



P.O. Box 457
Storm Lake, IA 50588

News Release: Star Spangled Spectacular Commodores Select 2024 Theme

Storm Lake, Iowa (March 25, 2024) – Holly Schipper and Liz Smith, Sugar Bowl Gift Shop owners and 2024 Star Spangled Spectacular commodores, have chosen “Light Up the Sky on the Fourth of July!” as the theme for this year’s Independence Day events.

The committee will take the theme into consideration as they select a Grand Marshal in the coming weeks. The annual poster and coloring contests for elementary-aged children will reflect “Light Up the Sky on the Fourth of July!” as well.

Schipper, one half of the creative duo, credits her co-commodore, Smith, in selecting the name. “Liz had some great ideas again this year, and the committee helped us narrow down the options before we decided to give a nod to the spectacular fireworks.”

Smith adds that the fireworks are consistently one of the best-attended events in Northwest Iowa. “Growing up in Storm Lake, I remember watching the fireworks from the jetty or a friend’s house every year. Holly and I’s families have created such great memories here on the Fourth, and the fireworks are a great way to commemorate that for everyone.”

The commodores are busy planning for the July 3-4 events, putting an emphasis on music and children’s entertainment. They are also in search of co-commodores to learn alongside them this year before taking the lead in 2025. If you are interested or know someone looking to get involved and give back to the community through event leadership, email stormlakestarspangled@gmail.com.

The event will also require a few additional volunteers than in prior years, and those interested in helping at Sunset Park the evening of Wednesday, July 3 or with the parade, parking, and more on Thursday, July 4, may email the commodores as well.

Entertainment will begin on Wednesday, July 3 with a car cruise, kiddie parade, and music in the Bandshell. Thursday’s events will commence with the popular Ride-Run around the lake, followed by the Big Parade along Lakeshore Drive at 10:30 a.m. Other favorites, including a variety of food and music, will take place throughout the day before the evening fireworks. A full schedule will be posted at www.starspangledspectacular.net as plans for the festivities unfold. Updates will also be shared to the event’s social media pages.



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About the Star Spangled Spectacular

A favorite Northwest Iowa tradition, Storm Lake's annual Star Spangled Spectacular celebrates Independence Day along the City's beautiful shores. The family-friendly event is held July 3-4 and welcomes fresh entertainment and returning favorites such as The Big Parade, food and shopping vendors, a classic Car Cruise, the Ride-Run, fireworks, a Patriotic Ceremony, a Kiddie Parade, and more. Visit www.starspangledspectacular.net.

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