

2020 AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR PARADE RULES, CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

October 8, 2020

“Back to the Basics” at the Austin County Fair

We're all in this COVID-19 Pandemic together and we all want to get back to normal. Accordingly, the theme of this year's Austin County Fair is “**BACK TO THE BASICS**”. Come be a part of the 93rd Austin County Fair Parade and Get Back to the Basics with us on Thursday, October 8, 2020 at 10:00 AM in Bellville, Texas.

As in the past, theme entries will be on a first come, first serve basis. You will be notified if your title has already been registered.

Entries should be mailed or emailed:

Mary Smentek

email austincountyparade@sbcglobal.net

155 Dogwood Trail

Bellville, Texas 77418

Questions: Call Mary 713 849 0861 or 713 876 7102

“Deadline for entries is Wednesday, September 30, 2020.”

Parade Rules

*******VERY IMPORTANT*******

The Austin County Fair Association wants everyone to be able to enjoy your country fair from beginning to end and to feel safe in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. We invite you to be part of this year's parade and fair activities, but please bear in mind that rescheduling of the parade date and/or time, revisions to parade rules, and even the possible cancellation of the parade may have to be undertaken at any time prior to the parade event. Any such measure would be enacted only if deemed necessary based on the then current guidelines concerning public safety as regards COVID-19.

On parade day you will be required to follow the latest COVID-19 pandemic guidelines which are in effect as stipulated by Federal, State, County and City authorities, as well as the guidelines specified by the Austin County Fair Association.

1. NO THROWING OF GUM, CANDY, PAPER, ETC AND NO HANDING OUT OF ANY ITEMS BY PARADE ENTRANTS WILL BE ALLOWED. Entrants that do not abide by this rule WILL BE REMOVED from the parade and will not be eligible to enter future parades.
(THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS SAFETY ISSUE!)

2. Walking Units, which does include bands, may disband upon reaching their final parade route destination. However, IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THESE PERSONS DO NOT WALK IN FRONT OF SPECTATORS AGAINST THE PARADE ROUTE. Not only does this hinder viewing, it also is unfair to parade entries that are still in progress.
3. Deadline for entries is Wednesday, September 30th. Any entries received after that, IF ACCEPTED, will be placed at the end of the parade.
4. NO PARKING will be allowed on the street of the parade route on Thursday until the parade is over.
5. Parade entries should be in place by 9:15 AM, Thursday, October 10th, except for Western Division – Trail Riders do not have to be in line until 9:30 AM. Any entry which includes a Horse(s)/Mule(s) will be placed in rear of the parade with the rest of the four legged animals. NO EXCEPTIONS.
6. Cars will not be allowed on Bell Street to drop off participants. All participants will have to walk from barricades on South Harris or South Holland and South Masonic.
7. All participants will stay in their designated places until authorized to advance by a Parade Committee member. Non-compliance with this rule will result in forfeiture of participation in the parade. Entries with horses may NOT travel up & down road prior to the parade.
8. Speed of entries in the parade and control of traffic will be under the direction and supervision of the Chief of Police of the City of Bellville and the Austin County Sheriff's Department or the Texas Department of Public Safety.
9. Identification of sponsor must be on both sides of the parade entry.
10. DO NOT STOP TO PERFORM – This slows the speed of the parade down and WE ARE HOLDING THE TRAIN.
11. DO NOT LET RIDERS OFF AT FAIRGROUND ENTRANCE. Entries should parade THROUGH the Fair Entrance off of Highway 159. At that point, drivers should look for directions from Parade Committee members. Do not block the parade route and leave vehicles unattended.
12. Floats will be parked in the reserved section of the Fairgrounds. Riders may leave any time after the float has been parked. When the parade is finished, floats will leave the Fairgrounds through Gate 1 on Highway 159.
13. Band buses will be parked in the reserved area on North Amthor Street. When you are called with your parade entry number you will be advised where band buses are to drop off band members.
14. The Parade Chairman, Parade Committee and the Austin County Fair Association reserve the right to refuse to accept any entry to participate in the Austin County Fair Parade.
15. NO consumption of alcoholic beverages by parade entrants will be allowed.
16. It is important to display your "Line-Up Number". It should be displayed on the front right of entry. Example: truck pulling trailer place on front right bumper area of truck, right side of horse, right side of wagon, cars/trucks right front area Write line-up number in bold on white paper– letter size paper is ok. Also, every rider in horse groups should display "Line-up Number" for your entry, right side. Some horse groups are not staying in place therefore judges find it hard to discern groups.

Float Requirements

1. Each float should have the theme idea/slogan and the sponsor's name on each side of the entry in a manner that can be read from a distance, for identification by the judges and for the pleasure of the spectators.
2. Theme idea/slogan should be coordinated with float shape and costumes.
3. Wheels and tongue of the trailer should be concealed.
4. Pulling vehicle should be coordinated with the float theme / slogan.
5. Arrangement, actions and costumes of riders on floats will be considered in the float's effectiveness.
6. Overall appeal of float as it proceeds along the parade route will determine the float's quality.
7. Entries will be judged at the reviewing stand by a panel of out of town judges. All decisions of the judges will be FINAL.

General Division Categories and Prizes
YOU MUST DISPLAY Line Up NUMBER

GOVERNOR'S AWARD - Governor's Award is awarded to the best presentation of the theme idea, float shape, pulling vehicle and characters' depiction of "**Back to the Basics**" at the Austin County Fair.

GOVERNOR'S AWARD – Trophy & Ribbon

RUNNER-UP GOVERNOR'S AWARD - Ribbon

SHOWMANSHIP AWARD - Showmanship Award is granted to the entry that creates the best spectator response.

1st SHOWMANSHIP AWARD – Trophy & Ribbon

2nd SHOWMANSHIP AWARD – Ribbon

FLOAT CATEGORY - Best Decorated Float Category includes floats that exhibit the best use of flat covering, plus float shape, coordination of pulling vehicle and riders.

1st BEST DECORATED FLOAT – Trophy & Ribbon

2nd and 3rd BEST DECORATED FLOAT - Ribbon

CLASSIC CAR CATEGORY - This category shall include vehicles 25 years old or older. Vehicle should be decorated to carry out the parade theme. Only a limited number of vehicles will be accepted in this category.

1st and 2nd Place - Ribbons

ANTIQUA TRACTOR CATEGORY - This category shall include tractors 25 years old or older. Tractors should be decorated to carry out the parade theme. Only a limited number of tractors will be accepted in this category.

1st and 2nd Place - Ribbons

WALKING UNIT CATEGORY –

1st, 2nd and 3rd Place - Ribbons

RIDING GROUP CATEGORY -

1st BEST RIDING GROUP

2nd and 3rd Place - Ribbons

WAGON CATEGORY –

1st, 2nd and 3rd Place - Ribbons

All Parade Award Winners (Trophies and Ribbons) will be contacted on Friday, October 9th. Awards/Ribbons will be handed out and pictures taken on Sunday, October 11^h in the Flower Show area of the Convention and Expo Building. Winners will be advised of the time when contacted.

Very Important

Once you get to the Fairgrounds

FOLLOW Instructions given to you by Fair Officials

They are working to provide everyone with Fast & Safe directions.

Do Not Stop and take pictures on the fairgrounds Look and Listen for Fair Officials they are there to give you directions ABOUT HOW TO PROCEED ONCE YOU ARE ON THE FAIRGROUNDS.

**Stay on Float / Vehicle until you are TOLD to Disembark
(Do NOT Unload anything or Get Off of carrier)**

Once you have been told to Disembark DO NOT Walk Back into Parade Route, there are people trying to watch parade and you are getting in the way. HAVE RESPECT Clear the immediate area around carrier so the next carrier may move up and disembark.

There is a Recommended Pick-Up Area for Kids – it is BEHIND the ticket booth by the Expo bldg. YOU are responsible for children in your group. Keep up with them.

Once you are in the Parking Area, you may unload equipment, dismantle float/vehicle decorations. Exit (Gate 3) this will be closed until the finish of the parade. Once all entries have entered Gate 1 and the police have given ok then Gate 3 will be opened for exiting.

Thank you for being a part of the Austin Co. Fair Parade