

2024 AUSTIN COUNTY FAIR PARADE RULES, CATEGORIES AND PRIZES

October 10, 2024

“Rock Around the Stock at the 97th year of the Austin County Fair”

We are going to Rock Around the Stock this year. So bring your favorite music and your dancing boots so we may kick off the Austin County Fair with a 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 Music, Dancing & Animals. Let’s show the fair animals how to have fun. “Rock Around the Stock” bring on a good time!

The Austin County Fair Parade will take place on Thursday, October 10, 2024 at 10:00 AM in Bellville, Texas. The theme for this year’s Fair is **“Rock Around the Stock at the 97th year of the Austin County Fair”** and parade entries should be tailored to reflect that.

As in 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 713 876 7102 or 713 849 0861

DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES IS TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2024.

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 used the SAME NEW parade route as used at the 2023 parade – 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. REMEMBER and LOOK FOR signs on O’Bryant Street that will direct you to parking and line up areas. If you have ANY questions please call me (Mary 713 876 7102) PLEASE DON’T wait until the night before.

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. When reaching end of parade route BE SURE and FOLLOW SIGNS which will lead you to your DISBANDING AREA. This will help everyone trying to leave the area.
3. Deadline for entries is Tuesday, October 1st. 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 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 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. Buses will be parking in the marked area used during the 2023 parade route. Look for you school name/parade helpers to direct you to your parking area.
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 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 – No Number Showing NOT Qualified to be Judged

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 the theme “Round Around the Stock” at the 97th 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

RIDER / RIDING GROUP CATEGORY -

1st BEST RIDER/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 11th. Awards/Ribbons will be handed out and pictures taken on Sunday, October 13th in the stage area of the Convention and Expo Building. Winners will be advised of the time when contacted.