

New Mexico State Fair Parade



September 12, 2026

8:30 am

Louisiana & Central Ave. to
Girard & Central Ave.

Parade Office

505-222-0789

General Information

The New Mexico State Fair Parade, long established as the biggest parade in the state, marshaled and assisted by the Bernalillo County Sheriff's Posse, is open to participation by anyone.

This year's parade will leave the SE corner of Expo New Mexico (Louisiana/Central) at 8:30 am on the morning of Saturday, September 12, 2026. Units will travel west on Central Avenue, disbanding about 2.0 miles west of the starting point at Girard and Central.

Anyone is welcome to enter. Attempts will be made to limit the entries to approximately 200 participants. All participants need to clear the parking area by 9:30 am. The last units in the parade may not leave the formation location until after 10:00 am.

There is a \$25.00 registration fee. All applications and entries must be filled out and paid for online. Link to the application is located at <https://statefair.exponm.com/p/participate/competitions/parade>.

Applications and the signed waiver must be received by the State Fair parade office by 5pm on August 1st, 2026. Entries accepted on a first-come basis.

Only the individual who signs the Parade waiver is eligible to pick up their parade packet.

Awards will only be given to route 66 themed participants.

\$30 registration fee after August 1st, 2026.

Every participant in the parade will receive a one-day courtesy admission to the Fair. Awards will be presented in several categories. Please see "classes" for more information on classes/categories. All participants are urged to develop their entries using the theme of:



"100 Route 66 Year Anniversary"

Information will be updated regularly on the State Fair website <https://statefair.exponm.com/p/participate/competitions/parade>

Specific inquiries and questions should be addressed to:

Parade Office

Phone: 505-222-0789

The Governor of New Mexico will be the first entry in the parade immediately after the opening ceremonial units. The Mayor of Albuquerque will be the second entry in the parade immediately after the opening ceremonial units.

Support vehicles for marching units will not be allowed in the parade. A support person pulling a cooler alongside is ok.

Parade participants that violate the rules, guidelines, or instructions from a parade marshal may be removed from the parade and/or prohibited from participating in future parades. The NM State Fair General Manager will resolve any disputes.

Ultimately, responsibility for safety lies with each individual entry. The NM State Fair, its agents and others of the parade's organizing bodies assume no responsibility in connection with and make no representation as to the safety of any parade entry, in whole or in part, solely by reason of compliance with rules, regulations and/or guidelines for the parade.

The person completing the application on behalf of an organization is determined to be an adult responsible for all participants following directions and abiding by the guidelines, rules, and regulations. This person is encouraged to ensure that minors participating have signed parental permission to participate. Such documents must be available for inspection upon request the morning of the parade.

Day of Parade

Specific instructions about parade day activities will be provided to accepted participants around August 30, 2026. All entries should check-in with a parade Marshal upon arrival at their assigned time to be directed to the specific staging area.

Bernalillo County Sheriff's Posse members will serve as Parade Marshals and provide guidance and operational support. A Parade Marshal (in uniform and on horseback) will be on duty in each staging area as well as at various locations along the parade route to ensure the smooth and orderly progression of the set up and of the parade itself. Marshals will have the authority to remove any entry causing a delay, violating official parade rules, or failing to cooperate.

For identification purposes, numbers and signs that identify the participant must be placed on the front driver side of the vehicle or float or carried in a similar position for identification for the judges.

Under no circumstances shall any participant, unit or entry move to a different position within the parade line-up before or during the parade, except under the direction of Parade Marshal. Riding participants will not be permitted to jump dismount and remount while the parade is in progress.

Proper unit spacing and parade pace is critical. Parade speed will maintain approximately four (4) feet per second. Voluntary stopping for drill formation, reverse marching bands or drill teams cannot exceed 45 seconds.

No speeding up, skidding, sudden braking and/or “wheelies”.

Vehicle and float drivers must remain with their units until the parade is dispersed. Floats should be ready for a safety inspection by 7:30 am.

State Fair Parade Participant Do's & Don'ts

DO

DO Conform to standards of reasonable public taste

DO Have insurance to cover any incident

DO Be informative and entertaining

DO Provide your own vehicle & driver

DO Provide a vehicle or horses to pull your float

DO Include your \$25 entry fee with the application

DO Provide a brief statement of information for announcement purposes at the judges stand

DON'T

DON'T Drink or carry any alcohol during the parade

DON'T Put an entry in the parade without insurance

DON'T Find an alcohol or tobacco sponsor, it won't be let in

DON'T Have a float that is taller than 13 feet or more than 12 feet wide

DON'T Use squirt guns, silly string or other potentially dangerous items

DON'T Throw candy or other things to the spectators. If you want to give away something it must be done by people walking near curbs.

AWARDS

First, second and third place will be awarded in all classes based on originality, use of color, use of music, use of theme and overall appearance. Place awards/Announcements will be posted on the website. The decision of the judges is final.

THEME AWARD-BEST REPRESENTATION OF THE THEME

JUDGES' AWARD-MOST ARTISTIC USE OF THEME -DESIGN & MUSIC

FANTASY AWARD-MOST WHIMSICAL REPRESENTATION OF THEME

GOVERNOR'S AWARD-MOST SPECTACULAR REPRESENTATION OF THEME

CLASSES 1-10

1. Riding
 - a. Adult Riding Individuals/Groups
 - b. Youth Riding Individuals/Groups
 - c. Horse & Buggy
2. School Bands
 - a. High School Marching Band
 - b. Other School Marching Band
3. Drill Teams
4. Cheerleaders
5. JROTC
6. Non-School Marching Groups
7. Non-School Bands
8. Clowns
 - a. Clowns-Individuals/Groups
 - b. Clowns-Individual
9. Vehicles
 - a. Single and Group Entry Antique (Cars 40 years & older)
 - b. Single and Group Entry Classic (Cars 26 to 39 years old)
 - c. Original/Modified Vehicles (Cars under 25 years old)
 - d. Low Riders
 - e. Motorcycles & Motorcycle clubs
 - f. Bicycles & Bicycle Clubs
 - g. Military Vehicle
 - h. Tractors
 - i. Floats
10. Queens & Royalty
 - a. 18 and older
 - b. 17 and younger

