

# 2024 Gonzales Come and Take It Celebration Parade Entry Packet

Dear Parade Participants:

Gonzales, the "Cradle of Texas Independence", will celebrate the firing of the first shot for Texas Independence this year on Friday, October 4<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, October 6<sup>th</sup>. "Come and Take It" was the battle cry of the colonists when the Mexican military demanded the return of the cannon previously given to them for their protection from the Indians. October 2, 1835, is designated as a Texas Heritage Day. We cordially invite you to be a part of this year's celebration and visit the site where Texas Independence began.

This year's "Come & Take It Parade" will be held Saturday, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at 10:30 a.m. with judging to begin promptly at 9:00 a.m. Please be in place as early as possible. Awards will be presented to the winners as they pass the START point of the parade.

The parade rules are enclosed with this letter. Please read them carefully and then indicate your participation by returning the enclosed registration form with all the requested information to the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture at the address.

## **DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES:**

Entries are FREE until August 9, 2024

Entries between August 12 - 23, 2024 are \$10.00.

Entries between August 26 - September 6, 2024 are \$30.00.

Entries between September 9 - 20, 2024 are \$50.00.

Entries between September 23 - 27, 2024 are \$100.00.

No entries will be accepted after September 27, 2024.

## **NO EXCEPTIONS!**

Please note that there is a limit on parade entries. First come first serve.

Initial here

To those accepting this invitation, parade numbers, a map of the parade route and any other pertinent information will be E-MAILED by September 30, 2024. Please keep this letter and address any questions you may have to:

Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture  
Attn: Parade Committee 304 Saint Louis St.  
Gonzales, Texas 78629  
Phone: (830) 672-6532 FAX: (830) 672-6533  
Email: admin@gonzalestexas.com

### Statement On Gun Exhibition

The Come and Take It Committee (Committee) would like to express our thanks for being a participant in this year's parade. It is through the hard work and dedication of organizations and individuals that the Come and Take It Parade such a sight to behold. To make sure that the Come and Take It Parade is as safe as possible; the Committee has implemented this firearm rule for the protection of the participants, spectators, and staff.

Enclosed you will find with this letter an Assumption and Release of Liability for Firearms (Form). This Form must be filled out by each organization or individual that has a parade entry and signed by all participants who will be exhibiting firearms in the parade.

The Committee is proud of Gonzales' heritage when it comes to firearms and protecting people's rights to possess those firearms, so it felt best not to eliminate the exhibition of firearms in the parade, but only to regulate them to provide a safe environment for all. This rule comes as a response to the extremely tragic and unwarranted events involving firearms around our nation and to strive for a better understanding of firearm safety.

The Committee is asking all parade entrants who will be exhibiting functional firearms in the parade to help promote gun safety. To do so, the Committee asks that all firearms be unloaded and that each participant sign the Form. A member of the Committee will check each parade entry for the display of firearms. For those entries that are exhibiting firearms, a member of the Come and Take It Committee will ensure that each participant has signed the provided form and that each firearm is unloaded. The Committee does not foresee any issues with this rule as it is for safety reasons, but in the event any individual, organization, and/or member of an organization that refuses to sign the Form will force the Committee to deny that individual or organization entry into the parade.

Once again, the Committee is looking forward to a wonderful parade and thanks you once again for your participation and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Gonzales Come & Take It Parade  
Committee

\* Name of Organization or Individual for entry: \_\_\_\_\_

\* Contact Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\* Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\* City, State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\* Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**ENTRY CLASSIFICATIONS (Please check):**

**Best Local**  
(Not youth, Business/Commercial, or Chamber Festival)  
**Best Out-Of-Town**  
(Not youth, Business/Commercial, or Chamber Festival)

**Youth Organization**  
**Business/ Commercial**  
**Chamber/ Festivals**

---

---

TOTAL LENGTH (IN FEET) OF ENTIRE UNIT: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Example: Truck 20 feet + Trailer 20 feet +Other Vehicles 10 feet = 50 feet)

WILL YOUR ENTRY BE JUDGED? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

WILL YOUR ENTRY HAVE LIVE MUSIC? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

WILL YOUR ENTRY BE DISPLAYING FIREARMS? YES \_\_\_\_\_ NO \_\_\_\_\_

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Comments for parade announcer including participants, festival dates, special features, etc.  
Please keep verbiage to 100 words or less and print or type.

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

Please return the packet to:  
Gonzales Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture Attn:  
Parade Committee 304 Saint Louis St.  
Gonzales, Texas 78629  
Phone (830) 672-6532 FAX (830) 672-6533  
Email: [admin@gonzalestexas.com](mailto:admin@gonzalestexas.com)

## Gonzales Come and Take It Parade Rules

1. Parade begins PROMPTLY at 10:30 a.m., RAIN OR SHINE (bring rain gear or plastic covering if needed). Judging will begin at 9:00 a.m. All entrants to be judged should be in place and set up by this time and must remain until judging is completed.
2. No undecorated private or commercial large trucks, tractors, etc. will be included in the parade. (Ex. beer trucks, grocery trucks, heavy farm equipment) Does not apply to antique-type vehicles and clean antique tractors. Car & truck clubs, antiques and others, limited to 8 entries per club. Autos and large vehicles must be driven by a licensed driver. Small vehicles (mini-bikes, go-carts, etc.) Must be operated by a person 12 years or older and parents are responsible for their conduct.
3. All horses participating in the parade must have a negative Coggins paper presented to the Chairperson along with the parade entry.
4. ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONSUMPTION BY DRIVERS OR ANY PARTICIPANTS BEFORE OR DURING THE PARADE IS EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN. IF A PARTICIPANT IS SEEN CONSUMING ALCOHOL BEFORE OR DURING THE PARADE, IT WILL RESULT IN THEIR IMMEDIATE REMOVAL FROM THE PARADE FORMATION AND WILL AFFECT FUTURE INVITATIONS.
5. No items such as candy, gum, koozies, water bottles, pencils, etc. will be allowed to be thrown from parade entries. Your organization may have someone walking beside your entry handing out these items. If you are handing out items, please do not stall the parade. No children under 12 years or younger may walk the parade route. No Silly String or comparable material is to be used to spray other entrants, pedestrians, vehicles, etc.
6. Marching drill teams will be limited to official school groups, ROTC units, and Military or veteran's organizations. All school bands and youth groups are to be accompanied by an adult leader. High School bands that participate are encouraged to bring their Junior High bands either to march with them or as a separate unit. Please complete a separate registration form for each. The leader's name and phone number must be submitted with registration. NOTE – All marching groups are to report to the starting point at Saint Louis & College Street before the parade rather than to their numbered space along the lineup route.
7. When disbanding, please don't block the flow of traffic for the entries behind you.
8. Due to the length of the parade, it is very important that it keep moving! There should be no more than 1-2 car spaces between each entry. Please don't intentionally stop or slow the movement of the parade for any demonstration etc., maintain the set spacing. If your entry has mechanical or other problems, pull it off to the side and we will try to get your assistance.
9. No individual horses & riders. Only members of organized groups that are registered. All entries must have a designated contact person responsible for the group's conduct. There must be an address and current phone number provided. All riders in cavalcade groups (horses, trail riders, etc.) are encouraged to dress in common attire or costume as a group. Example: blue jeans, western shirt, cowboy hat, etc. It is preferred to have your horses diapered if possible.
10. "School" entries are limited to recognized organizations. (Ex. FFA, FHA, DECA, cheerleaders, student council, class officers and royalty, etc.) Entry forms are turned in to and approved by the school principal. "CLASS" VEHICLES currently enrolled students. Reunion floats are permitted and encouraged.
11. All vehicles participating in the parade must be clean and in safe operating condition. They must also be OPERATED safely not to endanger other participants or spectators.
12. All floats, autos, trucks, and 'novelty' entries should display their assigned parade position number in a readable manner on both sides of the vehicle for judging purposes. A typed # (8 1/2" x 11") will need to be taped to both sides of the vehicle windshield in the upper corners so they are visible.

13. The Parade Committee retains the right to refuse entry of any float, unit or individual not conforming to the standards of the Committee. Failure to comply with the parade rules may result in removal from the parade formation and will affect future invitations.
14. The Gonzales Come & Take It Committee assumes NO responsibility for accidents or loss of any kind. We will make every effort possible to provide an enjoyable and safe parade for everyone but will need and expect your cooperation to achieve this goal.

Initial here

**I have read and understand all the rules provided by the Come and Take It Parade Committee.**

Signature of responsible party: \_\_\_\_\_

\* The rules must be signed and returned for your entry to be accepted. Please keep a copy for your records. \*

### ASSUMPTION AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR FIREARMS

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the contact person for the \_\_\_\_\_ individual or organization that wishes to have an entry into the Gonzales Come and Take It Parade state the following:

I am aware of the Gonzales Come and Take It Committee’s requirement that all parade entries must indicate if they plan on exhibiting firearms during the Come and Take It Parade. Being the authorized agent to act on behalf of the above-named individual or organization, I hereby declare that:

(Initial Beside One)

\_\_\_\_\_, we will not be displaying a firearm(s) in the Come and Take It Parade.

\_\_\_\_\_, we will be displaying a firearm(s) in the Come and Take It Parade, and as indicated by the signatures below understand the following:

1. In order to have a parade entry with the display of a firearm(s), all members of the organization that participate in the parade will need to print and sign their name to this form;
2. That all firearm(s) displays will be done so in a safe and prudent manner including that the firearm(s) will be unloaded while in the staging area of the parade and during the parade route;
3. That a member of the Come and Take It Committee will check the firearm(s) prior to allowing the parade entry to participate in the parade;
4. That failure to abide by these rules will result in the denial of the individual or organization’s entry into the parade;

5. That any participant(s) on the float, as evidenced by their signature(s) below, assume any and all liability that may arise from their firearm(s) intentionally or accidentally, whether negligently or not, discharging while participating in the parade. The participant(s) further agrees to INDEMNIFY, SAVE, and HOLD HARMLESS the Gonzales Come and Take It Celebration, the Gonzales Come and Take It Committee, the Gonzales Chamber of Commerce and any other sponsors of the event, other participants, and/or advertisers from any expenses, attorney fees, losses, liability, damages and/or costs which may be incurred a result of a claim or demand arising from the discharge of their firearm(s) during the parade.

AS EVIDENCED BY MY SIGNATURE BELOW, I HAVE READ THE ABOVE ASSUMPTION AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY FOR FIREARMS, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE AM ASSUMING ALL LIABILTY FOR MY FIREARM AND HAVE SIGNED IT FREELY AND WITHOUT INDUCEMENT OR ASSURANCE OF ANY NATURE AND INTEND IT TO BE A COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL ASSUMPTION AND RELEASE OF ALL LIABILITY TO THE GREATEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY LAW.

