

3.16 P-RADE

3.16.1 The Job

The job of the P-rade chair is to arrange for and manage the class P-rade formation, including bands, floats, vehicles, posters, etc. The job responsibilities are to:

1. Hire at least one marching band and direct them on Reunions Saturday. Confirm transportation arrangements and informing the band of parking instructions (see the Office of the Alumni Association's P-rade Marching Band memo available on the Reunions Volunteers web site). It is extremely important to have a band for the P-rade as the band keeps the class moving and adds immeasurably to the collective enjoyment of the P-rade. If band lunches are to be paid for by the class, coordinate numbers and menu with your Food Chair. A list of bands can be found in the Suppliers List. Submit band contracts to Risk Management for review.
2. Arrange for classmates to help keep order in place and lead cheers until the class falls into line. Cheers for other classes (the traditional locomotive is the most common) add to the occasion, both while watching and on the march. Be sure to train the classmates leading cheers so they know how to do the locomotive. The words to the locomotive are listed below.
3. Arrange for floats/vehicles for your P-rade entry. To do this, you must submit a float application for each float/vehicle to the Office of the Alumni Association (the application is available on the Reunions Volunteers web site). In addition, floats and vehicles require proof of insurance (and occasionally special certificates of insurance) to be filed with Risk Management.
4. Inspire and coordinate the production of posters and signs for people to carry in the P-rade. Don't forget about signs that class spouses and children can carry, as well as the traditional signs reminding spectators what campus life was like during your time at Princeton.
5. Coordinate with the Costume Chair on costume accessories and P-rade giveaways to make your class P-rade formation more fun and interesting. Note that giveaways may not be thrown from vehicles.
6. Arrange for someone to pick up the Class Banner between noon and 2:00 p.m. the Saturday of Reunions. The 49th and younger banners are available at Blair Arch; 50th and older are available at Maclean House. All banners are collected at the end of the P-rade on Poe Field by the Building Services crew at their "banner truck." The Office of the Alumni Association provides banner carriers for the Old Guard classes (66th Reunion and older). All other classes need to have two people to carry the class banner. You might want to have four people so they can rotate, as the banners are heavy, particularly on a windy day.

7. Provide information on renting golf carts to your classmates who need golf carts during the P-rade. Members of classes other than Old Guard luncheon guests must rent them independently. Procedures for renting carts, as well as Risk Management requirements, are available on the Reunions Volunteers web site. Please direct your classmates to this information early, as carts are in limited supply and reservations are necessary.
8. Prepare notes for P-rade narration. As each class passes the reviewing stand, the P-rade narrator shares information about your class, the reunion theme and costumes, statistics about classmates, and anything else that makes your walk by more interesting. Your class needs to provide this information to the narrator by May 20th. Sample narrations are available on the Office of the Alumni Association Reunions Volunteers web page. The Office of the Alumni Association or the P-rade narrator may have a copy of the class narration from your last major.

3.16.2 Timetable

We strongly recommend you use the detailed Reunion Planning Checklist with all relevant deadlines, available on the Office of the Alumni Association Reunions Volunteers web page.

3.16.3 Related Information

Organization. Each class has an assigned area to assemble along the P-rade route. A P-rade Marshal will direct you in joining the P-rade as it passes; the P-rade Chair and appointed classmates should be available to assist with the directions. Your banner and band lead the class; classmates, vehicles, floats and other bands follow. Golf carts, vehicles and floats join the P-rade at an alternate site - they do not wait at your class staging along the route. Your class will look most impressive in the P-rade if it is organized. Participants are asked to keep moving and avoid leaving gaps between groups/rows of people. Reviewing the formation and instructions at the Friday class dinner or distributing written instructions on small slips of paper at the Saturday lunch can help with ease any confusion.

Weather. Princeton alumni are a hearty group and the P-rade generally goes on rain and shine. With that said, wet conditions can dampen the situation. If necessary, Public Safety will delay the start of the P-rade in the case of thunder and lightning. In extreme instances, the P-rade could be cancelled for severe weather. If a severe storm hits after the start of the P-rade, participants and spectators should take shelter in the nearest building. In the event wet weather, floats and golf carts may have to be diverted past Bloomberg Arch to avoid soggy conditions on Poe Field. As part of the costume, consider ordering ponchos or umbrellas as a measure of insurance against the rain!

Traditions. As with many Princeton functions, the P-rade has its traditions. The 25th reunion class leads the P-rade, followed by the Old Guard. Other classes fall in from oldest to youngest. The graduate alumni assume the space that would be occupied by the 25th in chronological sequence. Cheering other classes, both while watching and while marching, adds to the fun and camaraderie of the day.

Marching order. The class banner leads the class. Often the class officers walk between the banner and the band. Golf carts are required to follow the band for safety reasons. Classmates follow the golf carts. If there are two or more bands, insert the additional bands in the middle of the class. Encourage your classmates to wait to enter the line of march until after the class banner has passed. This is particularly important for reunions with many children in attendance. Classmates with children (in or out of strollers) should stay far away from floats, as the children are difficult for the drivers to see.

Band performances. Please take care that your band understands that stopping the P-rade route of march to perform in place is not allowed. Also, instruct them to stage behind the class until you fall in, allowing alumni a clear view of older classes as they go by. Bands should march four abreast, and generally cooperate to keep the P-rade moving along.

The Class of 1945 Trophy. This trophy is awarded to the class with the most impressive P-rade entry. The judging includes categories for the marching band, floats/signs, costume and formation. The lack of a band generally disqualifies a class from winning the Class of 1945 P-rade Trophy. This job, therefore, has significant influence on the awarding of this trophy to your class.

Live animals. For humane reasons and sanitary issues, live animals are not permitted to be included as part of your P-rade entry.

Give-a-ways. A recent tradition has been to have items, such as candy or small toys, to give to spectators along the route. Walkers may distribute these items as long as they do not slow down the P-rade. However, float drivers and passengers are not permitted to distribute give-a-ways. Please do not distribute items that will create litter along the P-rade route, such as wrapped candies. Also, do not distribute potentially dangerous items, such as water pistols. For environmental reasons, balloons of any kind may not be released into the atmosphere. Since this is difficult to control, we recommend that you not distribute large numbers of balloons to your classmates.

The Locomotive. The locomotive cheer is meant to emulate the sound of a locomotive (steam) engine:

Leader:

“Locomotive (Who You’re Cheering)! HIP.... HIP.... “

Crowd:

’RAH! ’RAH! ’RAH!

TIGER! TIGER! TIGER!

SIS! SIS! SIS!

BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!

AHHHHHHH....

(Who You’re Cheering)!!! (Who You’re Cheering)!!! (Who You’re Cheering)!!!

The cheer should start out slowly and pick up speed. The “Ahhh” at the end is meant to sound like the steam being released from the engine. The “Rah” is short for “Hoorah!” and at one point was “Ray” (short for “Hooray!”). Your class should cheer the classes passing by and special dignitaries, such as the University President. You should not cheer yourselves. Instead, let the classes passing by cheer your class and then you can respond by cheering them.

Creative touches. The P-rade is your class's representation of itself to the rest of the University community. Use your creativity to express your class character. There are a number of ways to do this:

- **Theme.** The reunion has a theme, which is typically expressed through the reunion costume in some way. You can continue this theme with the choice of bands, floats, etc. For example, the Class of 1977 had the theme "Gimme Shelter" for their 20th, in honor of their Habitat for Humanity service project house. They created a large float that looked like the starting framework of a house and their costume included carpenters' overalls.
- **Costume.** The costume is designed, in part, to identify the class as a unit in the P-rade. Think about the overall effect of the costume, from front, side and back. Consider the extra touches, such as hats, tiger tails, umbrellas, canes, totes and the like. The Class of 1976 had a "Save the Tiger" theme for their 20th. They had umbrellas with a green leaf pattern. When all of the umbrellas were open in the P-rade, it looked like the rainforest.
- **Bands and floats.** Bands provide entertainment and energy for the P-rade. They can also coordinate with your class theme. The Class of 1963 had a rock 'n roll theme for their 35th; they had a number of floats in the P-rade with groups playing rock 'n roll music. The effective blending of their P-rade band/floats and signs with the class theme was one of the elements that won them the Class of 1945 trophy.
- **Banners, posters and placards.** Many classes carry some kind of poster or placards expressing something about the class. Results of a class survey or poll or material from the reunion yearbook can be used to create some very interesting signs!
- **Giveaways.** These are little things, often given to classmates right before the P-rade that can add to the interest of the P-rade. Tiger tails, kazoos, balloons and such also add character. Note that balloons may not be released en masse for environmental reasons.
- **Children/Strollers/Other.** For younger classes with many children, you might want to consider having all the parents with strollers at the front of the class. Strollers in the middle tend to cause large gaps in the P-rade and slow things down when the class hits the grass on Poe-Pardee fields.
- **Questions.** Any and all questions, issues and ideas should be discussed in advance with the Office of the Alumni Association or the Grand Marshal of the P-rade, who sits as a member of the Committee on Reunions.

3.16.4 P-rade Golf Carts

Because of liability concerns, alumni must order P-rade golf carts directly from the vendor, without having a class volunteer in the middle. Carts may be used over the three days or ordered just for use in the P-rade. It is the responsibility of those individuals to order, secure and return their carts. Be sure to remind them to bring locks and chains to Reunions and to always lock their golf carts with chains when not in use.

Princeton University will provide liability coverage for all golf cart rentals. This means that bodily injury to 3rd parties and property damage to 3rd parties will be insured by Princeton University. However, individual renters assume full responsibility for that cart until it is returned to the vendor. This includes any damage to the cart, extra rental or replacement if stolen. Further details are available on the Reunions Volunteers web site.

Cautious driving of golf carts is of the utmost importance as all areas of the campus are crowded with participants and spectators. Golf cart drivers must possess a valid driver's license. During the course of the P-rade, caution must be exercised while driving. Emphasis on instant braking is a must, because of frequent pauses experienced by the marchers. The Office of the Alumni Association encourages engaging students or family members to drive the carts so alumni may enjoy the parade and festivities. Students driving carts however, must have completed Risk Managements golf cart certification process.

P-rade golf carts rented by individual classmates will be delivered to Maclean House by Saturday morning. Office of the Alumni Association crew and student volunteers will position **ALL** carts for the P-rade. Office of the Alumni Association staff and P-rade Marshals will organize the carts, with the oldest classes first. Then, as specific classes pass between Nassau Hall and Stanhope Hall, the ordered carts will be fed into the line of march. No golf cart will be allowed on the Nassau Hall green or along the P-rade route while the P-rade is forming.

P-rade golf carts rented by your classmates need to be staged on the walkway on the Nassau side of Maclean House **no later than 12:00 Noon** on Saturday. We recommend that your crew shuttle classmates with personal carts to this P-rade cart staging area in your headquarter carts well before 12:00 Noon. Classes may also use their headquarters carts in the P-rade provided they are staged on the walkway on the Nassau Hall side of Maclean House **NO LATER THAN 12:30 PM** on Saturday. **All carts used in the P-rade must be staged in the cart staging location. None will be allowed to wait along the route where the other classmates are staged.**

All golf carts may enter the Poe-Pardee Field finale area with the P-rade, pass by the reviewing stand and exit. A golf cart vendor representative and members of the Office of the Alumni Association staff will be on hand to direct golf carts to their receiving trucks. All drivers of personally-rented P-rade golf carts will be asked to stop driving the carts when they go past the walkway at the end of Poe-Pardee fields. The carts will be driven to the return truck by employees of the University and the golf cart vendor.

As is the case for the rest of the weekend, Headquarters carts being used in the P-rade must only be driven by certified crew members. These carts will be expected to follow the same procedures for the return of golf carts at the end of the P-rade, i.e. they must go to the end of Poe-Pardee fields and may

need to wait a bit to drive back behind the reviewing stand and continue back to their headquarters sites. We suggest they be clearly marked to avoid confusion when the carts are collected.