and are learning how to perform American Fife and Drum music.

Korean American Association of Greater Philadelphia  
Elkins Park, PA  
They are twelve different Korean groups that serve the community.

Lancaster County Young Marines  
Lancaster, PA  
The Marines will be dressed in their BDUs and have an Iwa Jima Float pulled with pick-up truck.

Native Nations Dance Theater  
Philadelphia, PA  
Philadelphia's only Indigenous, professional touring dance company that was developed for the purpose of educating everyone about the existence of Native American artists in their community.

Montrose Marching Unit Alumni Band  
Great Bend, PA  
A large group of Montrose Marching Unit alumnus that have been performing together for years.

Off Road Anthem  
Levittown, PA  
Jeep crew decked out in red, white, and blue.

Office of The Philadelphia Sheriff  
Philadelphia, PA  
Philadelphia Sheriff Office Deputies and Honor Guard

Philadelphia Area Peace Corps Association  
Wilmington, DE  
PAPCA's Mission is to cultivate a community of RPCVs who preserve and promote the Peace Corps legacy of volunteerism, global citizenship, and cross-cultural understanding.

Philadelphia Freedom Band  
Philadelphia, PA  
The band comes together to perform throughout the greater Philadelphia area and provide visible, active support to the LGBTQ+ community.

Philadelphia Police Department Color Guard  
Philadelphia, PA  
Philadelphia Police Department Color Guard

Philadelphia Professional Football Cheerleaders Alumni  
Media, PA  
Alumni cheerleaders performing a routine respective of their time period.

Philly Cheer Elite  
Philadelphia, PA  
Philly Cheer Elite is an all-volunteer, non-profit cheerleading team that promotes EQUALITY and raises awareness for the LGBTQIA+ community in the Philly area!

Philly Fife and Drum Company  
Dresher, PA  
Members have traditional uniforms of the Continental Revolutionary War musician soldiers who wore reverse colors.

Project Capoeira  
Philadelphia, PA  
An organization that plays acoustic capoeira instruments.

Reading Buccaneers  
Reading, PA  
The Buccaneers are the country's best senior drum and bugle corps.

Smokey Bear-PA DCNR Bureau of Forestry  
Collegeville, PA  
A forestry brush engine with Smokey Bear.

Sons of the American Revolution  
Wallingford, PA  
They are a historic organization dedicated to promoting patriotism, education, and the preservation of American history.

Steel City Ambassadors Drum & Bugle Corps  
Gibsonia, PA  
Steel City performed its first field show in 32 years in 2024.

The Franklin High School Marching Band  
Franklin, PA  
The "Black Knight" Marching Band is one of the top traditional show style dance bands in the country.

The National Parks of Philadelphia Color Guard and Ranger Contingent  
Philadelphia, PA  
The National Parks of Philadelphia Color Guard and Ranger Contingent

The Third New Jersey Regiment  
Archbald, PA  
Participants will be clothed how most of the army appeared during the summer of 1776.

United Caribbean Association of Philadelphia  
Philadelphia, PA  
Non-profit Organization that highlights Caribbean countries with colorful costumes and music.

Upper Darby Marching Royals Marching Band  
Drexel Hill, PA  
An energetic marching band.

Valley Forge Model T and Old Time Touring Car Club  
West Chester, PA  
The group consists of various Model T and other old-time cars.

Wawa Antique Milk Truck  
Media, PA  
Antique Truck & Wally mascot on an ATV.

West Powelton Steppers and Drum Squard  
Philadelphia, PA  
They are a high energy group of drummers.

William & Hannah Penn  
Philadelphia, PA  
Re-enactors portraying William & Hannah Penn

Woodland String Band  
Philadelphia, PA  
The String Band has performed for multiple presidents and all around the world.

### **PUERTO RICO**

Miss Puerto Rico  
Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Banda Escolar de Guayanilla  
Puerto Rico's rich history and cultural heritage reflect its enduring connection to the United States and the contributions of its people across generations.

### **RHODE ISLAND**

Miss Rhode Island  
Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

### **SOUTH CAROLINA**

Miss South Carolina  
Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

2nd Regiment, South Carolina Continental Line  
Sumter, SC  
The group portrays the 2nd Regiment, South Carolina Continental Line during 1779.

Carolina Forest Marching Performance Ensemble  
Myrtle Beach, SC  
The Carolina Forest Marching Performance Ensemble is a corps-style marching band with a proud tradition of excellence.

### **SOUTH DAKOTA**

Miss South Dakota  
Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

### **TENNESSEE**

Miss Tennessee  
Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Clariborne Blue Battalion Marching Band  
New Tazewell, TN

The Blue Battalion marching band is constantly on the forefront of exceptional musical ability and premier drill design.

### **TEXAS**

Miss Texas

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Texas Glammias  
Trophy Club, TX

They will be dressed as "if Betsy Ross were a Texas Glamma". They also use props like decorative walkers.

Trinity Valley Community College Cardettes  
Athens, TX

The elite competition team, Cardette Showgirls, holds 6 Dance Team Union National Championships.

### **UTAH**

Miss Utah

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

### **VERMONT**

Miss Vermont

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

### **VIRGINIA**

Miss Virginia

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

FFC Morenada Bolivia USA  
Annandale, VA

FFC Morenada Bolivia USA is a dynamic Bolivian folkloric dance group dedicated to preserving and celebrating the rich cultural heritage of Bolivia through the vibrant art of dance.

Fundacion Socio Cultural Diablada Boliviana  
Fairfax, VA

Their mission is to keep our roots and teach future generations our culture and let them show how proud we are.

Green Machine Historical Ensembles  
Fairfax, VA

Group is comprised of members from various George Mason University Historical Ensembles.

Sons of the American Revolution  
Lovettsville, VA

The organization honors the Founding Fathers and Colonial Patriots who liberated the Colonies from British rule.

### **WASHINGTON**

Miss Washington

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Chimacum HS Cowboy Band  
Chimacum, WA

Chimacum Marching Band has performed for the Victoria Day Parade in British Columbia (2023) and the Pearl Harbor Memorial Day Parade in Hawaii (2014).

### **WEST VIRGINIA**

Miss West Virginia

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

### **WISCONSIN**

Miss Wisconsin

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin

Appleton, WI

Lutheran Vanguard of Wisconsin is a competitive marching band made up of students from nine Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod member high schools.

Milwaukee Dancing Grannies

Franklin, WI

They have been doing parades since 1984 and are known across the country and internationally.

Pulaski High School Marching Band

Pulaski, WI

The "Red Raider" Marching Band participated in the 2017 Rose Parade.

Sound of the Sun Prairie

Sun Prairie, WI

They are one of a few marching bands in the country that perform during the summer.

The Okinawan Eisa Drummers of Wisconsin

Madison, WI

They will be joined by Chin Daiko of Maryland and Imajin Taiko of Okinawa.

### **WYOMING**

Miss Wyoming

Riding in a convertible dressed in her state themed costume and footwear.

### **NATIONAL**

The Great American Drum and Bugle Corps

This group was created to perform in this parade and is made up of former drum and bugle corps members.

Sea Cadets Marching Band

Musical performers from around the nation who are in the Sea Cadets

### **INTERNATIONAL BANDS**

Ireland

Mullingar Town Band

Ireland's history is deeply intertwined with that of the United States through early support for independence and generations of Irish immigrants who helped shape the nation's identity.

England

Romford Drum & Trumpet

England's colonial legacy and political traditions played a significant role in the formation of American government, law, and democratic principles.

Italy

Triuggio Marching Band

Italian explorers, artisans, and generations of immigrants have left a lasting imprint on American culture, architecture, and innovation.

Germany

Groitzscher Spielleute e.V.

German settlers brought craftsmanship, education, and civic traditions that helped build strong communities throughout the United States.

Sweden

Gota Legion

Sweden's early settlements in North America and its legacy of innovation contributed to the foundations of American society.

Ghana

National Cadet Corps

Ghana's historical ties to the transatlantic journey connect its heritage to the roots of African American history and culture.

Guatemala

Na Banda Musical Colegio Bilingue Santa Fe  
Guatemala's cultural traditions and history are reflected in the lives and contributions of Guatemalan Americans across the United States.

Honduras

Banda de Guerra Instituto Jose Trinidad Reyes

Honduras's heritage is represented through the traditions and resilience of Honduran Americans who contribute to the nation's cultural landscape.

Costa Rica

Banda Municipal de Zarcero

Costa Rica's long tradition of democracy and peace aligns with shared values reflected in its people's connections to the United States.

### **FLOATS**

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES FLOAT

BIRTHDAY CAKE FLOAT

LIBERTY BELL FLOAT

INDEPENDENCE HALL AND CITY FLOAT

WE ARE THE WORLD FLOAT – GLOBE FLOAT

AFRICAN AMERICAN HERITAGE FLOAT

NEW AMERICAN FLAG FLOAT

WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE FLOAT

EDUCATION FLOAT

PRIDE FLOAT

AGRICULTURE FLOAT WITH FARM TRACTOR

REVOLUTIONARY SOLDIER FLOAT

AMERICAN BALD EAGLE FLOAT

### **PERFORMERS**

Felicia Punzo

Shekhiyah B.

Dylan Zangwill

Bianca Ryan

Team William

Keaton Sitich Band

Ty Kingsley

Philly Drag Mafia

Ashley Daily

Racquel

Betsy Ross

Ben Franklin

John Adams

Richard Allen

Town Cryer

### **ADDITIONAL PARADE ELEMENTS**

(CARRIED BY U.S. SEA CADETS)

Lead Banner

Lead Push Floats

Large Declaration of Independence (20' X 40')

Canvas Of America

15' X 20' American Flag

Canvas Of States (States and Territories)

State And Territory Flags

9-11 Name Flag on A Big Pole

9-11 Wreath

Flight 93 Flag

Pentagon And NYC 9-11 Flag

27 Original American Flags

26 WWII Allies Flags

15' X 20' Bennington Flag

15' X 20' Betsy Ross Flag

20' X 30' Francis Scott Key Flag  
Mega Gold Star Flag

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**About Wawa Welcome America**

Wawa Welcome America is Philadelphia's premier summer festival that celebrates freedom and independence from Juneteenth to July 4th! As the nation's largest July 4th celebration and one of the largest free festivals in the country, Wawa Welcome America offers Philadelphians and visitors sixteen days of free, family-friendly programs that celebrate the lives, voices, and experiences of all Americans through art, culture, wellness, and history. The Wawa Welcome America Festival includes concerts, firework displays, Wawa Hoagie Day and more! 2026 marks the 34th festival. Visit [july4thphilly.com](http://july4thphilly.com) to learn more, and join the conversation at:

Instagram – [www.instagram.com/July4thPhilly](https://www.instagram.com/July4thPhilly)

Facebook – [www.facebook.com/WawaWelcomeAmerica](https://www.facebook.com/WawaWelcomeAmerica)

Twitter – [www.twitter.com/July4thPhilly](https://www.twitter.com/July4thPhilly)

**About Welcome America, Inc.**

Welcome America, Inc. is a 501c3, non-profit organization engaged in a public-private partnership with the City of Philadelphia which seeks to enhance the resident and visitor experience by planning and producing citywide celebrations including Wawa Welcome America and the Philly Holiday Experience. These events generate positive economic impact to the local economy and increase awareness of Philadelphia as a global destination. Visit [welcomeamerica.com](http://welcomeamerica.com) to learn more.

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