

# Headlines



## RI Accepting Entries for 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Labor Day Parade

*July 14, 2008*

Calling all families, neighbors, churches, organizations, clubs and businesses! The 24<sup>th</sup> annual Rock Island Labor Day Parade is scheduled for **Monday, September 1, 2008.**

### 2008 Parade Theme

**“All Aboard to the Future!”**

Staging for the parade begins at **8:30 a.m.** in the area around Washington Junior High School, located at 33<sup>rd</sup> Street and 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue. **The parade starts at 9:30 a.m.** The parade route travels west along 18th Avenue, turns at 17<sup>th</sup> Street and 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and disbands into the Rock Island High School grounds. The route is two miles long, and takes about 90 minutes to complete.

This year's Parade theme is **“All Aboard to the Future!”** It honors Rock Island's rich railroad heritage and supports local efforts to return passenger rail service to the Quad Cities. Committee members look forward to seeing all sorts of entries relevant to railroads past and future. A vehicle or float created to look like a train car; a group of walkers playing train whistles or a kiddie-train made out of barrels are a just a few ideas. Entries could include anyone training for an event, or dog trainers, track coaches, or brides wearing wedding dresses with long trains.....and so on. The theme may also inspire futuristic or even space train entries. The possibilities are endless!

Entries are judged with winners selected from five different categories. The categories are: Mayor's Choice, Marshal's Choice (favorite theme related entry), Council's Choice, Parade Committee's Choice and Neighbor's Choice. The awards are presented to the winners at a September meeting of the Rock Island City Council.

Entries that are not theme related are always welcome in the parade! The Labor Day Parade offers a unique opportunity to promote your organization, to announce a special sale or to call attention to an upcoming event. Please note candy and flyers must be handed out to the crowd and not thrown into the street during the parade.

The first Labor Day Parade was held in 1984 as part of Rock Island's yearlong 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday or Sesquicentennial Celebration. The parade has grown to average 150 entries and has become a popular annual event that draws thousands of spectators!

**To enter the 24th Annual Labor Day Parade** please complete and return an entry form with the participation fee to the City of Rock Island by **Monday, August 18, 2008.** If you have any questions, please contact Mary Chappell at 732-2923 or Art Milton at 788-6157. Parade line-up information will be mailed in late August to the contact person listed on the entry form.