

City of Helotes Cornyval Parade

Rules & Regulations



The City of Helotes invites you to participate in the 2025 Wild West Roundup Cornyval Parade on Saturday, May 3, 2025, from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. The parade will begin from Leslie Rd. to Old Town Helotes.

GENERAL ENTRY RULES

- This is a forward-moving parade. There is no stopping for performances, revving engines, or other actions that alter parade movement. Care should be given to maintaining a spacing of 2 car lengths to avoid gaps.
- All parade entries must showcase the chosen theme.
- Campaign slogans, political ideology, or issues-based messaging are prohibited on all parade entries as they do not align with the spirit and theme of the annual Cornyval Parade.
- The City of Helotes retains the right to refuse entry of any floats, units, or individuals not conforming to the standards of the Cornyval Parade. Offensive signage, apparel, or décor on any entry or offensive or inappropriate language or behavior by drivers/riders of an entry are grounds for refusal of entry, removal from the line-up, and banned entry in future parades.
- No rollerblades, skateboards, or water guns will be allowed.
- Each moving vehicle must be driven by an age 18+ adult with a valid driver's license for the class of vehicle(s) they will be operating and valid insurance coverage for the vehicle(s) they operate.
- Candy and small trinkets may be thrown but **MUST** be thrown far enough to reach the crowd. Tossing items close to the roadway just outside the float is not permitted. Violation of this rule may result in exclusion from future parades.
- Respect and obey instructions by all parade staff, volunteers, marshals, and law enforcement members working the parade.

JUDGING

- Entrants will be judged on the use of light, originality, and depiction of the theme, friendliness of riders/volunteers, and overall visual appeal.
- Ribbons for 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place will be given in each division.

LIGHTING & ELECTRICAL

- Portable generators used on the float must be securely mounted. A minimum of 12 inches clearance must separate any part of the generator from decorative materials.
- Wiring should be performed by a licensed electrician.
- Electrical wires and devices must be of sufficient gauge for the use intended. Wiring must be properly secured to the float to avoid mechanical damage and injury to float riders.

FLOATS, VEHICLES, AND DRIVERS

- Float beds must be sturdy and capable of carrying the weight to be imposed.
- Float and vehicle riders should be secure on the vehicle with handholds, rails, or chairs.
- All decorations must be flame-retardant.



- Smoking on or near any floats at any time is prohibited.
- All vehicles and trailers must be properly registered and insured. Drivers of the vehicles in the parade must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid license for the class of vehicle they are driving. Drivers must also be experienced in driving that vehicle.
- Drivers may not consume alcohol, use a cell phone, or engage in distracting behaviors while operating the vehicle.
- All vehicles must be properly serviced and in good mechanical condition (brakes, transmission, etc.).
- All vehicle operators participating in the parade must exercise good judgment and maintain a slow and reasonable speed based on the size of the vehicle and weather conditions.
- Test your generator and fill your gas tank prior to the parade. No fuel other than in the vehicle's fuel tank may be carried on the entry.
- Check the float hitch to ensure it is secure.
- Make sure your vehicle driver has clear vision on all sides with no obstructions.
- All vehicle exhaust systems must be clear of any decorative materials and properly ventilated.
- All floats and decorated vehicles are subject to a safety inspection.
- Once an entry is in position in the staging area, a driver or representative must attend the entry at all times.
- Parade Organizers reserve the right to remove any person or entry from the pre-parade staging area or the parade route that, in the parade organizer's opinion, is offensive, a hindrance to the progress of the parade, places other participants or spectators in physical danger or violates any guidelines or safety standards presented in the entry application, in this packet or in any written/verbal communication.

FLOAT SIZE

- The route of the Light The Night Christmas Parade includes a U-turn on Main Street at the intersection of Washington Street. Entries must be able to navigate the U-turn in one motion (no backing up).
- Floats must have a minimum of 8 inches of ground clearance from the frame. Nothing can drag on the roadway from the float. Proper clearance of materials from around the wheels of the vehicles must be incorporated to avoid materials being caught in them.

ENTRY RIDERS AND PARTICIPANTS

- It is the responsibility of the entry's designated representative to share and communicate all parade rules and safety standards with all riders and volunteers.
- Adult supervision is required for all children under the age of 12, with one adult recommended for every ten children.
- Consumption of alcoholic beverages by entry drivers, riders, or volunteers in the staging area and on the parade route is prohibited.



ANIMAL ENTRIES

- All animal handlers must always have control of their animal.
- Animals participating in the parade must be acclimated to large crowds and loud noise.
- All animal entries must provide their own “clean-up” crew to follow their unit in the parade.
- Any animal deemed unsafe by parade organizers or law enforcement will be removed from the staging area or parade route.
- Equestrian riders must be at least 12 years of age, have parental or guardian consent, and be accompanied by an adult rider/trainer.
- Animal entries of any kind will be subject to review for approval.

ENTRY APPLICATION

- Entries will be received electronically.
- By completing and submitting the parade entry application, you are attesting that you have read and will comply with all parade rules and safety standards.
- By electronically submitting the parade application form, you are thus signing and agreeing to the terms therein for all participants in your organization or entry group.
- The City of Helotes staff reserves the right to reject any entry application at any time, with all decisions being final.
- If, for some unforeseen reason, your entry is unable to participate in the parade, you must contact the parade staff before the parade date.



Parade Safety Checklist

Please keep this list for reference.

- Parade Entry Number: All parade entries are to be approved by the City of Helotes Marketing & Events Coordinator.
- In compliance with parade entry rules: all participants will abide by rules established for the parade by the City of Helotes.
- Clothing and costumes appropriate: All clothing and costumes must be appropriate for family viewing and in good taste
- Driver's license, insurance, inspection, registration, lights, tow chains: all participants must comply with all city, county, state, and federal laws and regulations
- All entries must be able to safely navigate the parade route
- No holdovers/hangovers on float or vehicle: no part of the riders' bodies may protrude, hang over, or dangle from the side or back of a float or vehicle
- No parade participant or spectator may enter or exit a moving float or vehicle during the parade
- Fire extinguisher present in towing vehicle: All vehicles towing a float are requested, but not required to have a fire extinguisher unless required to have one by law
No fires, candles, or other open flame: no live fires or open flames are permitted on any float
- Horses, mules, etc., with diapers or cleaning crew: all equestrian/animal units in a parade must be diapered or have a clean-up crew to follow
- Visibility check: vehicle entries, including those towing floats, should provide the driver with 180-degree visibility from the driver's position, as well as visibility of both sides of the entry with the use of mirrors, and if not, the vehicle shall be accompanied by one attendant on each side of the vehicle within the driver's sight for the entirety of the parade who can watch out for and give immediate warning of an unsafe condition
- Generators must be secure, with no fuel cans on float and no bare wires: generators, if used, shall be securely attached to floats, with no bare, exposed, or loose wires present on the float

