

# Building a Parade Float 101

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# NWOSU Homecoming Theme - 2025

THEME: "Rowdy Under the Big Top"

DATES: October 23-25





# Our Opponent

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Southern Nazarene University

Bethany, Oklahoma

COLORS: White & Crimson

MASCOT: Thunder Cat

NICKNAME: Crimson Storm

# Float Prizes



In each category

1<sup>st</sup> place - \$200  
2<sup>nd</sup> place - \$150  
3<sup>rd</sup> place - \$100



President's Award (best overall) -  
\$100



Alumni Association Award (best  
display of Ranger Spirit) - \$75

# Float Reimbursements

All groups participating in the float competition will receive a \$200 incentive per float entry – must participate in the float competition (judging) - no "walking" groups (groups with a vehicle with signs and/or walkers).

Reimbursement of up to \$200 may be provided to the first 5 campus and non-profit off-campus organizations which register for it at the conclusion of homecoming.

- These groups must provide receipts verifying expenses no later than Friday, November 7 by noon to Tara Hannaford, Financial Aid Office, Herod Hall, room 113.

# Float Reimbursement Requirements

In order to qualify for reimbursement, each organization must:

- ✓ Review the float building workshop presentation online
- ✓ Turn-in float application with sketch/design including details for approval by noon, **Wednesday, October 22** to:
  - Shannon Leaper, NWOSU, J.W. Martin Library

# Rules & Float Regulations

- Float must be built on a trailer at least 12 feet in length.
- The float must have some design and the group must actually build something. There must be some type of structure on the trailer (create a structure out of chicken wire, cardboard, etc.).
- The float needs to have more than just words on skirting and people standing on a trailer.
- Float should be pomped with napkins, weaved with tissue paper, or covered with floral sheeting, fringe, etc.
- Skirting on the trailer is required. The wheels of the trailer should NOT show.
- Moving parts, sound, smoke, etc. are all encouraged.
- Encourage all of your members to dress in theme and walk in front and behind your float.
- The float can be no taller than 16 feet.
- The float must follow the theme.
- Homecoming theme and organization name should be displayed.

Most  
Importantly

Don't let these requirements hinder your creativity!

If you have an idea, ask if it will work.

All exceptions to the rules should be pre-approved by the Homecoming Float Committee.



Supplies you  
might need!

Staple gun

Nails

Wire

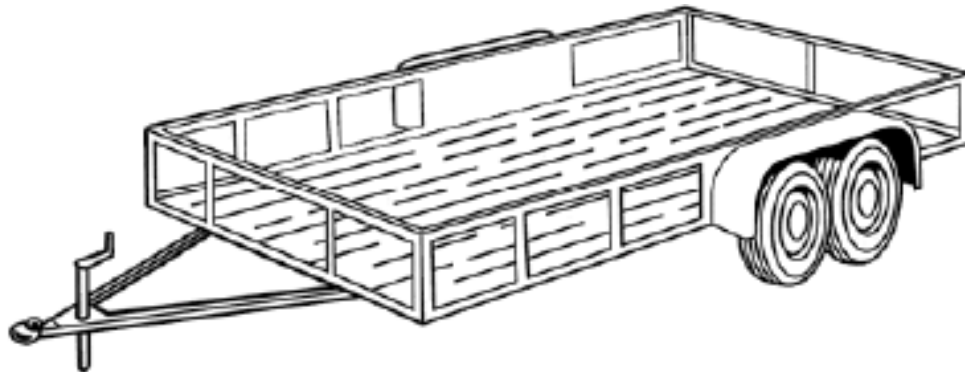
Chicken wire

Construction grade wood/plywood

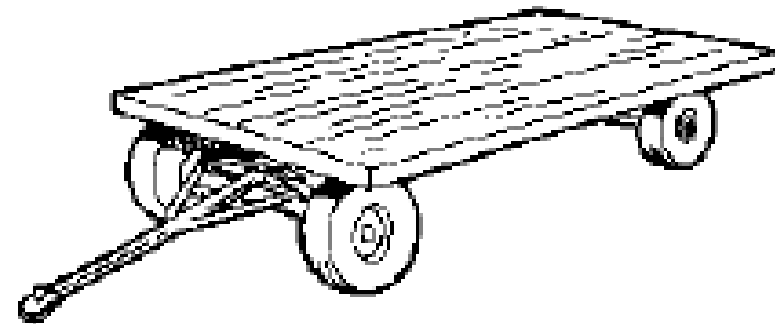
# Trailers

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LOW-BOY TRAILERS



HAY TRAILERS

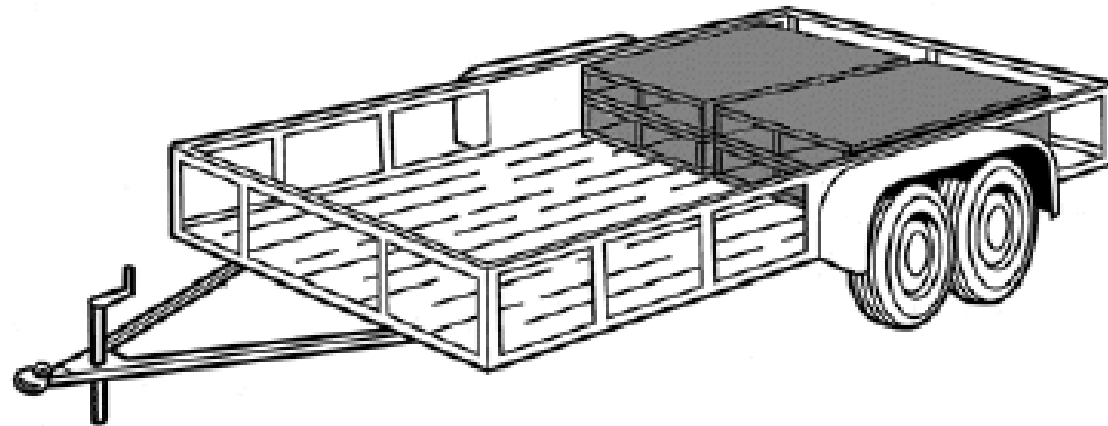


# Building Your Trailers

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Pallets can be used to build a partial or full sub-structure to elevate the platform of the float.

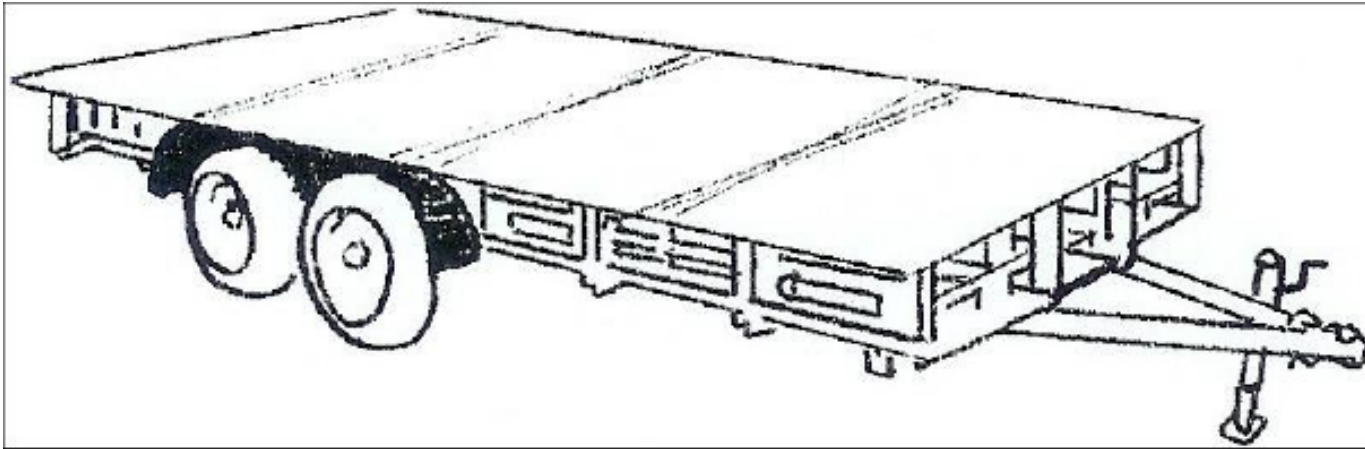
Make sure the pallets are firmly fastened to the bed of the float.



# Building Your Trailers

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Next, lay sheet plywood over the pallets. Now you will have a platform for your props and an area in the bed where float riders can stand or sit.

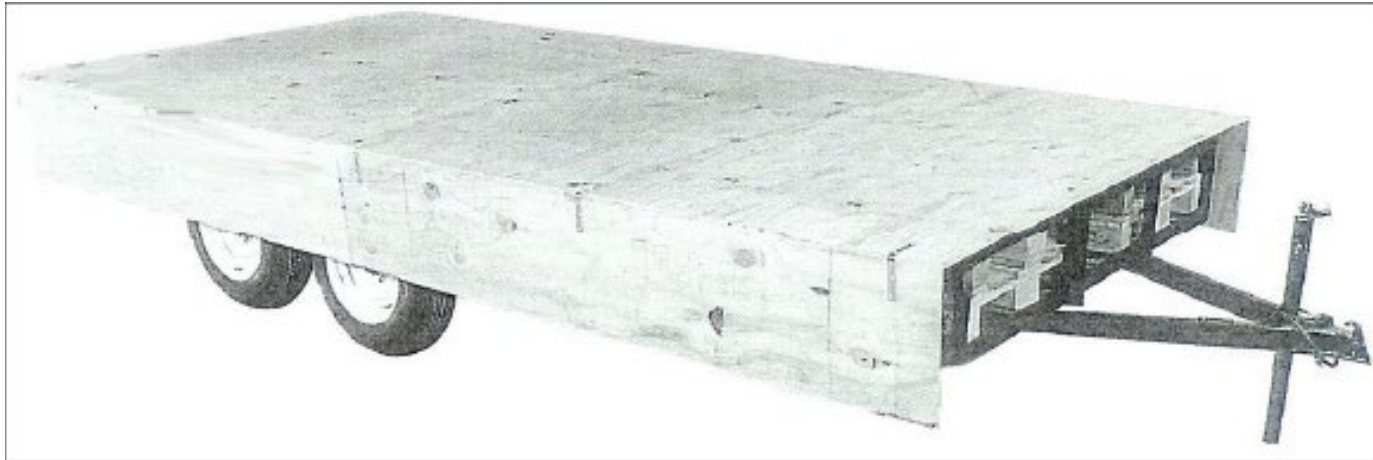


# Building Your Trailer

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Apply sides to deck

- Use “L” shaped brackets available at most hardware stores
- Sides should remain 14” from bottom of side deck to the ground



# Decorating Your Float: Materials

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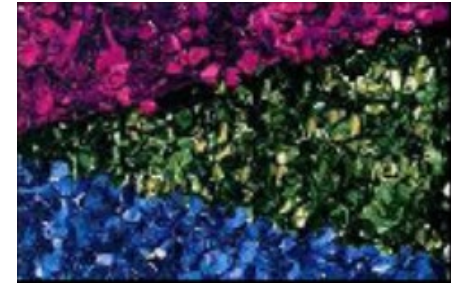
Fringe



Pomps



Metallic Floral Sheeting



Festooning



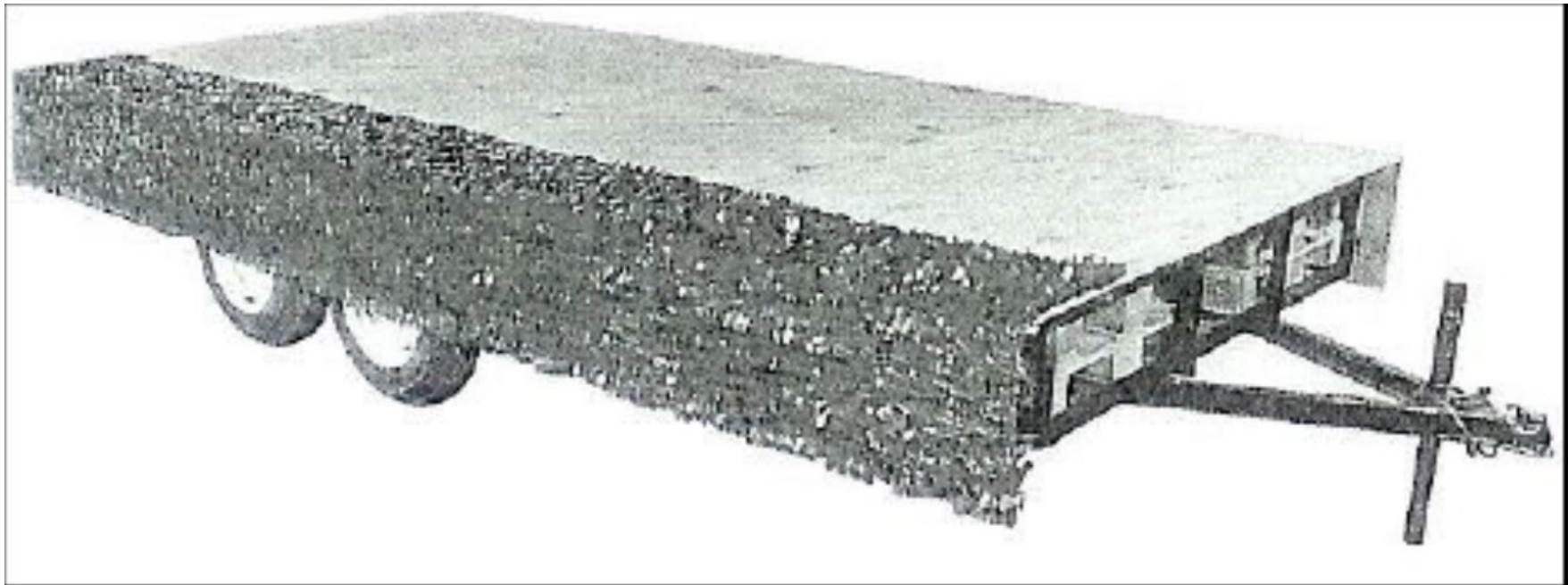
Vinyl Floral Sheeting



# Decorating Your Float

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Attach Floral Sheeting to Trailer





# Decorating Your Float

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Add fringe to floral sheeting.

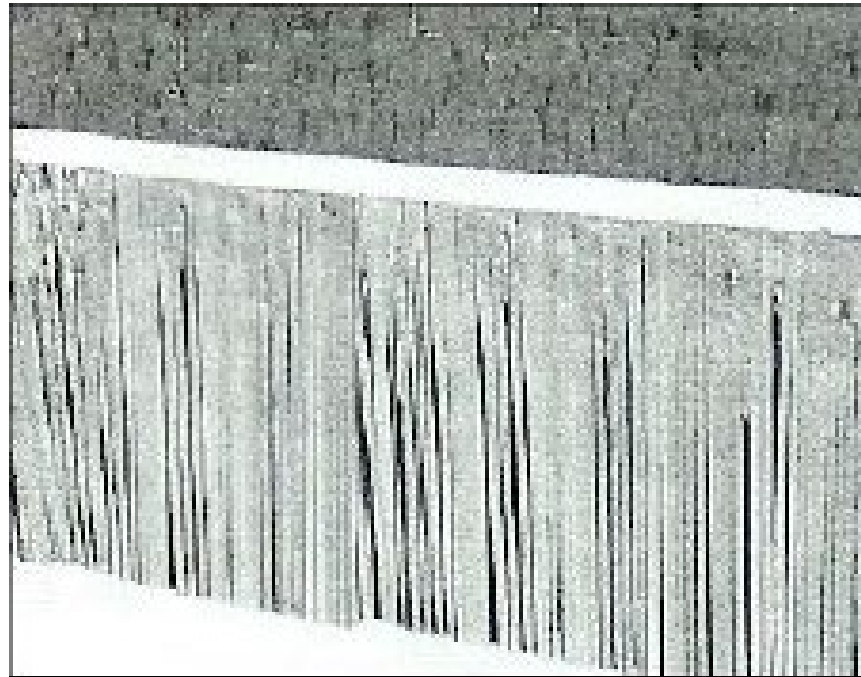




# Decorating Your Float

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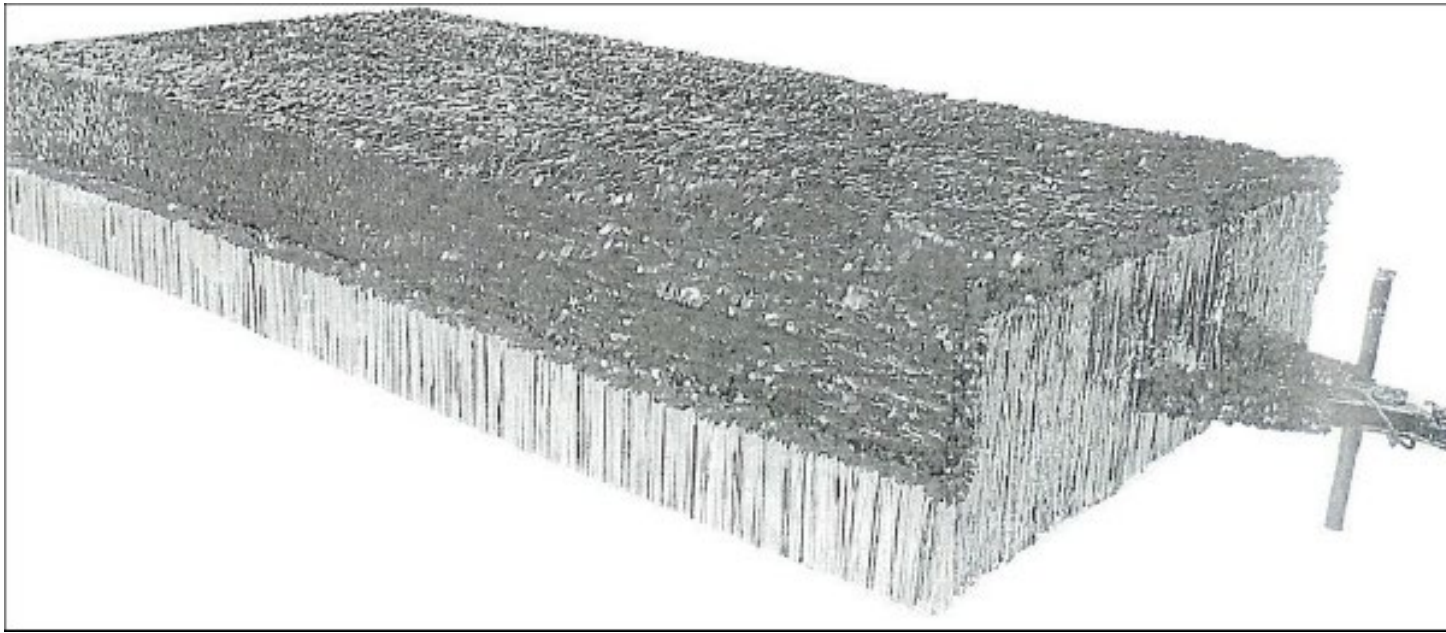
Use festooning to hide the seam between the floral sheeting and the fringe.



# Decorating Your Float

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Finished Product





# Examples

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# Other Options for Decorating

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Chicken wire

Pomping

Tissue paper

Chicken Wire?  
Yes, Chicken  
Wire!

Use chicken wire to create a shape

Papier-mâché:

- Use newspaper/butcher paper
- Blend flour and starch
- Dip newspaper into mix
- Paste onto chicken wire

Allow to dry, then spray paint

# Decorating Your Float

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Fill the float with a structure

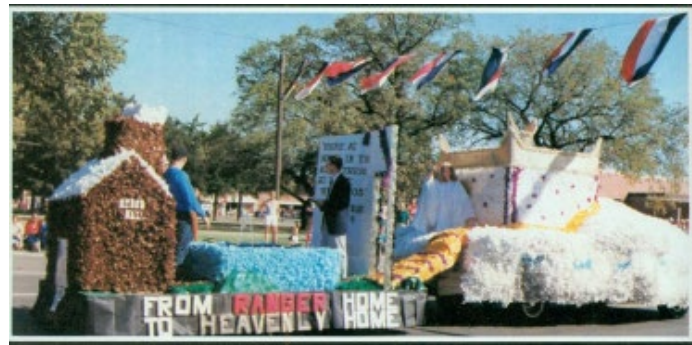
- Build the frame(s) of the object(s) using wood, PVC pipe, chicken wire, etc.
- String with chicken wire to fill out
- Use cloth, paper mâché, paint, etc.
- Securely fasten frame to the base

Tips

- Decorate using pomp and people
- Movement catches people's eyes
- Use balloons - cheap and easy
- Make your float colorful
- Use original decorations (i.e. umbrellas, movement, music, etc.)



# Float Examples





# Float Examples

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# Float Examples

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Don't Do!

## Final Reminders

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Plan ahead

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Organizations can team up

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Reserve the armory - deposit required

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Utilize advisers and people that you know

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Be creative and have fun!

# Questions?

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Float Chair:

Dr. Shannon Leaper  
580-327-8570  
[seleaper@nwosu.edu](mailto:seleaper@nwosu.edu)

Homecoming Committee Chairman:

Dr. David Pecha  
580-327-8528  
[dmpecha@nwosu.edu](mailto:dmpecha@nwosu.edu)