

ACCESSIBLE VOTING FOR EVERYONE

King County Elections • Outreach Team • 500 Fourth Ave Rm. 553 • Seattle, WA 98104
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SEAFair Torchlight Parade

Westlake Center • Seattle, WA • July 29, 2006



King County
Elections

The King County Elections Outreach Team joined a handful of vendors and informational booths at Westlake Center to educate visitors at this year's SEAFair Torchlight Parade.

Partnering with the Office of the Secretary of State, the King County Elections booth was able to provide voters with a wide breadth of elections information. The combination of these two offices was not only educational and enriching for visitors to the booth, but also for the members of the Outreach Team.

There was great energy and enthusiasm among individuals waiting for the Torchlight Parade. After securing their seats, parade goers had plenty of time to check out the vendor booths and ask thorough questions. The King County Elections booth was presented with many questions about the upcoming elections, the accessible voting unit (AVU) and registration guidelines.



Russell Kasselmann, Office of the Secretary of State employee, answered election related questions.

Event statistics

- Eight practice ballots were cast on the AVU
- 27 individuals registered to vote or updated their registration materials
- Six individuals signed up to be poll workers

The SEAFair Torchlight Parade was an excellent opportunity for King County Elections to reach out to the community.

Audience:

300,000 parade spectators

2006 Southwest Airlines Torchlight Parade at SEAFair • www.seafair.com/

Torchlight History

The Southwest Airlines Torchlight Parade at SEAFair is one of the final events of the month-long community celebration that occurs throughout King County every summer.

The parade, which travels from Seattle Center to Qwest Field, was introduced in 1950 as a major event to attract tourists to Seattle. The three hour event showcases royalty, marching bands, dance teams, military units, community created floats, and of course, the SEAFair Pirates.

Directly preceding the parade is the annual Torchlight Run, an 8K race that concludes along the parade route.



Young parade attendees were eager to get their noise makers for the evening event.



More than 2,700 runners took the streets prior to the Torchlight Parade. The 8K and 5K runs conclude with the cheering support of the parade viewers.

Current Traditions

This year's parade drew in a crowd of around 300,000 viewers, with another 800,000 watching from home. Former Mariner's catcher Dan Wilson, and former Seattle Seahawk player Warren Moon served as the 2006 Grand Marshals.

People began lining streets as early as 8 a.m. anxious to get a good seat for the "The Buccaneers of Yesteryear" themed parade; celebrating Seattle's legendary SEAFair Pirates, who have been a part of SEAFair since the festival began in the 1950s.