

# 2026 Austin County Fair Parade Entry Form

Fair Theme: "Country Nights and Carnival Lights"

at the 99<sup>th</sup> Austin County Fair

## **SHINE SHINE SHINE !!!!! Make your entry SHINE!!!!**

You might not can plug into an electrical socket BUT you can make your entry SHINE in different ways!!!! When you see a carnival what attracts you to it? The colors, the artwork, the lights, the SHINE. Make your entry a carnival attraction!!

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

**DEADLINE for Entries is Sunday, September 27, 2026.** If you do not receive your entry confirmation within 3 days of sending it, please contact by email or phone (contact info below). After you have confirmation of entry from me, you'll be contacted again on the weekend prior to the parade date with our Entry Number/Line-Up number and Area. Please display this number on both sides of your entry in order to assist the parade announcers and judges in identifying your entry. All Parade Award winners will be contacted on Friday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. Winners will be given their trophies/ribbons and have photos taken on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> in the Stage area of the Convention and Expo Building. Your time for photos will be advised when notified of award.

Parade will take place on Thursday, October 8, 2026

**Return Completed Form to:            Mary Smentek**  
**155 Dogwood Trail**  
**Bellville, Texas 77418**

**or email:    austincountyparade@sbcglobal.net**

**Call with Questions:                Mary 713-876-7102**

Please don't wait until the night before, am here to help you. "So we all can have a FUN time!"

**2026 Entry - Fair Theme – “Country Nights & Carnival Lights”**

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**Name of Organization:**

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**Mailing Address:**

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**Town:**

**Zip Code:**

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**Contact Person:**

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**Contact Cell or Home Phone:**

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**Contact Work Phone:**

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**Email for Contact:**

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**Entry title / Theme Slogan:**

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**Type of Entry: (Circle One)**

**Truck/Trailer (Float)**

**Walking Group**

**Truck/Car**

**Horse Group**

**Wagon**

**Tractor**

**Misc. (Describe):**

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**VERY IMPORTANT!!! TOTAL Overall Length of Entry: ( in feet including Pull Vehicle)**

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**Music on your Entry: (Circle One) Yes or No**



## **Parade Rules & Float Requirements**

If you have ANY questions please call me (Mary 713 876 7102) PLEASE DONT 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. You will be contacted the weekend prior to parade day with your Line-Up Number and advised of Line-Up Area. 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 Sunday, September 27th. 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 8th, 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. 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.

7. 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.

8. Identification of sponsor and Line-Up Number needs to be on BOTH SIDES of the parade entry. This will help the announcer and judges correctly identify your entry.

9. DO NOT STOP TO PERFORM-This slows the speed of the parade down

10. 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 marked areas so look for your school name/parade helpers will direct you to your parking area.

11. 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.

12. 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 "Country Nights and Carnival Lights" at the 99th 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**

**SHOWMANSIDP AWARD** - Showmanship Award is granted to the entry that creates the best spectator response.  
1st -Trophy & Ribbon- Sponsored by City of Industry  
2nd - 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.

**BEST DECORATED FLOAT**  
1st – 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

**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

**RIDER / RIDING GROUP CATEGORY** -  
1st - 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 9<sup>th</sup> Awards/Ribbons will be handed out and pictures taken on Sunday, October 11<sup>th</sup> in the stage area of the Convention and Expo Building. Winners will be advised of the time when contacted.