

# 500 Festival Parade

It's 90 minutes of fanfare, color and celebration on [93 WIBC](#) with Pat Sullivan and Denny Smith.

When the IPL 500 Festival Parade hits the streets of downtown the day prior to the Indianapolis 500, more than 300,000 people will line up to watch. Only the Tournament of Roses Parade and Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade draw more spectators.

More than 1,500 volunteers help, from seat ushers to ticket sellers to balloon handlers. Beside several giant balloons, entries include:

- ❑ Marching bands – The Purdue University All American marching band has participated every year of the parade dating back to its inaugural year of 1957.
- ❑ Floats – These elaborate creations can take anywhere from 450 to 700 hours to build and range in price from \$25,000 to \$50,000.
- ❑ Celebrities – A different Grand Marshal is chosen each year. Occupations of this ceremonial official have been quite varied through the years including – Army Generals, Hollywood actors, athletes, newscasters, TV chefs and cartoon characters.
- ❑ Additional participants in the parade include nostalgic race cars, politicians, non-profits, celebrities, every driver in the Race.

