



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade®?

The National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade® is a favorite springtime event and is one of the largest activities in the National Cherry Blossom Festival, the annual two-week celebration of Japan's gift of trees to the United States in 1912. It draws nearly 100,000 spectators to Downtown D.C. each year.

When is the Parade?

This year's Parade steps off at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 9, 2011 in downtown Washington, D.C. and is expected to be a two-hour celebration.

Where is the Parade?

The Parade route travels along the historic part of Constitution Avenue, NW beginning at 7th Street and ending at 17th Street. Along the way it passes the National Archives, the Department of Justice, Smithsonian Museums, the Washington Monument and the White House. The length of this distance is approximately one mile.

Why should I attend the Parade?

People from around the country (and a few other countries too) come to see the Parade - the largest public event of the Festival - because it combines some of the Festival's best entertainment into one spectacular show. The procession consists of elements that the whole family can enjoy, including: decorated floats, gigantic colorful helium balloons, exciting marching bands, precise military and specialty units, celebrity performances, the energetic National Cherry Blossom Festival® All-Star Youth Tap Dance Team and Choir, fun mascots, and various cultural performing groups and other special entries.

How can I get involved?

Volunteers are vital to the success of the Parade. Over 500 friendly and energetic people serve as bleacher ushers, staff for assembly and dispersal areas, information guides and other jobs that help the Parade run smoothly.

For information on how to volunteer, please [click here](#).

To apply to be in the Parade, [click here](#) for an application.

How can I get to the Parade?

Because of limited parking and various street closings, we recommend Metro as the best way to travel to the Parade. The closest stops are Smithsonian (orange/blue), Federal Triangle (orange/blue), and Archives/Navy Memorial (yellow/green). However, because of high ridership on Parade day, we also suggest nearby alternate stations such as Metro Center (red/blue/orange) and Gallery Place/Chinatown (green/yellow/red), which are within walking distance of the Parade route and just a few blocks further.

Is there parking available?

Parking is extremely limited on Parade day; use of public transportation is encouraged. Visit <http://www.wmata.com/> and select Trip Planner to find the best Metro route.

Where do group buses drop off attendees and park?

Group Tours that purchase Grandstand Bleacher Seating will receive drop-off and parking directions with their tickets when they are delivered.

What streets are affected / closed by the parade route?

The primary streets affected by the parade route are Constitution Ave NW between 7th & 17th streets as well as some additional cross streets closed for assemble and distribution of the parade units. These areas are closed off on a rolling basis beginning as early at 6:00 am on Saturday, April 9, 2011.

What time should we arrive?

The suggested time of arrival is between 9:00 and 9:30 a.m., earlier if you are not in Grandstand Seating and want to secure a prime curbside spot.

Where are the restroom facilities?

Portable restrooms are available near the Parade route at the following locations:

- * Assembly area- National Mall at 7th St
- * Constitution Ave. at 7th & 9th, north side (by the National Archives)
- * Constitution Ave. at 14th & 15th, south side (Washington Monument side)

Where is the first-aid station?

There will be two locations:

- * 7th & Constitution Ave, NW
- * 14th & Constitution Ave, NW

Can we purchase food at the Parade or should we bring our own?

There will be no official food vendors along the Parade route but food will be available at the Smithsonian Museum food court and the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center food court. Spectators can get a taste of Japan at the Sakura Matsuri - Japanese Street Festival immediately following the Parade. For a list of outstanding downtown dining options, visit <http://www.downtowndc.org/dining>.

What kind of seating is available?

Spectators are welcome to find their own place to watch the celebration along the parade route on Constitution Avenue, NW between 7th and 17th Streets. Arrive early since those spaces are first come-first served. Crowds begin to gather about 9:00 a.m.

Reserved bleacher seating is available. Tickets must be purchased in advance. All those that will have their own seat will need a ticket. Arrangements for lower seating can be made for those that cannot sit in the higher sections. For more information please click [here](#).

*No tickets will be sold the day of the Parade.

If I purchase reserved seating, how can I get my tickets?

You have the option of having your tickets mailed directly to you or picking them up at one of the will call booths along Constitution Ave. If you will be traveling to Washington within a week prior to the Parade, we suggest that you pick up your tickets from will call the day of the Parade. Tickets will be mailed on or around March 28, 2011.

If we don't get reserved seating, can we bring our own chairs?

Yes.

Can we purchase official National Cherry Blossom Festival® merchandise at the Parade?

Official National Cherry Blossom Festival® merchandise can be purchased at tents located on Constitution Ave., NW at 9th, 12th, and 14th Sts. To view merchandise online, please visit the [NCBF Gift Shop](#).

Where can we watch the Parade on TV?

For those that can't make it to see the Parade live, the 2011 National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade® will be featured in a live telecast on WJLA/ABC 7 and TBD TV and will be re-broadcast the next day (time TBA) on TBD TV.

Additionally, for viewers outside the WJLA/ABC 7 & TBD TV region, the Parade will be available for streaming on TBD.com (direct link will be posted when available).

What happens if it rains?

The Parade will happen rain or shine and will only be cancelled in the event of lightning or other extreme weather conditions. In the event of inclement weather, please call the Festival hotline at (877) 44BLOOM for updates.

Can we purchase video of the Parade?

Copies of the 2010 National Cherry Blossom Festival Parade may be purchased from Federal News Service by calling Jeff Harvey at (202) 216-2805. The cost is \$35.00 per copy.

Information on purchasing video of the 2011 Parade will be posted on nationalcherryblossomfestival.org April 18, 2011.