



2016 Parade Frequently Asked Questions & Touring Tips

What is the Parade of Homes?

The Parade of Homes is an open house of NEW homes built specifically for this event. The Parade attracts a wide audience from design idea hunters to mild house hunters to the serious buyer. Some homes are decorated, but overall these homes represent the newest selection of new homes that the Triangle area has to offer from the local home building industry.

What is the cost to tour Parade homes?

The tour is free.

How often does the Parade of Homes occur?

The Parade of Homes usually runs the first three weekends of October each year. During the Spring, be sure to take advantage of the annual Remodelers Home Tour and Green Home Tour. More information on each is available through the websites: www.hbadoc.com and www.hbawake.com.

How are home in the Parade judged?

Most of the homes on this annual free tour, are judged. Some homes are not judged because they may be incomplete or have been sold. Parade homes are judged prior to the first open house weekend and winners are selected for gold, silver and bronze awards in each category. Sometimes a parade home will receive a "perfect score" award. Depending on the number of entries on the tour, a select group of out of town judges will tour every home in a category searching for the best of the best. Homes fall into categories based on price, size, and type of home, such as either attached or detached.

While they tour each home, a judge can place a special feature award, noted with a ribbon that is left in the home during the whole tour. Parade winners are announced during a special gala event held during the second week of the parade.

Here are some tips for you to consider to make the most of your Parade of Homes experience:

PLAN AHEAD. Several days before you go on your home tour, plan your route. Depending on your point of origin, you can easily see five homes or more in one day, or half-day, if you're ambitious. Look at the map and directions on the website. Remember: the homes are open on Parade days from 12 Noon – 5 pm. If you have younger children, pack lunches and water bottles or plan ahead to enjoy some restaurants along the way. Finally, leave with a full tank of gas...or better yet invite friends and family to carpool.

PARKING. Most Parade homes require that you park on the street in the neighborhood. A few will have designated parking areas. Be courteous of the neighborhood and observe all city parking and speed regulations. Lock your car and valuables.

THE HOMES. Please keep in mind, these are new homes and the builders plan to sell these homes. Treat them as you would like a visitor to treat your own home. If you can wear “easy to slide off shoes”, that is helpful.

PHOTOS? By all means, feel free to take pictures and notes. Hopefully, you’ll get some great ideas for your current home or your next home.

RESTROOMS. Most Parade homes do not offer public restrooms. So, plan accordingly.

FOOD. There are no concessions at the homes so plan to stop for breakfast, lunch or dinner at local restaurants during your tour of Parade homes. Consult your newspaper or the Internet for some of the fine restaurants in the neighborhoods you will be visiting. Bring water bottles and snacks as walking through homes and up and down stairs will make you hungry and thirsty – and, it will save you money! But remember, you can’t take food or beverages into the homes.

WALKING. Speaking of all that walking – wear comfortable shoes.

KNOW THE PARADE TIMES. You don’t have to see all 50+ homes in one day or weekend. The Parade of Homes is open a total of 8 days (Saturday & Sunday, October 1–2, Friday, Saturday & Sunday, October 9–11 and Friday, Saturday & Sunday, October 14–16. Homes are open Noon – 5 pm each day. Plan ahead and see the Parade homes in sections.

HAVE FUN! This is an adventure. The home builders who built these new homes are professional business people and they have chosen to allow us into their magnificent homes. Take advantage of the ideas they have to offer, and recognize that typically if you wanted to see these homes, you’d have to make an appointment with a Realtor and prove you have the means to purchase the home.

Have fun and enjoy your tour of this year’s Parade of Homes!

For questions about the Parade of Homes located in Durham, Orange and Chatham Counties, please call 919.493.8899 or visit www.hbadoc.com

For questions about the Parade of Homes located in Wake County, please call 919.233.2033 or visit www.hbawake.com.