

# Pony Express Days 2026

## Parade Rules & Etiquette

Saturday, June 6, 2026

Parade Entries Due: May 1, 2026



- THE PARADE GOES ON RAIN OR SHINE!
- **Check in:** 10am at the table in front of McKinleyville High School on Murray Road.  
*Lineup positions are final.*
- Each entry must have a signed waiver of liability. Please make arrangements for an authorized person to sign the waiver for the entire entry and return it to the Chamber prior to the event.
- Participants arriving late may be denied a spot in the Parade.
- **All entries must be decorated.** Exceptions are: mounted horse entries, antique cars, drill teams and bands (where decorations other than costumes are impractical or defeat the purpose of the entry). Commercial vehicles must be decorated!
- Numbers must be attached to your entry. They are to be placed on the passenger's side of the entry. Numbered cards will be furnished, along with painter's tape or safety pins - if this is not suitable, please be prepared to use another method to attach the number to your entry.
- Take & keep the place assigned to your entry until the parade reaches its termination point.
- The Parade starts promptly at 11:00am. Preparedness and adherence to the lineup schedule will assure the parade can start on time.
- The parade route starts on Murray Road, turns south on Central Avenue, and then exits at the Mill Creek Shopping Center parking lot via Anna Sparks Way (road between McDonalds and Rite Aid). Total distance from Murray/Central Avenue to parking lot is approximately 2.4 miles.
- During the parade all entrants should stop at the Judge's Stand located in front of Coast Central Credit Union. Performances should be repeated in front of the judges and along the parade route.
- Maintain 60 feet between entries unless otherwise instructed by Parade Officials. If the parade stops, close the gap to 30 feet. Once the Parade resumes, re-establish the 60-foot space.
- **THROWING ITEMS, SUCH AS CANDY IS NOT PERMITTED!** Walkers that accompany your float are welcome to hand out items, such as flowers, candy, balloons or pamphlets to the on-lookers. Participants must remain on floats or in vehicles while the Parade is in progress.  
**These rules are necessary for the safety of children and observers.**  
**Those who do not adhere to this rule will be disqualified and may be removed from the parade by CHP or parade officials.**
- Abrupt loud noises frighten parade animals and should be kept to a minimum level. Please be considerate of animals and their owners.
- **Awards will be announced between 2-3pm from the stage at the festival** in Pierson Park and will be displayed on the McKinleyville Chamber of Commerce's web page.  
[mckinleyvillechamber.com](http://mckinleyvillechamber.com)

### PARADE AWARD CATEGORIES:

- Best Float
- Best Equestrian
- Best Car
- Best Walking Group
- Best Parade Performance (entry that is the most entertaining for the crowd)