



2026 DUCK 4TH OF JULY PARADE

Participation Policies and Guidelines

Those wishing to participate in the parade must **complete a parade registration by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, 2026**, to ensure adequate time for organizers to set the staging areas.

Each entry should be decorated with the theme of 4th of July.

By entering the parade staging areas, each entrant and participant agrees to hold the Town of Duck harmless for any injury, damage to personal property, or other personal damages and agree to the below guidelines:

- All entries will be reviewed by the Town of Duck. The Town reserves the right to deny access to any parade entry deemed unsafe.
- **THE THROWING OF ANY GIVEAWAYS IS PROHIBITED.** Giveaways MAY ONLY be handed out by walkers. Walkers are not allowed to cross between floats to the other side of the street.
 - For safety reasons children under the age of 5 may ride in a float/vehicle but are NOT allowed to walk on the street by the float.
- An ordinance banning the release of balloons in order to protect and preserve our natural environment was adopted in April 2024 ([Ordinance 24-01](#)). **The use of balloons is STRONGLY discouraged.**
- HELMETS ARE REQUIRED for all riders of bicycles, skateboards, inline skates, scooters (motorized or not), motorcycles, etc. All laws related to helmet use will be enforced by the Duck Police Department. Violators are subject to disqualification from the parade.
- Once you enter the parade line-up, DO NOT STOP unless directed by Town staff and/or Public Safety.
 - Entrants may not double-back along the parade route while the parade is in progress.
- No consumption of alcohol or any illegal substance is allowed in any parade area (including, but not limited to, pre-parade and post-parade areas) and during the parade.
- The discharge of fireworks, confetti, and sounding of loud horns is prohibited. The use of fireworks is NOT allowed in Duck (including sparklers) by law and is subject to a fine.
- The parade route **ends at Pamela Court** and will be marked by signage. At this time, entrants must prepare to enter NC12. Vehicles and riders must continue toward NC12 to turn right, and all walkers should exit into the Scarborough Faire parking lot and follow marked pedestrian routes.
- **Registered participants are asked to be in their assigned staging spot between 8:00 & 8:40 a.m. on the date of the parade. Late arrival (after 8:40 a.m.) may result in denial of parade entry.** Staging information will be emailed **48-72 hours** before the parade.

AWARDS

Participants will be judged in the following categories: Mayor's Award, Spirit Award, Best Business Entry, Best Community Group. Awards will be announced at the Celebration immediately after the parade at Duck Town Park, 1200 Duck Road.

WEATHER

This event is held rain or shine. Public Safety staff will monitor weather conditions in conjunction with the National Weather Service (NWS) and will cancel or end the parade if dangerous conditions are imminent. There is no rain date scheduled in case of cancellation or interruption.



Registration for the Town of Duck 4th of July Parade is now open! This year's parade will be held on Friday July 3, 2026, at 9:00 a.m., with a community celebration immediately following at the Duck Town Park, 1200 Duck Road. The after-event includes live music, the awarding of parade trophies, and cold refreshments on the Town Green.

The one-mile parade route remains the same each year. It begins at the top of the hill on Scarborough Lane, heads toward the ocean, turns left onto Ocean Way, and continues along Christopher Drive, ending at Pamela Court—just before the Scarborough Faire parking lots.

Arrive early to the parade for a good viewing area. **NO PART OF THE PARADE TAKES PLACE ON DUCK ROAD (NC12).** Parking in town is limited. Plan to walk or ride your bicycle, and be in town well in advance of the parade start time of 9:00 a.m.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

FLOATS AND GROUP ENTRIES: All floats, community groups, subdivisions, local business entries, moving vehicles, and groups of walkers are required to register to participate in our parade and to be assigned a staging location. Registration can be completed online here. All registration information requested must be completed and submitted no later than **5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 17, 2026**, in order to participate. Registrations received after this date will not be accepted. A paper form can be provided if requested.

VETERANS: The Town of Duck would like to invite any Veterans that will be in attendance to join in the fun! Walk-ups are welcome. However, we would appreciate for you to sign up online so that we can contact you with more specific details or changes that may occur closer to the date. If you wish to drive in the parade, please specify while signing up and complete the registration form so that we can ensure adequate staging area for the vehicle.

If not signed up, please be at the Scarborough Lane Shoppes back parking lot by 8:30 a.m. on Friday, July 3, 2026. **Please be advised that there are no additional parking or turnaround areas for participants at the Scarborough Lane or Scarborough Faire shopping areas, as these areas are used for parade staging and parking for employees of these shopping centers that morning.**

PATRIOTIC DOGS: Dogs are always welcome in the parade and are part of a group sponsored by Outer Barks. To register your dog or dogs (and yourself!) to walk in the parade, please contact Outer Barks directly at 252-715-4981. **Please note, parking will NOT be available at the Scarborough Lane or Scarborough Faire Shops.**

CHILDREN WALKING OR BICYCLING: The Town of Duck also welcomes children ages eight (8) and over to participate in this parade by riding bicycles or walking. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Decorations, costumes and creativity are encouraged! There will be limited decorations available for the bikes. Children who are participating in this part of the parade do not need to register. However, applicable parade guidelines must be followed (page 1). Report to the back lot of Scarborough Lane Shoppes at the staging area group called "Children on Bikes". See Drop-Off Information below. Bicycle helmets are required for cyclists.

DROP-OFF INFORMATION: If your child, or you and your dog, are participating in this year's 4th of July Parade, please be at the Scarborough Lane Shoppes back parking lot by 8:30 a.m. on Friday, July 4, 2025. Please be advised that there are **no parking or turnaround areas** for participants at the Scarborough Lane or Scarborough Faire shopping areas, as these areas are used for parade staging and parking for employees of these shopping centers that morning. Stopping on Duck Rd is strictly prohibited, and Scarborough Lane and Christopher Drive are closed on the morning of the parade. If you plan to drop off participants, please use a nearby safe location so that participants can walk to the meeting area.