



The Apache Junction Area Chamber of Commerce
is pleased to present the 62nd Annual
Lost Dutchman Days Parade!
Saturday, February 28, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

2026 Parade Theme: "Wild West Wonderland"

JUDGING

Entries have the option of being judged in a category before the parade begins. On the Entry Form, choose the category that best suits your entry:

- * Best Musical or Dance Group
- * Best Equestrian Group
- * Best Use of Parade Theme

Judging will begin promptly at 7:45am!

All entries wishing to be judged must be in position at that time. Entries not ready at 7:45am will be ineligible. Late arrivals will not be judged once the judging process begins.

Judging Criteria:

- Originality
- Quality
- Overall Appearance

Thank You Parade Sponsors!



www.ajchamber.com
(480) 982-3141
567 W Apache Trail
Apache Junction, AZ 85120

PARADE RULES

The Lost Dutchman Parade is a family fun event that is part of the weekend-long Lost Dutchman Days series. The following parade rules help us provide a safe and pleasurable experience for all parade participants and attendees. To ensure a safe parade, violation of any of these rules will result in the disqualification of a parade entry or unit.

ALL ENTRIES

- One representative from each parade entry must attend a mandatory pre-parade meeting on **Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 6:00pm**, Multi-Generational Center, 1035 N Idaho Rd, to receive entry parade position and other important event information.
- All vehicular drivers must possess a valid motor vehicle operator's license and be adequately trained to drive a vehicle in the parade.
- For all vehicular units, proof of vehicular insurance must be received when entry form is submitted for both vehicles and trailers.
- This is an "all forward motion" parade. There will be NO stopping on the parade route to perform. Performing groups/troops should choreograph routines to maintain forward motion at the parade pace. No slow cadences allowed.
- No alcoholic beverages of any kind will be allowed in the staging area nor may be consumed by participants before or during the parade.
- Candy, gifts, or literature of any kind may **NOT** be thrown or handed out to the crowd from any float or unit participating in the parade.
- Failure by a participant or participants parents/guardians to obey any police officer or parade official will be cause for that entry to be removed.
- The number of entries allowed in parade will be based on space available.
- The Parade Committee reserves the right to remove any participant, parent/guardian, or participating unit from the staging area or parade that is, in its opinion, offensive or a hinderance to the progress of the parade, or places other participants or attendees in physical danger, or violates any rules set forth on this application. Any violation of the rules will be grounds for immediate removal from the parade.

WALKING GROUPS

- Walking groups must not exceed 50 participants.
- Adults must supervise children walking (1:10 adult to child ratio recommended)

EQUESTRIAN GROUPS

- Equestrian teams and horse drawn carriages/wagons must have parade experience. Rider/driver **must always have control of horse(s)**. Unsafe animals will be removed from parade.
- Equestrian teams and horse drawn carriages/wagons **MUST** provide own "pooper-scooper" team.

FLOATS

- Adults must supervise children on floats (1:10 adult to child ratio recommended)
- Floats must be a minimum of 8' in length and be built on a double axel trailer, truck, car, or wagon. Floats, including tow unit, must not exceed 75' in length. Float must be able to make turn at Gold Drive.
- Stabilized props on float should not exceed 15' in width. Must be secured and able to maneuver down parade route.
- Floats must have a minimum of 12" ground clearance from the frame. Nothing is permitted to drag from float or hinder float wheels.
- Music is permitted but must maintain a volume that will not interfere with other parade units.
- Use of public address systems for broadcasting messages is prohibited.
- A minimum of one 2A10BC-type fire extinguisher must be provided on each entry or unit.
- Walking groups accompany floats may not exceed 25 participants.

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PARADE ENTRY FORM

This form must be completed and returned with payment to the Apache Junction Area Chamber of Commerce by **Friday, February 6, 2026, at 5:00pm – NO ENTRIES accepted after this deadline!**

Mail/In-Person: 567 W Apache Trail, Apache Junction, AZ 85120, Email: alexis@ajchamber.com

No Refunds of any parade entry fees. *This is a Rain or Shine event!*

Theme: "Wild West Wonderland"

Individual/Group: _____ Contact Person: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone (day of parade): _____

Email: _____

TYPE OF ENTRY

- ☐ **Vehicle Only** (select type): ☐ Automobile Club ☐ Individual
Number of vehicles in the entry: _____ Vehicle length(s): _____ Vehicle type: ☐ Car ☐ Truck
- ☐ **Float Only**
Will you have music: ☐ Yes ☐ No Number of people riding on float: _____
Vehicle length: _____ Trailer size/length: _____ Float width: _____
- ☐ **Float + Walking Group**
Will you have music: ☐ Yes ☐ No Number riding on float: _____ Number walking behind float: _____
Vehicle length: _____ Trailer size/length: _____ Float width: _____
- ☐ **Walking Group Only**
Number in group: _____ (include chaperones, troop leaders, instructors, etc., not to exceed 50) Will you have music: ☐ Yes ☐ No
- ☐ **Walking Group + Vehicle**
Will you have music: ☐ Yes ☐ No Vehicle length: _____ Vehicle type: ☐ Car ☐ Truck
Number in group: _____ (include chaperones, troop leaders, instructors, etc., not to exceed 50)
- ☐ **Equestrian Group – MUST provide "pooper scooper" team!**
Number of Horses: _____ Number of Riders: _____ Number of Walkers: _____
Number of Carriages/Wagons: _____ Length of total entry: _____
- ☐ **Marching Bands/Academic School Clubs or Teams (ROTC, Deca, Key Club, Robotics, Cheer, Pom, etc.)**
Number in group: _____ (include chaperones, troop leaders, instructors, coaches, etc.) Will you have music: ☐ Yes ☐ No
Will a vehicle be accompanying the group? ☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, vehicle length: _____

****Insurance** – Entrants must have current insurance for all vehicles. All vehicle drivers must have a valid driver's license to participate. **Attach a copy of all required insurances (vehicles, motorcycles) and return with signed form.**

JUDGING CATEGORY (check only one!)

☐ Do Not Judge ☐ Best Musical or Dance Group ☐ Best Equestrian Group ☐ Best Use of Parade Theme

Brief description of entry or float: _____

****IMPORTANT!**** Please include (on a separate sheet of paper) a narrative about your group/entry that the emcee may read over the public address system during the parade, 100-word count limit.

You may email your narrative to alexis@ajchamber.com, please put the name of your group/entry in subject line.

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PARADE ENTRY FORM (page 2)

Entry Fees

Early Bird Parade Entry Fee - Application and Payment must be received **BY January 2, 2026**

Select one:

- _____ **\$180** Placement in 1st Division (limited spaces)
- _____ **\$100** Commercial Entry – Large (25 or more employees)
- _____ **\$50** Commercial Entry – Small (up to 24 employees)
- _____ **\$100** Political Entry
- _____ **\$30** Charitable/Non-Profit/Individual Entry
- _____ **No Charge** Academic School Clubs/Teams (Marching Bands, ROTC, Deca, Key Club, Robotics, Cheer, Pom, etc.)
(Dance Studios, Groups promoting a School not eligible - commercial entry fee applies)

Parade Entry Fee – Application and Payment for all entries submitted **January 3, 2026 – February 6, 2026**

Select one:

- _____ **\$230** Placement in 1st Division (limited spaces)
- _____ **\$150** Commercial Entry – Large – 25 or more employees
- _____ **\$100** Commercial Entry – Small – up to 24 employees
- _____ **\$150** Political Entry
- _____ **\$80** Charitable/Non-Profit/Individual Entry
- _____ **No Charge** Academic School Clubs/Teams (Marching Bands, ROTC, Deca, Key Club, Robotics, Cheer, Pom, Dance Squad, etc.)
(Dance Studios, Groups promoting a school not eligible, commercial entry fee applies)

****IMPORTANT!**** Parade Application Deadline: **Friday, February 6, 2026, at 5:00pm**, NO EXCEPTIONS!

MANDATORY pre-parade meeting for all entrants: **Tuesday, February 17, 2026, 6:00pm**, Multi-Gen Ctr

Payment: Cash \$ _____ Check # _____ Credit Card – complete below:

Name on Card: _____ Amount: \$ _____

Credit/Debit #: _____ CVV _____ Exp Date: _____

Billing Address: _____ Zip: _____

Contact for Payment: Phone #: _____ Email: _____

Liability/Waiver

Participants must recognize that all programs of a physical nature involve some risks, and that by registering for a program of this nature there is an assumption of risk by the participant or the participant parent or guardian. Furthermore, the participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the City of Apache Junction and the Apache Junction Area Chamber of Commerce, its employees and program volunteers, from any loss or liability which may result from such participation. All pictures and videos taken by staff at special events and programs are subject to publication, along with the pictured person's full name.

I have carefully reviewed the rules, regulations, and liability and fully understand its content. I understand that it is the responsibility of each organization's representative to have all his/her participants read and adhere to the above information. This signed waiver will cover all members of the organization, group, or participant for this event.

Organization Name: _____ Phone: _____

Representative Name (print): _____ Contact Email: _____

Representative Signature: _____ Date: _____