



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

ANDY GIPSON  
COMMISSIONER

## **PRESS RELEASE**

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**Contact:** Paige Manning, Director of Marketing and Public Relations  
(601) 359-1163 / cell: (662) 312-5897  
[Paige@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:Paige@mdac.ms.gov)

Hannah East, Marketing Specialist  
(601) 359-1179  
[HannahE@mdac.ms.gov](mailto:HannahE@mdac.ms.gov)

**Miss Mississippi Emmie Perkins Presents 2023 Dixie National Parade Awards**  
*Awards Received by Participants from Covington, Hinds, Madison, Perry, Rankin and Smith Counties*

**JACKSON, Miss.** – Miss Mississippi Emmie Perkins presented the 2023 Dixie National Parade awards to winning participants following the parade on Saturday, February 11, 2023, inside the Mississippi Farmers Market. The procession included an array of rodeo and other title queens, marching groups, floats, car and tractor clubs, riding groups, the famous Dixie National Wagon Train and more.

Every year, first and second place winners are chosen within each category of parade participants including best motorized club, marching group, float, and riding group, as well as first, second and third place winners from the Dixie National Wagon Train. In addition, an overall best group was chosen from the 42 parade entries for the coveted Commissioner's Award.

A panel of local celebrity and distinguished judges determined this year's winners including Derek Melton, Forged in Fire Champion; Barbie Bassett, WLBT News Anchor; Ashlyn Henderson, Mississippi 4-H President; Brendan Harrison, Mississippi FFA President; and Ashley Jones, Swamp People Star.

For best motorized club, the Mississippi Misfits Jeep Club of Hinds County took home first place, and the Mississippi Army National Guard took home second place. In marching groups, the Tishomingo Avengers of Rankin County took home first place, and Hinds Community College Hi-Steppers took home second place. For best decorative floats, the Sippi Girls of Madison County received first place, and the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum, located in Hinds County, received second place. In best riding clubs, the Dixie National Flag Girls and Sweethearts received first place, and the Dixie National Rodeo Queens received second place.

Eight individual wagon trains from around the state of Mississippi make up the famous Dixie National Wagon Train. This year, Miss Mississippi Emmie Perkins awarded third place to the Mt. Olive Wagon Train, second place went to the Leaf River Wagon Train, and the Smith County Wagon Train took home first place. In addition, one group in particular stood out within the procession and was determined to be

the best overall participant by our parade judges. Consequently, the Mississippi Misfits Jeep Club was also awarded the 2023 Commissioner's Award.

For more information and a full event schedule on the 58th Dixie National Livestock Show and Rodeo, visit [www.dixienational.org](http://www.dixienational.org), download the mobile app, follow the Dixie National Livestock Show & Rodeo on Facebook or call 601-961-4000.

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**Photos attached.**



**Mississippi Agriculture and Commerce Commissioner Andy Gipson, along with wife, Leslie, led out the annual Dixie National Parade on Saturday, February 11, in downtown Jackson. The 2023 Dixie National 'Trailing through the Decades' Parade included an array of rodeo and other title queens, marching groups, floats, car and tractor clubs, riding groups and the Dixie National Wagon Train.**



**Following the parade, Miss Mississippi Emmie Perkins presented the 1st Place Award in Best Motorized Clubs to the Mississippi Misfits Jeep Club of Hinds County. (pictured here)**



**Following the parade, Miss Mississippi Emmie Perkins presented the 2nd Place Award in Best Motorized Clubs to the Mississippi Army National Guard. (pictured here)**





**Following the parade, Miss Mississippi Emmie Perkins presented the 1st Place Award in Best Marching Group to the Tishomingo Avengers of Rankin County. (pictured here)**



**Following the parade, Miss Mississippi Emmie Perkins presented the 2nd Place Award in Best Marching Group to the Hinds Community College Hi-Steppers of Hinds County. (pictured here)**





**Following the parade, Miss Mississippi Emmie Perkins presented the 1st Place Award in Best Float to the Sippi Girls of Madison County. (pictured here)**



**Following the parade, Miss Mississippi Emmie Perkins presented the 2nd Place Award in Best Float to the Mississippi Agriculture & Forestry Museum, located in Hinds County. (pictured here)**





**Following the parade, Miss Mississippi Emmie Perkins presented the 1st Place Award in Best Riding Clubs to the Dixie National Flag Girls and Sweethearts. (pictured here)**



**Following the parade, Miss Mississippi Emmie Perkins presented the 2nd Place Award in Best Riding Clubs to the Dixie National Rodeo Queens. (pictured here)**





**Following the parade, Miss Mississippi Emmie Perkins presented the third place award in Best Wagon Trains to the Mt. Olive Wagon Train of Covington County, second place went to the Leaf River Wagon Train of Perry County, and the Smith County Wagon Train took home first place.**



**Following the parade, Miss Mississippi Emmie Perkins presented the Commissioner's Award to the Mississippi Misfits Jeep Club of Hinds County as best overall group.**