



CITY OF HOLTVILLE

121 W. FIFTH STREET, HOLTVILLE, CA 92250
(760) 356-2912

February 2026

We are excited to begin preparations for the 13th Annual Imperial County Veterans Day Parade, held in Holtville, California on Saturday, November 7, 2026.

Enclosed are documents for your review and action. Please print legibly on the registration form and return no later than October 9, 2026. You may scan it and attach to an email to Haley Dowsey at hdowsey@holtville.ca.gov or deliver to Haley Dowsey at City Hall, 121 West 5th Street, Holtville, CA 92250. Please also note that the lineup for the parade is not based upon when you return your documents but is based upon the number of entries and type of entries and the safety of both the participants and the spectators of the parade.

For merchandise, food, or information booth participation please visit our website at www.holtville.ca.gov , to complete a Holtville Farmers Market & Street Fair Event Packet.

If you have any questions, or updates of your information, feel free to address them to this email.

We look forward to working with you towards the success of the 13th Annual Imperial County Veterans Day Parade held in Holtville, California on Saturday, November 7, 2026!

Nick Wells
City Manager Holtville

Karen Gibbs
President American Legion Auxiliary Unit 138



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13th ANNUAL IMPERIAL COUNTY VETERANS DAY PARADE REGISTRATION FORM

NOTE: Parade Date: Saturday, November 7, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

MAIL OR DELIVER COMPLETED REGISTRATION FORM TO ARRIVE NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 9, 2026

Haley Dowsey
121 W. 5th Street Holtville, CA 92250
Phone: (760)356-3013
Email: hdowsey@holtville.ca.gov

ORGANIZATION'S FULL NAME: _____

REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME: _____

REPRESENTATIVE'S TITLE: _____

REPRESENTATIVE'S MAILING ADDRESS: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

IF PARTICIPATING, PLEASE ENTER APPROPRIATE INFORMATION BELOW:

_____ COLOR GUARD (Y/N)

_____ BAND (Y/N)

_____ NUMBER OF VEHICLES (Y/N)

_____ TOTAL NUMBER OF PERSONS

_____ NUMBER OF HORSES

PARADE VEHICLES AND FLOATS: NUMBER OF AND DESCRIPTION/LENGTH

BRIEFLY --- (30 SECONDS OR LESS) INDICATE THE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS OR ACHIEVEMENTS YOU WOULD LIKE ANNOUNCED BY THE NARRATOR AS YOUR ORGANIZATION PASSES THE REVIEW STAND. PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT LEGIBLY. **BANDS:** PLEASE REMEMBER MUSIC SHOULD BE PATRIOTIC IN NATURE AND ATTIRE SHOULD BE TASTEFUL AND RESPECTFUL OF OUR COUNTRY AND THE VETERANS WE ARE HONORING. SAME GUIDELINES APPLY TO FLAG/DANCE CORPS. THANK YOU.



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2026 Parade Eligibility and Guidelines Parade Date: Saturday, November 7, 2026

All Veterans' organizations and organizations which exist for the purpose of honoring Veterans who return an entry form by the deadline will be included in the parade.

Parade entries may range from Bands, Patriotic Theme Floats and Banners, Marching Units, Drill Teams, Color Guards, Equestrian Units, Re-enactment Units, Military Equipment, to Placarded Vehicles.

If your organization plans to participate, we request that the **REGISTRATION FORM** be legibly completed and returned in time to **arrive no later than October 9, 2026 (not a postmark date)**. Feel free to provide copies of the **REGISTRATION FORM** to other organizations that have expressed interest but may not have been on the current potential participant listing. We encourage maximum participation. If you have missed the cut-off date for registration forms to be turned in, please do not hesitate to send them and we will do our best to fit your organization in.

Eligibility

- All participants must complete a Participation Application and must have received prior written Registration Approval in order to participate on Parade Day.
- Primary consideration for Parade participation will be granted to organizations representing Active, Retired and Honorably Discharged members of the United States Armed Forces including Commissioned Officers, Warrant Officers and Enlisted Personnel of the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Coast Guard, and National Guard and Reserves from the State of California.
- Secondary consideration for Parade participation will be offered to non-military organizations, such as:
 - Middle, High School, & College bands, including drill teams, or flag / rifle squads
 - Other musical units such as fife & drum, pipe & drum, and drum & bugle corps
 - Historical / Re-Enactment Groups
 - Town Patriotic Commissions
 - Civic / Community Service / Veteran Support Organizations
 - Seated, elected town, city and state officials (Candidates for office may not participate in the Parade unless they are incumbent, or a Veteran as outlined above. No candidate for office may distribute campaign flyers or paraphernalia or display campaign signage while participating in the Parade. More info on this topic is available).
- Entries that are strictly commercial in nature are not permitted in the Parade.
- The Parade Committee reserves the right to limit the number of units marching, including the number of vehicles participating in each unit, in order to comply with time requirements.
- The Imperial County Veterans Day Parade does not discriminate on the basis of age, race, color, religion, gender, national origin, sexual orientation or disability.

Parade Route:

Assembly begins at 8:45 a.m. on Walnut & 5th Streets – No Band Warmups

- Participants must commit to walk or ride the entire Parade route, as defined below
- (Veterans may use pre-approved vehicles - See Vehicle Guidelines below).
- The parade steps off at approximately 10:00 am at the intersection of Walnut and 5th Streets. Travels West on Main Street then right (north) on Pine Avenue where it ends. Entries must continue North on Pine until 6th Street before dispersing.

Attire:

- Veterans are encouraged to wear uniforms and bring their own flags and banners.
- Uniforms are preferred for marching bands and guard. All forms of attire should reflect respect for Veterans. No bare skin or inappropriate attire to be worn by flag corps or band members.
- Comfortable shoes are suggested.

Participant Guidelines:

- Floats should depict an event relevant to Veterans or a patriotic theme; float designs and audio presentations must be pre-approved by the Parade Committee no later than October 4.
- Participants agree not to litter the Parade route. Due to safety concerns, entries are prohibited from distributing candy, handbills, or



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any other items from floats/vehicles. If an entry violates this guideline, the entry will not be invited the following year.

- Participants agree to follow the outlined Parade route and maintain the pace set by officials. In the interest of time, individual units are **not allowed to stop and perform routines** along the route or in front of the bandstand unless given express written permission by the Parade VP or Coordinator. Failure to comply with this request may result in a ban from next year's Parade.
- Each participating organization is requested to display identifying signage and is responsible for providing and carrying its own signage.
- No smoking, and gum or tobacco chewing, is allowed while participating in the Parade. No alcoholic beverages are permitted in the lineup area or on the Parade route.
- Equestrian units must be immediately followed by "scoopers"!
- Bands - Patriotic music must be performed by the bands for the duration of the parade and dances by their respective flag/color guard teams should be tasteful and respectful towards our country and the Veterans we are honoring. Bands are also requested to compress their formations in the marshaling area. There will be ample time to establish proper intervals when moving to the START point. The Team 1 lead band is the only exception.

Vehicle Participation Guidelines:

- All vehicles must be pre-approved by the Parade Planning Committee.
- Veterans organizations that wish to drive non-military vehicles in the parade are limited to no more than 12 vehicles or 25 motorcycles per organization
- All vehicles are required to display their own identifying signage.
- Units must provide their own vehicles for transporting disabled Veterans participating in the Parade. Vehicles transporting disabled veterans must carry at least 2-4 veterans and display identifying signage.
- Every precaution is taken for the safety of our participants and spectators. There will be no unsafe maneuvers (example; spinning of tires, speed, etc) by any participant or the entire entry will be asked to leave the parade route and not be invited back.

Other Items of Note:

- The Parade is lined up to be as fair as possible to all participants. Your position is in no way a reflection on the importance we place on your organization! We intentionally keep some of the best entries to last! It is extremely important that we end the Parade on a strong, up-beat note.
- Please follow all these guidelines completely. We will need your full cooperation to insure orderly staging and a well-paced parade.
- Please make sure everyone in your group knows the correct time and place for staging, and leaves plenty of time for parking. If your entry includes vehicles or motorcycles, do not bring more vehicles or motorcycles than your registration form indicated you would have.
- You may not park in the staging area unless your vehicle is to be driven in the Parade. When you leave the staging area, you must not leave anything behind in the street. The streets will be reopened to traffic once you leave.
- One person in your group must be designated as the leader. If your group includes children, be sure they understand the need to listen when they hear the whistle.
- Your entry must stay 25-30 feet (3 car lengths) behind the entry in front of you. Please do NOT bunch up or allow a large gap to form in front of you. **You may not stop to perform.** You may not throw anything. Doing so encourages children watching the parade to come onto the parade route, which is extremely dangerous and is prohibited.
- If you need to withdraw from the parade for any reason, please notify the Parade Coordinator at (760) 356-3013 immediately. For more participation information call or email the Parade Coordinator at hdowsey@holtville.ca.gov

Note: Final eligibility and compliance with Guidelines will be determined by The City of Holtville