



4th of July Parade Application Packet
Sponsored by the Ojai Independence Day Committee, Inc.
THEME FOR 2026 – HAPPY 250th BIRTHDAY USA -
GRAND MARSHALS – GIL AND CAROLYN VONDRISKA -
Checklist for your application

- √ Attach a check to the application. No applications will be accepted without payment of the fees. Make your check payable to Ojai 4th of July Committee. You may pay by cash. THERE ARE NO REFUNDS OF ANY KIND.
- √ Make sure all documents are signed; you are responsible to share with your group so they know the rules too.
- √ June 5th is the deadline for submission of applications
- √ You must insert the length of vehicle from the front of the pull vehicle to the back of the trailer.
- √ The application must include the name/phone/email for the group leader. (the person who will be present with your group at the parade)
- √ If you are a car group, we will need the number of vehicles, and the name of each car driver.
- √ If you are an equestrian unit, we need the number of horses and the name of each rider.
- √ We need a description of what the announcers will say when your group/float/entry is passing by the judge's stand. Page 10 of the application package provides space for your description. We may have to edit some of your description for the judges.
- √ Page 11 - judging categories has been updated so do not rely on your application from previous years.
- √ If you have horses and a vehicle, please note that the vehicle is a separate fee from the for the horses.
- √ Any additional riders, cars and/or horses named after June 5th will be \$20.00 and the money will be collected at check-in time.
- √ Cars accompanying the horses will be in the lineup area. Horses are in the field.

REMEMBER, YOU ARE NOT ALLOWED TO THROW ANYTHING OFF ANY ENTRY, NOR PASS ANYTHING OUT ALONG THE PARADE ROUTE.



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This packet includes the following forms and documents:

- Duties and responsibilities of your official organization contact
- Parade rules and regulations
- Official Independence Day Parade Application Form
- List of judging categories ■ Publicity release for announcer's form

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PARADE

1. If paying by check, the name of the entry/organization must be included in the memo line to guarantee that the payment is applied properly.
2. Our website is <http://www.Ojai4thofjuly.com> and also find us at Facebook as Ojai Parade.
3. We will NOT be hosting a meeting of parade entrants prior to the parade. Please direct all questions or concerns regarding your entry to Bonnie Patton (805) 223-3709 or email us at ojai_independenceday@yahoo.com.
4. All applications must be complete or will not be considered and will be returned. A complete application includes a full description of the entry (i.e. **length of vehicle from front of pull vehicle to the back of the trailer**, number of marchers, horses or vehicles, if there will be music or audio, etc.). Entry must not be longer than fifty (50) feet, including the pull vehicle. **No additions can be made after the paperwork has been submitted and the length specified cannot change.** Include Music on your Float, if possible, in keeping with the theme. **YOU MUST SUBMIT YOUR CHECK WITH YOUR APPLICATION.**
5. Applications received after the due date will still be considered for inclusion in the parade; however, there will be a late charge (\$30 plus the application fee) and those applications will be placed behind the on-time entries and will not be judged.

6. **IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER**

* **June 5th** – Completed application due at either American Hay, Ojai City Hall or Ojai Recreation Center by 4pm.

* **June 7th** – Parade Line up put together- No changes will be made after this day.

Parade packet mailed out to the person submitting the application

* **July 3rd** – Free Concert at Libbey Bowl

* **July 4th – Parade**

8. You will be notified of your placement in the parade and receive other information regarding the line-up procedures, parking, judging time, etc. This information will be mailed or emailed to the address listed on the application. **Please do NOT call us about the placement until after June 27th.** **PLEASE GIVE US YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS on page 6.**

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUR OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION CONTACT

1. Read and understand the rules and policies of the committee and interpret them for your organization.
2. Submit complete, signed application and all supplemental information by the deadlines set by the Ojai Independence Day Committee.
3. Follow and enforce all rules, policies and guidelines of the committee as they apply to your entry and appoint an Entry Marshal to accompany the entry during the parade to assume those duties.

GROUP LEADER DUTIES

Each Entry needs to appoint a GROUP LEADER. The Group Leader may be someone other than your official Contact name in the application, and must be present in the parade with the entry. The Group Leader has the following responsibilities:

1. Act as the contact with the parade officials in the lineup area and on the parade route on parade day.
2. Know parade rules for your entry and ensure compliance.
3. Be available to parade officials for relaying information to your entry in the lineup area and on the parade route.
4. Make sure that the entry number is properly placed on your entry.
5. Maintain control of your entry's participants in the lineup area and on the parade route. You are responsible for the appearance and behavior of the group.
6. Accompany your entry during the parade.
7. Control the speed of your entry on the parade route to maintain a safe interval between your entry and the units before and after your entry. Please keep a 2 cars length distance between you and the entry in front of you.
8. Ensure the safety of your entry and entry participants.

ITEMS FOR YOUR ATTENTION

The following are areas of serious concern to the Committee:

1. **No handouts of any kind are permitted during the parade. Throwing anything from your entry creates safety hazards and will result in disqualification of your entry and/or removal from the parade. (City of Ojai Municipal Code, Title 4 Chapter 18, Ordinance 800.)**
2. You may perform during the parade but do not hold up the progress of the parade.
3. Your entry will be inspected in the lineup area for compliance with committee rules. Failure to comply with committee rules and requirements could result in disqualification and/or removal from the parade.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

1. Purpose

(a) The Ojai Independence Day Committee is a not-for-profit, non-political organization. It does not promote any individual, business, social, commercial or political purpose. It was formed solely for the purpose of promoting a patriotic celebration of Independence Day. The Committee is an independent organization made up of volunteers.

2. Authority of the Board (a) The Committee reserves the right to refuse any entry into the parade which does not depict the parade theme and patriotic purpose or does not adhere to the policies of the Committee, Safety Rules, or Committee Rules, as stated.

(b) Parade entrants agree to abide by all the rules and decisions of the Committee. Any misrepresentation or failure to abide by committee rules may result in removal from parade. Decisions of the Committee are final and not subject to review by any other body.

(c) No entry will be allowed to participate in the parade if it fails to provide proof of approval by the committee at the lineup area on the day of the parade.

(d) Although an entrant chooses the category he wishes to enter, the committee makes the final decision as to the correct category for each entrant.

3. Policy

(a) Banners:

1. One banner preceding your entry is allowed. No size limit.
2. Banner carriers must be capable of maintaining the parade pace. If the pace of the banner carriers is impeding the parade progress, the banner will be escorted from the parade route.

(b) Sponsors of Not-For-Profit Entries:

1. Entries may be sponsored by an individual business or businesses in a mutual association.
2. A logo or business name may be used on any entry; however, the entry may not be used primarily for advertising purposes and must be in keeping with the patriotic spirit of the parade. Signs are limited to two per entry. Maximum size per sign shall not exceed 24 inches x 36 inches.

(c) Businesses may enter any commercial category:

Entry fee for commercial vehicles is **\$100.00**.

(d) Expense:

No Limit. The use of ingenuity and creativity in the design and execution of an entry is encouraged and favored by the judges. We do have grant money to go towards float building. Please fill out the attached form.

(e) Performance:

1. Any performance along the route or in front of the judge's stand area must be a moving/marching routine. You may perform during the parade but may not hold up the progress of the parade.
2. All drill teams and walking entries will be partially prejudged for appearance at lineup area.
3. Only moving/marching routines will be permitted at the Judging Stands. Final judging is at the Judging Stand in front of Libby Park. **DO NOT STOP AT THE JUDGING STAND.**

(f) Political:

The Committee is a non-political organization. Only current office holders are allowed to enter the parade. Small signs on either side of a car are permitted. Individuals or organizations that try to use the parade to further their own or others' campaigns will be removed from the parade. Under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, tax-exempt organizations are prohibited from participating in political activities.

(g) Support Vehicles:

1. Motorized entries (floats, cars, etc.) will not be permitted to have a support vehicle.
2. You must accurately describe your vehicle on your application form to be eligible to have a support vehicle in the parade.

(h) Safety Rules:

1. Section 18, Title 4 of the Ojai Municipal Code states: “No objects, water balloons, squirt guns, water, etc. will be thrown by either spectators or participants.” (This includes play money, advertising, political literature, candy, balloons, etc.) Citations will be issued to violators.

2. No alcohol or drugs are allowed at the parade or in the lineup formation area. Anyone under the influence will be removed from the parade.

3. All participants riding motorcycles, motorized bikes or bicycles must wear helmets in compliance with California State law.

4. Children in the lineup (formation) area must be under adult supervision provided by the responsible party for their entry. An adult must accompany children under the age of ten (10) in the parade. Parade participants are asked not to race engines, sound sirens, make loud noises, or quick motions when horses are nearby.

(i) Committee Rules:

1. No commercial, religious or political matter may be passed out along the parade route, or at any other venues. Violators will be removed from the parade and/or other venues.

2. All participants must be costumed, uniformed, or appropriately attired for their entry. All vehicles should be decorated.

3. If your entry uses live or recorded music, you are expected to keep the volume at a level that will not conflict with nearby entries. If your entry’s music is so loud that the music of other entries cannot be heard, a Parade Official will stop you and may disqualify your entry. (Please use good judgment to allow all entries fair representation along the parade route.)

(j) Applications

1. A separate application must be submitted for each entry in the parade. *Example: A school that enters its baton twirlers, drum major, and color guard to be judged, must submit a separate application for each along with the appropriate fee.* If your unit is to be considered as one entry, submit one application only. That is how you will be judged.

2. If any organization has more than one entry, please list on one of your applications the order in which you wish them to appear. *Example: School with cheerleaders, drum majors, band, drill team and alumni groups.*

(Internal Use Only)

Name of Group

Walkers? _____ Float? _____(length)

Horses? _____

Music? () yes () no

OFFICIAL INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE APPLICATION

Please complete the entire application (pages 6 and 7) and make sure you include a complete entry description to be considered. Please include payment for entry with the application, making sure you write the name of your entry/organization on the memo line of your check. Please print clearly in blue or black ink, and mail back pages 6 through 10 only. Thank you.

OFFICIAL ORGANIZATION'S NAME AND ADDRESS (Please Print Clearly)

Name of Organization _____

Name of Person Submitting Application: _____

Address: _____

Email _____

Cell Phone _____

Number of years in Parade: _____

Size of Entry in Feet including trailer/truck, etc.

Autos (15 ft.) _____

1. Small Trucks or Vans (20 ft.) _____

2. Large Trucks or Vans (30 ft.) _____

3. Semi-trucks w/ trailer (40 ft.) _____

4. Special Vehicles (provide description and length in ft.) _____

5. Other (Describe) _____

Will Entry have Music? Yes () No () Live Music? Yes () No ()

Will you have young children under 6 years old? Yes () No (x)

PARADE ENTRY GROUP LEADER CONTACT INFORMATION (All paperwork will be mailed here)

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name of Person to Contact _____

Address: _____

Email _____

Cell Phone _____

Please select the Category that best fits your entry and mark that Category number here:

If you want to be next to another entry, the name of the organization: _____

ATTACH YOUR CHECK FOR THE APPROPRIATE CATEGORY.

INSURANCE LIABILITY NOTICE

The Ojai Independence Day Committee DOES NOT COVER PARADE PARTICIPANTS. Participants are expected to carry insurance coverage adequate to cover any liability for damage, injury, economic loss or other liability, which may be incurred by individuals and/or organizations during the Independence Day celebrations approved by the Committee. Contact your insurance agent, your legal advisor, and/or other competent risk management professional for advice if you have any questions about the adequacy of your individual or organizations' insurance coverage and liability.

WAIVER AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

In consideration of the approval by the Ojai Independence Day Committee of the undersigned's application to be an authorized participant (either volunteer or paid) in the public celebrations and festivities to be held July 3rd and July 4th, on or in various public streets, parks, and other property owned and/or controlled by the City of Ojai, and/or the Ojai Unified School District, and the County of Ventura, or the State of California, the undersigned does hereby elect to participate in the said activities and the preparations therefor, and recognizes and voluntarily assumes any and all risks attendant to being present as a spectator, entertainer and/or participant in all such activities, including public parades, picnics, the sale and consumption of concession-stand refreshments and the vehicular and pedestrian traffic and crowds of persons likely to attend such outdoor and/or indoor public entertainment, celebration and recreational activities and recognizing such risks and also recognizing that said celebration is a civic endeavor organized by unpaid volunteers who

donate their time and efforts as a public service to the residents of the Ojai Valley, therefore the undersigned (both individually and on behalf of the members of the group or organization for which this waiver and indemnity is executed), hereby waives any and all claims or causes of action of every kind or nature that may now or hereafter exist or arise in favor of the undersigned or any member of the undersigned's group or organization against the Ojai Independence Day Committee, its officers, directors and/or members, that result or in any manner are connected with the undersigned's participation in (including all time spent in preparation for the aforesaid celebration and festivities) and the undersigned does hereby agree to hold the said committee, its officials, directors and/or members harmless and indemnify and hold harmless and defend them from and against any and all suits, demands, or claims and all costs, losses, liabilities, statements (whether voluntary or otherwise) and judgments incurred in connection therewith including attorney's fees and court costs, including without limitation all claims, demands and suits for damages or injuries, including death, to any and all persons or property, whether real or assorted and whether arising in equity, at common law, or by statute, or under the law of contracts, torts (including without limitation, negligence and strict liability without regard to fault) or property, of every kind or character, and whether or not due in whole or in part to the Committee's sole or concurrent negligence or other fault, breach of contract, warranty, violation of status or strict liability, without regard to fault based upon, in connection with, resulting from or arising out of the undersigned voluntary or paid participation (including time spent in preparation) for the said civic celebration.

CHILDREN AGED 16 AND UNDER MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT.

I AM THE OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ORGANIZATION NAMED IN BOX #1 ABOVE. On behalf of the organization, I acknowledge our responsibilities as set forth in the Insurance and Liability Notice. I also accept on behalf of the organization all the terms and conditions of the **WAIVER AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT**.

X _____ Date: __
 (Signature of Official Organization Representative)

Name _____
 (Please Print)

EQUESTRIAN UNITS

Please list the past parades in which the majority of your applicant riders and horses have participated in.

Parade Name	Date of Participation

How many horse trailers will you be bringing?	_____
Number of horse riders?	_____
Number of horses ridden?	_____
Number of coach/wagon drivers?	_____
Number of horses pulling the wagons?	_____
Number of parade walkers?	_____
Number of horses tethered?	_____

Please list the names of all riders along with the years of experience and return this page with your entry.

1. _____	years _____
2. _____	years _____
3. _____	years _____
4. _____	years _____
5. _____	years _____
6. _____	years _____
7. _____	years _____
8. _____	years _____
9. _____	years _____
10. _____	years _____
11. _____	years _____
12. _____	years _____
13. _____	years _____
14. _____	years _____
15. _____	years _____
16. _____	years _____
17. _____	years _____
18. _____	years _____
19. _____	years _____
20. _____	years _____

CAR GROUPS

Please list the past parades in which the majority of your applicant have participated.

Parade Name	Date of Participation
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

How many cars are included in your group _____

Number of passengers, including drivers _____

Please list the names of all drivers along with the years of experience and return this page with your entry.

1. _____ years _____
2. _____ years _____
3. _____ years _____
4. _____ years _____
5. _____ years _____
6. _____ years _____
7. _____ years _____
8. _____ years _____
9. _____ years _____
10. _____ years _____
11. _____ years _____
12. _____ years _____
13. _____ years _____
14. _____ years _____
15. _____ years _____
16. _____ years _____
17. _____ years _____
18. _____ years _____
19. _____ years _____
20. _____ years _____

Publicity Release for Parade Announcers and Media

Directions: Please print clearly and in 5 sentences describe your entry. Explain how your parade entry carries out the theme and what your entry is in detail, such as who is in the entry. THIS DESCRIPTION IS WHAT THE ANNOUNCERS WILL BE SAYING ABOUT YOUR ENTRY

The Committee has the right to edit your information. If you leave this area blank, then no announcement will be made as you pass by the judges.

Description:

**ALL APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE MAILED or DELIVERED TO:
P.O. BOX 1176 Ojai 93023 or hand-delivered to American Hay Company, Ojai City Hall and
Ojai Recreation Center WITH YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO OJAI 4TH OF JULY COMMITTEE.
CHECKS OR CASH ARE BOTH ACCEPTABLE.**

Please return pages 6 thru 10 ONLY

LIST OF JUDGING CATEGORIES

Aswell Trophy supplies the awards presented to parade winners. Please email us if you want your trophy by the 8th of July at ojai_independenceday@yahoo.com otherwise we will not have it made. All winners will be posted on the website within 48 hours of the conclusion of the 4th of July event.

ALL ENTRIES ARE SUBJECT TO PARADE COMMITTEE APPROVAL

AUTOS – ENTRY FEE \$30.00

Groups of 4 are \$40 each additional car is \$10.00

- #1 - Includes pre-1969 classic, antique, custom, street rod, or special interest vehicles.
- #2 - Includes any year model of an extraordinary, unusual, or special appeal vehicle.
- #3 - Car groups of any model including motorized vehicles
- #4 Mixed Groups

Motorcycles- ENTRY FEE \$30.00

- #5 – Motorcycles

A TROPHY WILL BE AWARDED TO THE AUTO(S) WHICH EXCELS IN EACH OF THE FIVE JUDGING POINTS OF MEASURE: Rarity, Beauty, Condition, Originality and General Appeal.

BANDS – ENTRY FEE \$30.00

- #6 – Group of minors (under age 18)
- #7 - Group of Adults (age 19 and older)
- #8 – School
- #9 – Drill Team (Flag Group i.e. tall flags, etc.)
- #10 – Mixed Groups

COMMERCIAL – ENTRY FEE \$100.00

This category includes autos, vans and pickup trucks with business signs, and/or floats advertising a commercial enterprise, etc.

- #11 -Float
- #12 -Decorated Auto, van or pickup truck
- #13-Marching group
- #14 Mixed Groups

COMMUNITY SERVICE VEHICLE – ENTRY FEE \$30

- #15 - Official vehicles of non-profit organizations

- #16- Official vehicles (fire trucks, search and rescue, etc.)

DIGNITARY (Not to be Judged) ENTRY FEE \$40.00

- #17 – Includes elected officials, civic award winners, local pageant winners, etc.

EQUESTRIAN – ENTRY FEE \$30.00

Groups of 4 are \$40 each additional horse is \$10.00

- #18 – Single Equestrian Entry
- #19 – Group of 2 or more Equestrians (mixed ages)
- #20 – Junior Equestrians (9-17 years old)

Patriotic People

- #21 – Future Horsemen (8 years and under)
- #22 – Animal (other than horse, pony, mule, donkey)
- #23 – Mixed Group

Please note:

A – Animal cleanliness and hoof condition is very important for a good show.

B – A responsible adult must remain in the lineup area with any junior or future horseman entry.

C – Tack and costume must be appropriate to category

NON COMMERCIAL FLOATS – ENTRY FEE \$30

- #24 - School
- #25 – Youth Organization – Children (Scouts, 4H, Sports)
- #26 - Adult Organization (OVER 18)
- #27 - Neighborhood
- #28- Church (Children and Adults)
- #29 – Mixed Age Groups

SPECIALTY/WALKING UNITS - ENTRY FEE

\$30

- #30 – Single (Adult)
- #31 – Single (Child)
- #32 – Mixed Group

Groups of 5 or more \$40 total

- #33 – Group of 2 or more (Adult)
- #34- Group of 2 or more (Children)
- #35 – Mixed Group

Skates/Skateboards or Scooters/Bicycles

- #36 – Single (Adult)
- #37- Single (Child)

Groups of 5 or more \$40 total

- #38 – Group of 2 or more (Adult)
- #39- Group of 2 or more (Child)
- #40 – Mixed Group

LINE UP INFORMATION

**Parade Route closes at 7:30 am for non-parade traffic.
If you are in the parade, display your Parade Entry Number**

Autos-you will be entering the parade area via Ojai Ave and meeting at Topa Mountain Winery.

Walkers- you will need to be dropped off in front of Matilija Gym and make your way to the gate on Ojai Ave. If you are also with a float, please note that we will feed you in with your float so please make sure both groups have checked in.

Floats- you will be entering on Ojai Ave near Ojai Valley School. You will find your entry number that is marked on Ojai Ave and park there. Please make sure you pull all the way forward in your spot. After the parade, please take the marked route back to Matilija Jr. High School to drop off all riders or you can stop at Sarzotti Park.

Horses- You will need to take the back way via Creek Road to the Ojai Valley Inn dirt parking lot. You will not be allowed to enter on Ojai Ave because of all the walkers. There are no exceptions. After the parade, please take the horse/bike path back to the staging area

ALL ENTRIES MUST HAVE YOUR GROUP LEADER CHECK IN AT THE REALTY OFFICE ON THE CORNER OF OJAI AVENUE AND COUNTRY CLUB DRIVE TO RECEIVE YOUR ENTRY NUMBER. THIS IS HOW WE KNOW YOU ARE HERE.

