



Rohnert Park's Founder's Day Parade Saturday, September 26, 2026

The Parade steps off at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, September 26, 2026

Rohnert Park celebrates the history and stories that built Rohnert Park's early foundation and helped us create a very special hometown. This year's theme:

“America's 250th Anniversary”

Create a float representing your favorite time period in American history; or the people, places, and traditions that make our community special.

PARADE RULES & APPLICATION PROCESS

NO AIR HORNS WILL BE PERMITTED.

Mark your calendar now so you don't miss a deadline:

Regular Deadline September 1, 2026

Late Deadline (space available only, late fee applies) September 12, 2026

REMINDERS

SAFETY is the main focus of our parade. The following units will not be eligible for Awards, and are subject to immediate removal from the Parade:

- Air horns may not be used by any unit in the parade.
- Units that throw toss or pitch (underhand or overhand) ANY item into, or toward the spectators. THROWING OF ANY CANDY, MERCHANDISE OR OTHER ITEMS IS PROHIBITED. Items to be distributed must be handed to spectators.
- Units which are determined to be proceeding in an unsafe manner.
- Units which are observed drinking any alcoholic beverage in the staging area, or along the route. ALCOHOL IS PROHIBITED.
- Units which in any way interfere with other units in the parade.
- Units which do not comply with Parade Marshal requests for Safe Behavior.
- Equestrian Units which do not have a Pooper Scooper.

Only ONE motorized vehicle is permitted per entry. Additional vehicles (sound trucks, cars, floats, support vehicles) require a separate entry form and separate entry fee for each additional vehicle.

APPLICATION RECEIVED WITHOUT FEE OR ANNOUNCER SCRIPT WILL BE RETURNED. They must be returned to the Parade Committee, completed prior to September 12, 2026 to be considered for the parade.

NO POLITICAL OR ISSUE CAMPAIGNING IS PERMITTED IN THE PARADE. See the full explanation on Page Two of this document.

RAIN OR SHINE: The parade goes on rain or shine. All units must be prepared for rain or cold as well as sun and heat. Unless the Parade is cancelled by the Parade Committee, all units will be expected to perform, and no entry fees will be refunded.

ENTRY DEADLINES & FEES

No entry will be accepted until all information, fees and descriptions are received by the Parade Committee. Postmarks do not count. Incomplete entries will be returned and cannot be considered until they are complete.

Non-Commercial entries are parade units entered by an individual, academic school, nonprofit organization, service club or youth group which do not give logo or other significant promotional space to for-profit or financial businesses. Academic Schools (K-12): Academic Schools may submit as many entries (other than bands) as they wish for a single-entry fee, as long as they are mailed and march together. Applications received separately require separate fees

Commercial entries are parade units entered by commercial or financial businesses.

Mail entry forms to:
Founder's Day Committee
C/O Shari Lorenz, 5786 Dexter Cir,
Rohnert Park, CA 94928.
Shari - 707-328-9255
Jen – 707-481-6859

Regular Fees/Deadline September 1, 2026

FEES for entries received COMPLETE by 5 p.m. September 1, 2026

Non-Profit/School Groups/Band \$0

Non-Commercial Regular Fee \$75

Commercial Regular Fee \$200

Late Entry Until September 15, 2026

COMPLETED entries received September 15, 2026 or later pay the following fees. NO entries will be accepted after deadline.

Non-Profit/School Groups/Band \$25

Non-Commercial Late Fee \$100

Commercial Late Fee \$300

Entry fees are NON-REFUNDABLE. If for any reason an entry is not accepted into the lineup, fees will be returned. Once accepted into the lineup, fees are not refundable.

RULES FOR ALL ENTRIES

ENTRY FORM DESCRIPTIONS: Please be as complete as possible. All entries must conform to the description provided on the Parade Application Form. If your unit will have an element of sound-chanting, boom box, amplified music for a dance team, and singing by a choir – please describe it fully so that we do not place you near other units with competing sound. Any animal included in the unit must be listed and described on this form.

ALL ENTRIES MUST BE SAFE: Vehicle and float drivers must be able to have a clear view of the front of the vehicle. Floats must be constructed of fire-safe materials and must carry a fire extinguisher. Appropriate area for vehicle exhaust must be designed into the float/unit. All floats must have secure seating, or handholds for standing riders.

PARADE VEHICLES: All motorized vehicles in the parade (cars, trucks, tractors, floats, motorcycles) must be driven by a licensed, insured driver. Evidence of license and current valid insurance must be received by the Parade Committee no later than September 12, 2026. No child may sit on the lap of a driver of any vehicle or tractor in the parade.

INSURANCE/HOLD HARMLESS: All units must return the application with a signature accepting the Hold Harmless Agreement. All units must submit evidence of insurance. A Certificate of Additionally insured may be required at the discretion of the Parade Committee. Entrants requiring Certificates will be notified in writing.

PARADE ORDERS: Parade Orders will be emailed approximately September 21, 2026. You will be sent your Parade Number, Staging Position, a Map of the Area and Staging Arrival Time. Please arrange to communicate this to all members of your group. The printed Parade Number, which you attach to your unit, will be handed to you in the Staging Area.

JUDGING: Judging will be done by judges selected by the Parade Committee. Parade units can compete in only one category. Each unit will be judged on its overall presentation, and the judges' decision will be final. In the case where there is only one entrant in a category, that unit may be re-classified.

LOUD AIR HORNS: NO air horns may be sounded before, during or on exit from the parade.

THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED IN THE PARADE

ALCOHOL: NO alcoholic beverages are allowed in the parade, staging area or disband area. Units may not have alcohol on floats.

AIR HORNS: No air horns to be discharged at any time before or during the parade.

ELECTION/ISSUE CAMPAIGNING: NO participant may advocate, oppose or depict any political, religious, social or other ballot or political issues before the council or supervisors. The Rohnert Park Founders Day Parade will not permit itself to be used as a platform or advertising vehicle for any candidate or issue. No election signs, themes or colors may be displayed. Units discovered to have political advertising or to be distributing political advertising along the route will be removed from the line-up. Currently serving elected officials who represent the Rohnert Park area will be invited to ride in the parade. Signs will identify only their current status. They may not campaign for re-election or for any other office; nor may they display or distribute electioneering materials on the Parade route.

THROWING OBJECTS OR CANDY: DO NOT throw anything into the crowd. Spectators may not be enticed into the parade route. If you wish to distribute items to the spectators, please have walkers approach the crowd **AT THE CURB** and **HAND** the items to spectators. Units that create a litter problem will be charged for cleanup.

JUMPING ON OR OFF: Parade participants may NOT jump, dance, ride, bike, skateboard, or move in any way, onto or off, any moving float or vehicle.

SPECIAL RULES FOR SPECIAL UNITS

ANIMALS

If you bring animals with your unit they must be identified on the Parade Entry Form. Horses, dogs, cows, reptiles and any other wild or domestic animal shall not be in the parade without specific written approval by the Parade Committee.

All entrants with animals must submit proof that there is insurance in place to cover the animal's activity.

All entrants with animals must clean up after the animal along the parade route and in the staging and de-staging areas. Units not providing pooper scoopers will be removed from the parade.

The Parade reserves the right to remove, from the Parade, any animal which appears to be uncomfortable, unruly, or in any way presenting an immediate or potential danger to other units or to spectators.

FLOATS

A float is any fully decorated (covered 80% or more) structure or vehicle (car, truck, golf cart, rolling cart). Truck cabs and towing vehicles must also be decorated. All floats must have wheel walkers.

SIZE: Floats cannot be taller than 13 feet to get under overhead wires and cannot be wider than 8 feet to move through traffic lanes.

Appendages up to 18 feet may be folded out. Floats must be able to make a 90-degree corner within two traffic lanes. (There are two left turns for all parade units.) Length of a float including the tow vehicle cannot exceed 60' without prior approval from Parade Committee.

TREES: Please be aware that low hanging trees can line portions of the staging area. If your unit exceeds 10' in height, please make note on your application so that we can stage you away from the low trees.

FIRE SAFETY: All floats must use fire retardant materials and carry a fire extinguisher.

CAR CLUBS

Car club entries are limited to 10 vehicles. Only registered and recognized car clubs qualify for entry with multiple vehicles. Each vehicle must submit an entry form, drivers' insurance, and a fee. The per-vehicle fee for car clubs is \$15.

WALKING GROUPS

Walking units must be defined prior to parade line-up. No pick-up walkers may join in route.

Walking groups must be costumed or uniformed.

Walking groups are limited to 75 walkers. Groups of more than 25 must have a minimum of one adult per 10 youth under 14 years of age.

Walking groups will be judged in the category appropriate for the oldest performing member of the group. For example: A youth group of 8-14-year-olds, accompanied by adults walking nearby, will be judged with 14 year old groups, a group of 8-14 year olds whose parents are part of the performance will be judged with adult groups.

STAGING AND PARKING

You will receive detailed Parade Orders about how and when your unit should arrive. Your Parade Orders will be emailed approximately September 21, 2026. Please arrange to communicate these instructions to all participants in your group, especially drivers.

Someone from your group should be presented in your staging position at all times after your assigned arrival time. Drivers must stay with their vehicles/floats.

DO NOT PARK PERSONAL VEHICLES IN THE STAGING AREA. Only Parade Units may park there.

Horse Trailers will have a special parking area identified in your Parade Orders. Please unload the horses and then move your unit to the assigned staging location.

AWARDS & JUDGING

SPECIAL AWARDS

Special Awards will be made for the following:

Sweepstakes (Overall Best Entry)
Judges Special (Judges' Choice)
Memorial Award (Best Themed Entry)
People's Choice

JUDGING CRITERIA

Each category will be judged on:

- Use of theme
- Originality
- Sportsmanship, following rules & instructions
- Technique or craftsmanship
- Showmanship
- Overall quality

All judging takes place in front of the viewing stand at the corner of Snyder & Expressway (Community Center).



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Create a float representing your favorite time period in American history; or the people, places, and traditions that make our community special.

Please fill out BOTH SIDES of this application completely, print clearly and please use ink.

TELL US ABOUT THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ENTERING

This entrant is (check one box only):

- ☐ A Sponsor
- ☐ Non-Profit/Schools/Band
- ☐ Commercial, Financial or Marketing Business
- ☐ Non-Commercial

Name of the Individual, Group, Organization or Business making entry: _____

Name of person we should contact if we have questions: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____ Email: _____

Email address where we should send parade orders (please print clearly in ink): _____

TELL US ABOUT YOUR PARADE UNIT

What kind of unit do you want to enter in the parade? Please CHECK ONLY ONE CLASS. This is the class you will be judged in. Parade Committee reserves the right to re-classify entries.

- ☐ **Marching Band** – Are you a school? What grade levels? _____
- ☐ **Band or another Musical Group on a Float?** What kind of music? _____
- ☐ **Float – decorated 80% or more.** Will you have a truck with towed trailer, or truck with flatbed? _____
- ☐ **Mini Float** – Using fully decorated golf cart, pushcart or another smaller vehicle. What is the base vehicle? _____
- ☐ **Novelty/Specialty** (Dance, Drill or combination Unit) please indicate what kind of dance or drill unit: _____
- ☐ **Color Guard:** Are you representing a school or US Branch of Military? Which school/branch? _____
- ☐ **Costumed Walking Group** – What are your costumes? _____
- ☐ **Costumed Walking Group with Animals** – what kind of animals? _____
- ☐ **Equestrian Group** – What CSHA Points Class are you entering? _____
- ☐ **Antique or Classic Car** – What Make/Model/Year? _____
- ☐ **Antique or Classic Tractor** – Is it Antique or Classic? What Make/Model/Year? _____
- ☐ **Car Club** (max of 10 cars; \$15 per car fee) Club Name & President: _____
- ☐ **Veterans Group** – Will you have a car or marching unit? _____

Please let us know, as much as possible, about your plans. How will you use our theme? Will you use signs, costumes, float details, music or what? Please be as detailed as possible. This is the description we will use when we judge entries. (Use a separate sheet if necessary.)

Please describe your entry: _____

Please be sure you have completed all pages of this form. Incomplete entries will not be considered.

Number of people in your unit _____ Approximate length of unit on the street (for staging planning) _____ feet

Length of your vehicle _____ Width of your vehicle or float: _____ Height: _____

SOUND? Will your unit have any element of sound (music, drums, singing, etc.)? **Yes or No**

Will the sound be amplified? Yes or No Please describe the music/sound: _____

Will the sound be: very soft moderate loud very loud

Motorized Vehicle – Will your parade unit have a motorized vehicle which is used for ANY purpose? **Yes or No**

If you answer yes, you are required to submit with this application a photocopy of the driver's license and vehicle insurance card. Please remember only ONE vehicle per entry form/fee.

ANIMALS? Will your parade unit include any animals (dogs, llamas, cows, cats, snakes, horses, etc.)? **Yes or No**

If you answer yes, you are required to submit, with this application, a photocopy of liability insurance, which would cover any damage, which an animal might create.

Please describe the number and type of animals in your unit: _____

What is the name of the person responsible for cleaning up animal waste for your unit? _____

PLEASE ATTACH A 75 WORD ANNOUNCER SCRIPT

Applications received without an Announcer Script will be returned and not considered.

Things you may wish to include in our announcer script: Theme, the names of key people on your float, the name of the song you are performing and why you selected it, your organizations mission or marketing tag line, why you are participating in the parade, etc. Please remember, the announcers only have time to read about 75 words, anything more will be cut off.

FEES, SIGNATURES & DEADLINES

Application Date & Fee (Please see Fee Schedule) Today's Date: _____ \$ _____ Check Number: _____

If today is September 1, 2026 by 5 p.m.

Non-Profit/School Groups/Band \$0

Non-Commercial Fee: \$75

Commercial Fee: \$200

If today is September 12, 2026 (entries accepted ONLY if space is available)

Non-Profit/School Groups/Band \$25

Non-Commercial Fee: \$100

Commercial Fee: \$300

Sponsor Entries – Sponsors have a signed agreement to support the parade with cash or budget-relieving in-kind products or services. Their entry fee is included in their Sponsorship Fee.

Non-Commercial Entries are Service Clubs, Individuals. Commercial Business may NOT be promoted in non-commercial category.

Commercial Entries are: any commercial, financial, insurance or marketing businesses.

Non-Profit, Youth and School bands pay no entry fee if their application is completed by September 12, 2026.

Your signature on this form is evidence that you agree to the Parade Rules and will abide by those rules and the decisions of the Parade Committee and Judges. Further, your signature on this entry form indicates that you agree that the RP Founder's Day Committee, Parade Committee, City of Rohnert Park and all of those organizations volunteers, employees, contractors and agents are released from any and all responsibility for loss, damage or injury to any person or property relating in any way to participating in the Parade.

CHECKLIST

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|---|---|
| ☐ Completed both sides of the Entry Form | ☐ Attached Proof of Insurance for any kind of motorized vehicle or for any animals. |
| ☐ Have read, and agree to, the Parade Rules | ☐ Included our entry fee check. Please make check Payable to Rohnert Park Founder's Day. |
| ☐ Attached a copy of a driver's license for any driver of a vehicle in the unit. | |
| ☐ Attached a 75-word script for the announcers. | |

Please note that incomplete applications will be returned and subject to fees due at the time they are completed.

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Title: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____