

2023 AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR PARADE RULES, CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

October 12, 2023

“Denim Jeans and Country Dreams at the 96th year of the Austin County Fair”

We are dressing in our denim jeans and having fun in the Austin County Fair Parade. You and the Austin County Fair have shown over the years that we all know how to have FUN. We want to reflect that in our parade, so please come be a part of this year’s parade to help kick off YOUR County Fair

When considering the makeup of your parade entry think Denim & Dreams. Wear your denim outfit and think about all the country dreams you have. We have been doing this for 96 years so come be a part of the big day.

The Austin County Fair Parade will take place on Thursday, October 11, 2023 at 10:00 AM in Bellville, Texas. The theme for this year’s Fair is **“Denim Jeans and Country Dreams at the 96th year of the Austin County Fair”** and parade entries should be tailored to reflect that.

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 to:

**Mail: Mary Smentek
155 Dogwood Trail
Bellville, Texas 77418**

email: austincountyparade@sbcglobal.net

Questions: Call Mary 713 849 0861 or 713 876 7102

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2023.

If you do not receive your entry confirmation within 3 days of sending it. Then please contact me by email or phone (contact info above).

Parade Rules

NOTE: We have a NEW parade route – Same line-up area – Same route with a little extra added – More viewing area for our guests - No Train Tracks to cross!

Starting at the courthouse as usual – moving toward fairgrounds – NO CROSSING AT RAILROAD – curving south on 36 toward O’Bryant Street. ONCE I have received your entry additional information will be provided, but in the meantime if you have ANY questions please call me (Mary 713 876 7102)

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.
3. Deadline for entries is Tuesday, October 3rd. 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 12th, 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 the road prior to 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
11. Band buses, trailers, etc will be parked in a reserved area that will be very convenient for everyone at the end of the parade route. Once you have been assigned an entry number further information will be provided
12. 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.
13. NO consumption of alcoholic beverages by parade entrants will be allowed.

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 vehicles 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 the 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

AUSTIN COUNTY JUDGE AWARD – Austin County Judge Award is awarded to the best presentation of the theme idea, float shape, pulling vehicle and characters’ depiction of “Denim Jeans and Country Dreams at the 96th year of the Austin County Fair” theme.

AUSTIN COUNTY JUDGE AWARD – Trophy & Ribbon – Sponsored by County Judge Tim Lapham

RUNNER-UP AUSTIN COUNTY JUDGE AWARD - Ribbon

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

1st SHOWMANSHIP AWARD – Trophy & Ribbon – Sponsored by City of Industry

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 – Sponsored by Bellville Abstract Company

2nd and 3rd BEST DECORATED FLOAT - Ribbon

CLASSIC CAR CATEGORY - This category shall include vehicles 25 years old or older. Vehicles 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

ANTIQUE 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 – Trophy & Ribbon - Sponsored by 7IL Ranch

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 13th. Awards/Ribbons will be handed out and pictures taken on Sunday, October 15th in the stage area of the Convention and Expo Building. Winners will be advised of the time when contacted.