

Gilroy Veterans Day Parade 2026

ENTRY FORM

Wednesday, November 11, 2026 @ 1:30pm

Theme: Honoring with Gratitude **Entry Fee:** FREE **Deadline:** November, 5 2026

Please read the Parade Entry Rules and Conditions of Participation before completing the application. All entries must be designed to honor veterans, pay tribute to Veterans Day or have a patriotic theme.

Name of Business/Organization: _____

Primary Contact Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

- Entry Type:
- ☐ Individual Veteran (not already part of any entry, but wanting to participate)
 - ☐ BAND (marching, drum corps, drum line)
 - ☐ EQUESTRIAN (individual rider, team, pulled wagon)
 - ☐ FLOAT (self-propelled, towed)
 - ☐ GUEST (invited guests, dignitaries, pageant winner)
 - ☐ MARCHERS (youth groups, clubs, Posts)
 - ☐ SPECIALTY UNIT (dance/drill/cheer teams, entertainment unit)
 - ☐ VEHICLE (club, fire truck, police car, military vehicles, motorcycles, etc.)

Approximate number of participants/vehicles: _____

☐ This entry will already include veteran(s)

Name of any veteran(s) to be included this entry (Name & Branch of Service):

☐ This entry has room for additional veteran(s) and can safely transport them. How many _____

**Entries matched with veterans will be notified before the parade.*

Give a brief description of your entry (This is what the announcer will read) Use another sheet if necessary:

If this application is for a veteran, who wants to participate but isn't already part of an entry, please provide any restrictions or necessary accommodations:

Name of Business/Organization: _____

Primary Contact Name: _____

Please read the provided Parade Entry Rules and Conditions of Participation and sign below to indicate your understanding of the condition of your participation. NO Throwing Candy! Must have the float "completed" before entering the line up area. Only entries allowed in the lineup area. Lineup between 11am – 1pm. Participant drop off will be in the parking lot on 7th and Egleberry Streets. I have read through and agree to all the Rules and Conditions of Participation attached to this form.

Signature

As the appointed representative of the above-named entity, I hereby release the South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District (SSCVMD) from liability, either direct or implied, from any accidents or damages that may occur. We understand and agree that the South Santa Clara Valley Memorial District and the Gilroy Veterans Hall has the right to delete any entry from the parade for any inappropriate display or behavior by any participant and, upon signing, agree to abide by all the rules and conditions of participation.

Signature

Email the application to sscvmd@gmail.com or mail/drop off application to

SSCVMD
aka Gilroy Veterans Hall
Attn: Ellen Herrera
74 W. 6th St. Suite A
Gilroy, CA 95020



74 West Sixth Street #A, Gilroy, CA 95020
408.842.3838
www.GilroyVeteransHall.org
www.sscvMemorialDistrict.org



Veterans Day Parade 2026

Entry Rules and Conditions of Participation

(Please read the rules and conditions carefully before signing the application)

THE VETERANS DAY PARADE: To pay tribute to our Veterans with a quality parade, entertainment, community spirit, and sharing this event for all to enjoy.

PARADE THEME: “*Honoring with Gratitude*” is the parade theme. The theme can be demonstrated with patriotic decorations and/or patriotic music.

FORWARD MOTION PARADE: All entries are required to maintain a continuous forward motion during the parade. No stopping to perform, getting on/off floats or throwing candy. Parade officials may change pace or stop forward motion to maintain suitable space between entries. All marching units must remain in a uniform formation throughout the parade.

ENTRY SELECTION: All parade entries are subject to approval by the Veterans’ Day Parade committee. All entries are selected on their entertainment value, uniqueness, size, and appearance. The parade is a “family fun” celebration and parade participants must be appropriate to be seen by all ages. **All units should adapt the parade theme in their entry and/or present a patriotic entry either with decorations, flags or music selection. The Veterans’ Day Parade will not be used as a platform for special interests.**

... TYPES OF ENTRIES CONSIDERED FOR THE VETERANS DAY PARADE ...

VETERANS/ACTIVE DUTY: Individuals who are active duty or veterans are encouraged to participate by walking, riding in a vehicle or on a float. If the individual wants to ride but doesn’t have anything to ride, please fill out an entry application and the committee will match him/her with an entry. Please wear a uniform, hat/cap or something to help audience identify the individual as active duty or veteran.

MUSICAL UNITS: Musical units can be marching or non-marching. Members are required to be in a uniform or coordinating attire. We encourage bands to play patriotic music. Marching musical units include; school bands, military bands, drum & bugle corps, community bands, and bagpipe bands. Non-marching musical units include those riding on a vehicle.

COLOR GUARDS: Color guards include units from the active duty, reserve and National Guard military as well as ROTC and JROTC units. Additionally, color guards

may be from veteran organization, and their auxiliaries, as well as non-military organizations and school groups. To be classified as a Color Guard, there must be at least two flags (a national flag and a unit flag) and two "guards," -- at least four individuals in the formation.)

MARCHING UNITS (Military and non-military): Marching units include groups drawn from the military (active duty, reserve and National Guard), ROTC and JROTC units, veteran organization, and their auxiliaries, school drill teams, scouting units, as well as specialty and novelty units (i.e., drill, dance, baton, clowns, etc.). Entries requiring vehicles to carry sound systems must notify parade organizers on the application.

VEHICLES: Antique, Vintage, Decorated and Military vehicles are considered for entry. Commercial business vehicles such as vans, tankers, farm machinery and other large vehicles are not encouraged due to liability and safety concerns. Vehicles permitted in the parade will be restricted in numbers. No more than 10 cars per club. No commercial or private vehicles are allowed in the parade without prior written approval by the parade staff.

FLOATS: Floats must be a decorated trailer that is self-propelled or pulled by a tow vehicle. It is encouraged to have the tow vehicle also be covered, decorated and incorporated into the float theme. A description of the float design with size dimensions must be submitted with the parade application. Floats should not exceed 50 feet in length, including the tow vehicle, or more than 12 feet in height or 10 feet in width. Any float over these size requirements must receive written permission from the parade staff. A portable fire extinguisher, current dated, must accompany the float. Young children riding on a float must have adult supervision on and around the float.

EQUESTRIAN UNITS: The participants must have control of their animals at all times. Equestrian riders should be at least 12 years of age and accompanied by an adult trainer. Any animal deemed unsafe in the parade will be removed. All animal units must provide their own "clean-up" crew and equipment to follow their unit in the parade. Equestrian units must also present a patriotic entry with flags, rider costumes and/or animal tack.

SPECIAL GUESTS: Special guests are by invitation of the Gilroy Veterans Day Parade Committee only. They may consist of local, State and National officials and political representatives, as well as military leaders, honored veterans, and local and/or national celebrities.

PARTICIPANT AGE RESTRICTIONS: Walking participants must be at least six years old or older. There must be at least one adult escort for every six children under the age of 13 years. Young children riding on a float must have adult supervision on and around the float.

JUDGING OF ENTRIES: Entries will not be judged. The entries should strive to honor and celebrate our military and veterans, show patriotism and entertain the community.

COMMERCIAL BUSINESS ENTRIES: A commercial business entry cannot be used as a “major” advertisement for the business. See “Identification Signs” for specifics. Again, the intent of the parade is to honor and celebrate our military and veterans, show patriotism and entertain the community

IDENTIFICATION SIGNS: Appropriate identification banners with the name of the parade entry are accepted. Banners with messages, phone numbers, website or any other form of advertisement are not allowed.

CANCELLATION POLICY: If, for some unforeseen reason, your unit is not able to participate in the parade after being accepted, you must contact the parade staff, at least two weeks prior to the parade date. Entries that cancel within two weeks of the parade without substantial reasons may jeopardize future invitations. Entries absent on parade day without proper notification may not receive future invitations to the parade.

ENTRY APPLICATION FORM: The entry application form must be completed and signed with the understanding of the general rules and conditions. Photographs or diagrams of your proposed entry are encouraged and will help evaluate your entry. Entry forms that are improperly completed will be contacted for clarification. The parade organizers reserve the right to reject any entry at any time and all decisions are final. Applicants will receive notification of acceptance. If your entry qualifies for the parade, you will receive staging instructions by mail approximately two weeks prior to the parade. The general rules and conditions listed are for the safety and quality of the parade. Failure to abide by these rules and conditions and those presented with the parade information packages, may result in the entry's removal from the parade.