

A Note to Inspire

"Young people are the dreamers we must follow to get somewhere new, together!"

-Angelique Power
President & CEO,
The Skillman Foundation

*The Parade Company is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization responsible for producing the Ford Fireworks and America's Thanksgiving Parade® presented by Gardner White.

Please Complete & Attach with Your Contest Entry Drawing

*If submitting entry via e-mail, please include the requested information below as an additional attachment or in the body of submission e-mail.

Student First & Last Name:

Grade: _____ Age: _____

Shirt Size (circle one): YS YM YL YXL (Youth)
or AS AM AL AXL A2XL (Adult)

School or Program Name:

School or Program Address:

Contact Person Name:

Circle Relation to Applicant:

TEACHER PARENT GUARDIAN

PRINCIPAL OTHER _____

Contact Person's E-mail Address:

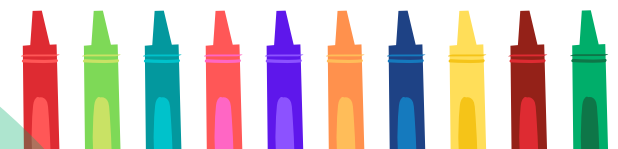
Contact Person's Phone Number:

Title of Float Design:

Please direct any questions to Amber at
aavig@theparade.org



2026 FLOAT DESIGN CONTEST



Contest Details

The Parade Company is proud to partner with The Skillman Foundation for the 100th *America's Thanksgiving Parade*® presented by Gardner White.

WHO CAN ENTER

The contest is open to any student, who is currently enrolled in grades 4-8, in a Detroit Public School or Detroit Charter School.

WHAT IS THE CONTEST ABOUT

The contest is designed to inspire students to use their imaginations and **bring this year's theme to life: IF I COULD BUILD A SCHOOL!!**

If you could design your own school, **what would it look like?** Think about the places where you would **learn, read, play, explore, and create.** Would your school have **bright colors**, cozy spaces, cool technology, or **fun classrooms** for science, math, and art?

This is your chance to **dream big** and imagine a school where **learning** and **fun** come together in amazing ways. Use **your creativity** to design and share your vision, there are **no limits** to what you can create! We can't wait to see your ideas come to life!!

WHEN TO SUBMIT

Please submit all contest entries by
Thursday, October 2, 2026

WHERE TO SUBMIT

To enter, please mail a **COLORFUL** drawing with this application attached to:

Skillman Float Design Contest
The Parade Company
9500 Mt. Elliott, Studio A
Detroit, Michigan 48211

REMOTE LEARNERS may e-mail their submission along with the requested contact information to: Aavig@theparade.org

Why Participate

Six winners will be chosen, one Grand Prize winner and five Honorable mentions!

All six students, their families, Teachers and Principals will be invited to attend a Press Conference at The Parade Company where their drawings will be honored, and the Grand Prize winner's float will be unveiled!

First Place Winner Package

- Drawing will be made into a larger-than-life float for the 2026 *America's Thanksgiving Parade*® presented by Gardner White.
- Student & one guardian will ride on their float down Woodward Avenue, VIP Style!
- Hotel accommodations at the Detroit Marriott Renaissance Center on the eve of the Parade!
- A certificate for a FREE tour of The Parade Company followed with a pizza party for up to 10 guests!



The Skillman Foundation's President, Angelique Power, and VP of Program, Sarida Scott with grand prize winner Lyric Weathers (center) and honorable mention winners Malia Vang, Axel Coyte, Austin Callahan, Robyn McKee, and Ava Wyatt (left to right).

Contest Rules

Review Contest Details Below:

- Students must be enrolled in a Detroit Public School or Detroit Charter School
- Students must be in Grades 4-8
- Drawings must be **COLORFUL** and on 8.5" x 11" paper or submitted via e-mail as a clear photo
- Licensed characters such as Disney and Nickelodeon will not be accepted
- Entries will not be returned
- **All entries must be received by Thursday, October 2, 2026**

2025 Grand Prize Winner



"Cultures are Around the World"
Skillman Float Design Contest Winner 2025

Lyric Weathers
Schulze Academy for Technology & Arts

