

# Georgia Historical Society's



## GEORGIA HISTORY FESTIVAL

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# Georgia Day Parade

Friday, February 9, 2018

Rain Date: Monday, February 12, 2018

Supported by:  Georgia Power



## Frequently Asked Questions

**What is the Georgia Day Parade?** Students, musicians, local dignitaries, and costumed historical figures march through Savannah's historic squares for the annual Georgia Day Parade as part of the annual commemoration of the founding of the Georgia colony on February 12, 1733, a tradition dating back to the earliest years of the colony's founding. The beloved event is now part of the Georgia Historical Society's *Georgia History Festival*.

**What is the *Georgia History Festival*?** Beginning with the new school year in September, a variety of public programs, exhibits, in-school events, and educational resources bring history to life for students of all ages and encourage Georgians to explore the richness and diversity of our state's past. The *Festival* culminates in February, the founding month of the Georgia colony, with Founding City events like the popular Colonial Faire and Muster living history program held at Wormsloe State Historic Site, Savannah's colorful Georgia Day Parade, and the annual Trustees Gala.

**Who is allowed to Participate in the Georgia Day Parade?** Public, private, and homeschool groups from K-12 are invited to attend. Traditionally, students studying Georgia's founding (2nd & 8th in Georgia public schools) march in the parade, but all are welcome.

**Does our school need to register for the Parade?** Yes! Please visit [georgiahistoryfestival.org/educators/](http://georgiahistoryfestival.org/educators/).

**What is the GA Day Banner Competition?** Elementary schools marching in the parade are invited to participate in the Banner Competition. Students design banners based on a theme and march behind their banners during the parade. Banners are dropped off at the Georgia Historical Society for judging. Trophies are awarded for first, second, and third place banners.

**How long does the parade last?** The entire event, including a short program at city hall, should end no later than 12:00 P.M. Schools should arrive at Forsyth Park no later than 10 A.M. The parade steps off at 10:45 A.M.

**What is the parade route?** The parade steps off at 10:45 A.M. from Forsyth Park then processes north on Bull Street to City Hall.

**What happens at City Hall?** The Parade will end with a short program at the steps of City Hall. During this program, Banner Competition winners will be announced and given trophies.

**What should students wear?** Students should dress in colonial costume. Most schools wear homemade costumes. Check out the GHS Pinterest boards to help you get started: <https://www.pinterest.com/georgiahistoric/georgia-day-parade-outfits/>. If you would like to purchase an outfit, locally you can visit Barnett Education Supplies (38 W De Renne Ave) and Massie School (207 E Gordon St).

**Where should the busses drop off students?** Arrive at the northern end of Forsyth Park (Bull and Gaston Streets) by 10:15 AM for student drop-off. No buses will be permitted after 10:35. Following drop-off, please instruct bus drivers to park on Bay Street, the end point of the Parade, for pick-up around 11:45. Be sure to remember your school's bus number for easy identification at the end of the Parade. Information about bus parking will be sent closer to parade date.

**How do I know where my students are supposed to line-up?** A few days before the parade, GHS will email all participating schools the parade line-up. Each school will be assigned a group number and order within that group. When you arrive at Forsyth Park, find the area with your school's number (it will be labeled with a sign and GHS will provide a map of Forsyth Park with the group areas) and line-up behind that number in the proper order.

**Will the parade be broadcast on TV?** The 2018 Georgia Day will be broadcast by WSAV. Air dates and details will be sent with parade line-up information.

**Why should we participate in the Georgia Day Parade?** The Georgia Day Parade has become a cherished Savannah tradition over the last several decades. The focus of the Georgia Day Parade is the students, their costumes, their banners, and their love of learning. Participating students are stars for the day and schools receive positive attention from the community. In addition, the parade and banner competition offer students a chance to learn about Georgia's past and express what they have learned in creative ways. Making a homemade costume based on what they have learned about everyday life in the colony of Georgia or working as a group to create a prize-winning banner offers your students a unique and engaging learning experience that is difficult to replicate inside the school building.



## Banner Competition



Theme: “A Legacy of Leadership”

This year’s banner competition is based on the 2018 GHF theme, “A Legacy of Leadership.” The theme explores the triumphs and challenges faced by generations of cultural, civic, and political leaders from Georgia’s founding to today. This year’s banner competition will focus on a few leaders who changed Georgia history.

Banners should focus on one or more of the following leaders:

- Tomochichi: Chief of the Yamacraw Indians, Tomochichi is often credited as the co-founder of Georgia with General James Edward Oglethorpe. He was invaluable aid to the colonists during Georgia’s early years. Tomochichi helped the colonists lay out roads and assisted Oglethorpe as a mediator between the Yamacraw and surrounding tribes and the British colonists.
- Juliette Gordon Low: In March 1912, Juliette Gordon Low made a phone call to Nina Pape, future Girl Scout Commissioner of Savannah, saying, “Come right over. I’ve got something for the girls of Savannah, and all America, and all the world, and we’re going to start it tonight.” Today, Girl Scouts USA has 3.2 million members with an international family of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides of over 10 million members.
- Jackie Robinson: Hailed as one of the best baseball players of all time and an American civil-rights hero, Jackie Robinson holds a special place in American historical memory. For many Americans, knowledge of his place in the Civil Rights Movement is limited to “he was the first black major league baseball player.” In truth, Jackie Robinson’s civil rights activism went much deeper than just breaking professional baseball’s color barrier.

Guidelines:

1. Each banner entry must be an original design.
2. Each banner should be designed to be carried by students during the parade.
3. Banner entries should represent student work guided by adults.

4. Banners must conform to the following measurements:
  - Maximum size – 72" x 36"
  - Minimum size – 56" x 28"
5. Banners will be judged on these criteria:
  - Interpretation of Theme
  - Originality
  - Creativity, Neatness
  - Overall Presentation
6. Banners from previous years and school banners are not eligible for judging.

Drop-off/Pick-up for Judging:

Banners are due at the Jepson House Education Center (104 W. Gaston St.) by 5:15PM on Tuesday, February 6th. Teachers may drop off banners anytime between 9AM and 5:15PM on Tuesday, February 6th. Banners may be picked up on Thursday, February 8th between 9AM and 5:15PM or on the morning of the Georgia Day Parade. The Jepson House Education Center is located at the corner of Gaston and Whitaker Streets on the northwest corner of Forsyth Park in downtown Savannah. Please come up the main stairs and ring the bell for admittance.

Winners will be announced and trophies will be awarded at the Georgia Day Program at City Hall following the parade on Friday, February 9, 2018.

Georgia Historical Society Resources:

- [Georgia History Festival Blog](#)
- [Tomochichi Featured Historical Figures Page](#)
- [Juliette Gordon Low Featured Historical Figure Page](#)
- [Jackie Robinson Featured Historical Figure Page](#)

Additional Resources:

- [New Georgia Encyclopedia- Tomochichi](#)
- [New Georgia Encyclopedia- Juliette Gordon Low](#)
- [New Georgia Encyclopedia- Jackie Robinson](#)

## Online Teacher and Student Resources

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Based on the 2018 GHF theme “A Legacy of Leadership,” the online materials explore the triumphs and challenges faced by generations of cultural, civic, and political leaders. Learn more about leaders Tomochichi, Juliette Gordon Low, and Jackie Robinson with the Featured Historical Figure pages on the Georgia Historical Society website (<http://georgiahistory.com/education-outreach/online-exhibits/featured-historical-figures/>). Look for the downloadable teacher guide available for each featured figure.



[Tomochichi](#)



[Juliette Gordon Low](#)



[Jackie Robinson](#)