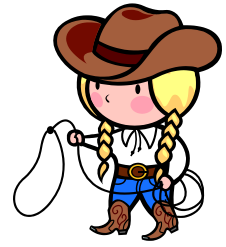


87th Annual Kiddie Kapers Parade Kids Just Wanna Have Fun!



Frequently Asked Questions

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What is the Kiddie Kapers Parade?

A free parade for children and their families in the Salinas Valley, which kicks off Big Week of the California Rodeo Salinas, and a chance for the community to showcase their creativity.

How many years has the Kiddie Kapers Parade been going on?

87 Years - the 1st parade was held in 1931.

When is the parade?

The first **Saturday** before Big Week, **July 15th!**

The Colmo del Rodeo parade is returning this year and the Kiddie Kapers is immediately preceding the Colmo as part of the Celebration. Come out to watch or march in the Kiddie Kapers and stay for the Colmo parade!

What time does it start? How long does it last?

The Kiddie Kapers Parade begins at 6:30 pm and runs about 1 hour. The Colmo del Rodeo Parade begins at 8pm.

Where should I sit to watch both parades?

To see both parades, find a spot along Main Street between Clay Street and the Steinbeck Center located at 1 Main Street. The Colmo del Rodeo Parade begins on S. Main Street at W. Romie Lane and extends to the Steinbeck Center. The [Kiddie Kapers starts](#) on Lincoln Ave and winds its way to Main Street at Clay Street.

What time do I need to be there to walk in the parade?

Arrive to the **Salinas Recreation Center (320 Lincoln Ave)** as early as 5pm, next door to the John Steinbeck Library. From 5:30 - 6pm, the Parade Marshals meet and greet with your little buckeroos and judge participants for creativity, spunk and adherence to the theme - Kids Just Wanna Have Fun! Everyone gets a participation award and ribbons are given to the 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each division. Winners are selected at 6pm sharp.

Where can I park?

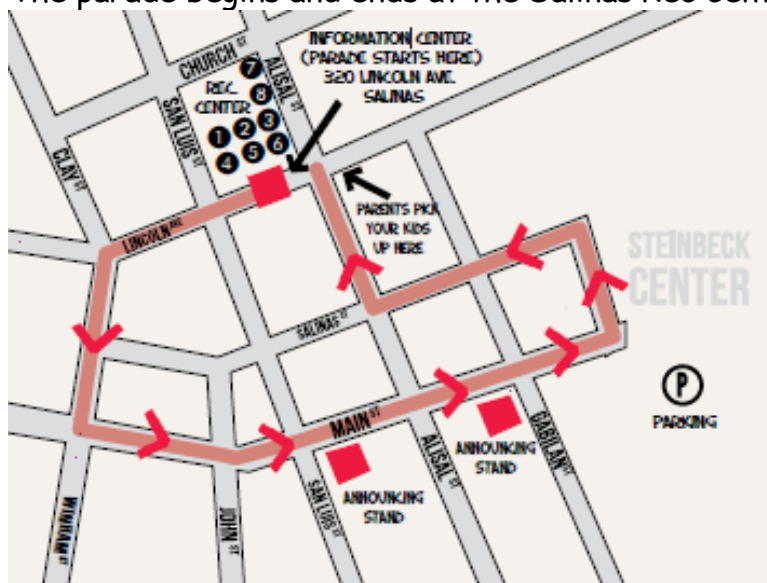
Options include:

- Steinbeck Center Parking Garage (accessible from Monterey Street)
- Several public parking lots along Monterey Street
- Nearby residential neighborhoods

Get there early for the best parking spot. If you choose to park inside the police barricades, you will not be allowed to move your car until after the parade is over and the streets are clear (about 10 pm). Please refer to the map for the location of street closures. **KEEP IN MIND THAT THE KIDDIE KAPERS PARADE AND COLMO del RODEO PARADE FOLLOW [DIFFERENT ROUTES.](#)**

What's the parade route? How long is it?

The parade begins and ends at the Salinas Rec Center and is about 1 mile long.



How do I register? How much does it cost?

No registration, and it's free! Just show up, and every child gets a ribbon with a \$1 award! There will be an Information Booth located in front of the entrance to the Rec Center (320 Lincoln Ave) to help direct you and answer questions.

Are restrooms available?

Yes - Portable toilets will be available outside Parade Central. Banks of portable toilets will be available at several locations along the parade route.

What should my kids do?

Be creative and express themselves! The theme of this year's Parade is

Kids Just Wanna Have Fun! There are 8 Divisions:

1) **Playground Floats** - floats by Salinas' playgrounds & parks organized by the Salinas Recreation & Parks division.

2) **Cowboys & Cowgirls** - kids in western dress. The best dressed cowboy and cowgirl ride in the official cars at the front of the parade.

3) **Strollers & Wagons** - costumed kids & small decorated strollers & wagons

4) **Community groups** - local children's organizations and clubs

5) **Costumed Kids & Pets** - small animals in costumes and their masters-in-costume

6) **Dance & Drill Teams** - organized baton, dance and marching units

7) **Group Floats** - people-powered floats of all shapes and sizes made by families, friends and neighborhood groups

8) **Rolling Riders** - costumed kids on decorated bicycles

****Children on bikes or skates must wear helmets****

The important thing is that the kids dress up in a costume and have a great time. Get into the spirit by dressing up with your kids if you plan to walk alongside them in the parade.

Can I push my baby in a stroller?

Of course! The **Strollers and Wagons Division** is the perfect fit for you.

Can my children ride their bikes?

Sure! It's important to stay safe - all children must wear a helmet. Decorate it: lights, stickers, silly hair! An attractive ribbon will be awarded to the Best Decorated Helmet!

Can I hand out candy, balloons, flyers?

No, parade participants may not distribute ANYTHING to the crowd during the parade. This is for the safety of the children participating in the parade as well as the spectators, not to mention it helps to avoid a mess that the City has to clean up. If anyone is caught, they will be asked to stop. We appreciate your understanding!

Can I drive my car in the parade? Can my child drive their little car in the parade?

All floats must be people-powered - no motorized vehicles are allowed, with the exception of the lead cars. Children may drive small electric cars at the back of the parade with the bicycles. Please make sure that the car's battery is charged to make it through the entire parade route.

Are there prizes?

Yes, there are prizes! 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners in each division receive a handsome award ribbon. A cash prize is awarded to the the 1st place winner in each Division, with the Cowboys & Cowgirls Division having two 1st place winners, one boy and one girl. There is even an award ribbon for the Best Decorated Helmet!

Winners are selected at 6pm sharp.

Can my goats, horses, mules walk in the parade?

For the safety of the children, no large livestock are allowed. Dogs are allowed but must be well-behaved and leashed at all times. Birds and fowls may be in the parade if they are caged. Small livestock are allowed if they are well-behaved and leashed at all times. Owners are responsible for immediately cleaning up after their pets. The Marshals may ask you to remove your animal at any time if they feel it is detrimental to the parade.

Still have questions?

Email kiddie.kapers@gmail.com or call the Rodeo office at (831) 775-3100. We'll get back to you as soon as we can!