



## **Be Part of Gympie's Biggest Community Celebration**

Welcome to the **Gympie Gold Rush Festival 2026 Community Street Parade** proudly sponsored by **Watson's Marine Centre**—a spectacular celebration of our community, our history and our future.

The Gympie Gold Rush Festival is proud to revive one of the region's most cherished traditions, inviting businesses, schools, community groups, sporting clubs, cultural organisations, charities, performers and residents to come together in a colourful display of creativity, community spirit and local pride.

Whether you're creating a spectacular float, marching with your organisation, showcasing a classic vehicle or simply dressing up to celebrate, your participation helps tell the story of Gympie and the remarkable people who call our region home.

Together, let's create a parade that inspires, entertains and celebrates everything that makes Gympie unique.

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### **Celebrate Our Past. Showcase Our Present. Imagine Our Future.**

The 2026 Parade theme invites entrants to reflect on Gympie's incredible journey. From the discovery of gold and the pioneers who built our town, to the thriving businesses, community organisations and volunteers who shape Gympie today, and the exciting future we are building together—every organisation has a story worth sharing.

Ask yourself:

- How does your organisation contribute to the Gympie community?
- What part of Gympie's history inspires you?
- What does the future of our region look like?
- How can you bring that story to life in a creative and entertaining way?

The most memorable parade entries don't simply advertise a business—they tell a story, delight the audience and celebrate our community.

## **Gympie Gold Rush Festival 2026 Community Street Parade** *proudly sponsored by* **Watson's Marine Centre.**



## Who Can Enter?

The Gympie Gold Rush Festival Community Street Parade is open to everyone.

We encourage entries from:

- Businesses
- Community organisations
- Sporting clubs
- Schools and early learning centres
- Performing arts groups
- Bands and musicians
- First Nations organisations
- Multicultural groups
- Service clubs
- Historical societies
- Emergency services
- Car, motorcycle and tractor clubs
- Classic and vintage vehicles
- Hobby and interest groups
- Charity organisations
- Families and neighbourhood groups

Whether your group has two people or fifty, every entry contributes to making the parade an unforgettable experience.

# Create Something Extraordinary

This is your opportunity to think big.

Decorate a float.

Dress in costume.

Perform along the route.

Celebrate your achievements.

Showcase your organisation.

Bring history to life.

Imagine the future.

Above all, create something that makes people smile.

The Parade Judges will be looking for entries that capture the imagination through creativity, colour, storytelling and community spirit.

Judging will consider:

- Relevance to the theme **Past, Present and Future**
- Creativity and originality
- Visual impact and entertainment value
- Environmental sustainability
- Overall presentation
- The unmistakable **WOW!** factor

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## Parade Day

**Saturday, 17 October 2026**

**Parade Commences:** 3.30 pm

The parade will travel through the heart of Gympie along Mary Street before finishing at Nelson Reserve, where participants and spectators can continue the celebrations at a **FREE Community Concert** featuring live entertainment, family activities and great local food.

Thousands of people are expected to line the streets, making this one of the largest community celebrations in the region.

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**Submission**  
**Applications Close**  
**Friday, 21 August 2026**

**Applications received after this date will be added to a waiting list however a spot in the 2026 parade cannot be guaranteed.**

## Why Get Involved?

Participating in the Gympie Gold Rush Festival Community Street Parade is an opportunity to:

- Celebrate your organisation and its contribution to our community.
- Promote your business or group to thousands of spectators.
- Build pride and teamwork among staff, volunteers and members.
- Create lasting memories for participants of all ages.
- Support one of Gympie's signature community events.
- Help strengthen the community spirit that makes Gympie such a wonderful place to live.

Most importantly, you'll become part of a tradition that brings generations of our community together.

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### **Entry is FREE**

There is **no cost to enter** the Gympie Gold Rush Festival Community Street Parade.

Every approved entry will be eligible for judging and the opportunity to win exciting prizes across a range of categories.

Whether your entry is large or small, simple or spectacular, we encourage you to get involved and help make the return of the Gympie Gold Rush Festival Community Street Parade bigger and better than ever.

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### **We Can't Wait to See You There!**

Thank you for considering becoming part of the Gympie Gold Rush Festival 2026 Community Street Parade.

With your creativity, enthusiasm and community spirit, together we will create a parade that celebrates our history, showcases our present and inspires our future.

**Gather your team. Build your float. Dress up. Tell your story.**  
**Let's make history together.**

# JOIN US

## Steps to follow

1. Read the participant agreement and terms and conditions
2. Complete the Parade Entry Form
3. Complete the Parade Leader Declaration Form
4. Submit all completed forms and a copy of your Public Liability Certificate via email to

### Submission

#### Applications Close

Friday, 21 August 2026

Please return completed applications to:

Parade Coordinator

Gympie Gold Rush Festival Incorporated

☎ 0425 850 360

✉ [programming@gympiegoldrush.com.au](mailto:programming@gympiegoldrush.com.au)



**GYMPIE**  
**GOLD**  
**RUSH**  
**FESTIVAL**

Gympie Gold Rush Festival Incorporated

c/o 45 Horseshoe Bend, Gympie QLD 4570 | <https://gympiegoldrushfestival.com.au/>

ABN: 90107953265 | Inc No: IA4936311 | ACNC Charity Registered

# PARADE PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT

## Gympie Gold Rush Festival 2026 Community Street Parade

### Introduction

The Gympie Gold Rush Festival Community Street Parade is a celebration of our region's people, history, creativity and community spirit. To ensure the safety and enjoyment of participants, volunteers and spectators, all organisations entering the parade must comply with the following Participation Agreement.

This Agreement forms part of the Conditions of Entry for the Gympie Gold Rush Festival 2026 Community Street Parade.

By signing the Parade Leader Declaration, the Parade Leader confirms that they have read, understood and accepted this Agreement on behalf of their organisation and all associated participants.

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### 1. Terms of Agreement

For the purposes of this Agreement:

- **"The Committee"** means Gympie Gold Rush Festival Incorporated.
- **"Parade Leader"** means the person authorised to submit and manage the parade entry on behalf of the organisation, business or group.
- **"Float"** includes any vehicle, trailer, structure, display or group participating in the parade.
- **"Participants"** means every person associated with the parade entry.
- **"Parade Coordinator"** means the person appointed by the Committee to manage the parade.
- **"Parade Officials"** includes Parade Marshals, Safety Officers and authorised Festival representatives.

### The Float Leader agrees that:

- 1.1** The Committee has invited the Parade Leader to participate in the Gympie Gold Rush Festival Community Street Parade subject to compliance with this Participation Agreement.
- 1.2** Acceptance of participation constitutes acceptance of every condition contained within this Agreement.
- 1.3** The Parade Leader is authorised to act on behalf of the organisation submitting the application.
- 1.4** The Parade Leader accepts responsibility for ensuring every participant associated with the entry understands and complies with this Agreement.
- 1.5** Where participants are under 18 years of age, the Parade Leader will ensure parents or legal guardians have been informed of the Parade Rules and appropriate permissions have been obtained.
- 1.6** The Parade Leader will retain signed acknowledgements from participants (or parents/guardians where applicable) and make these available if requested by the Committee.
- 1.7** A current Public Liability Insurance Certificate of Currency evidencing not less than \$20 million Public Liability cover (or such other amount required by the Committee) must be provided before participation is approved.

- 1.8** Every vehicle used in the parade must be appropriately registered, insured and roadworthy where required by law.
  - 1.9** Every driver must hold the appropriate current Australian driver's licence. Original licences must be presented during the official Parade Safety Inspection.
  - 1.10** The Parade Leader agrees to attend any required information sessions or meetings and comply with all reasonable directions issued by the Committee, Parade Coordinator, Parade Officials, Queensland Police Service or Emergency Services.
  - 1.11** The Parade Leader accepts responsibility for ensuring the float complies with all safety requirements before entering the marshalling area.
  - 1.12** The Parade Leader acknowledges participation in the parade involves inherent risks and accepts responsibility for managing those risks within their own organisation.
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## **2 Code of Conduct**

The Gympie Gold Rush Festival Community Street Parade is a family-friendly community event.

All participants agree that:

- the parade is not to be used to promote political campaigns or protests;
  - behaviour must always be respectful;
  - discriminatory, offensive, abusive or vulgar behaviour will not be tolerated;
  - entries must support the positive reputation of the Festival and the Gympie community;
  - the Committee reserves the right to refuse or remove any entry inconsistent with the objectives or values of the Festival.
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## **3 Parade Entry Design and Presentation**

Entrants are encouraged to create colourful, creative and entertaining displays.

Judges will consider:

- Theme interpretation
- Creativity
- Presentation
- Community engagement
- Sustainability
- Overall visual impact

Simple advertising vehicles with minimal decoration are unlikely to be competitive.

Entrants are encouraged to consider environmentally responsible materials and low-emission options wherever possible.

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## **4 Participant and Audience Safety**

Participant safety is the highest priority.

The Parade Leader must ensure:

- directions issued by Parade Officials are followed immediately;
- vehicles travel safely at all times;
- parade speed remains below 5 km/h unless otherwise directed;
- participants remain clear of moving vehicles except where specifically approved;
- cyclists and motorcyclists wear approved helmets;
- no alcohol is consumed during the parade;
- no naked flames are used;

- nothing is thrown from floats;
- children are not encouraged onto the roadway;
- participants do not board or leave moving vehicles;
- animals are managed safely;
- participants are protected from falls while riding on floats.
- no food or lollies are issued to the viewers;
- avoid small refuse eg. Hand outs can be in the form of flyers, vouchers or stickers but must be larger than 10 x 10 cm;
- ensure that parade participants are not stopping to handout promotional materials, enlist others to do this alongside your display/float.
- explosive devices are not used including confetti or streamer cannons;
- confetti are not used;
- all special effects are non-toxic in nature e.g. smoke machines or hazers
- use of smoke machines and other banners and or signs do not impair the movement of vision of other participants
- the procession is not halted by your group stopping – this is a parade and participants must keep moving and travelling in the direction of the parade.

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## 5 Float Safety Requirements

Before entering the parade all floats must comply with the Festival Safety Checklist.

This includes:

- current electrical test and tag certification where applicable;
- waterproof protection for electrical equipment;
- secure attachment of decorations;
- management of slip, trip and fall hazards;
- weather preparedness;
- safe battery installation;
- compliance with maximum height and width restrictions.

The Festival Safety Officer may inspect any float and require modifications before approval.

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## 6 Float Dimensions

Maximum height: **4 metres from GROUND LEVEL**

Maximum width: **4 metres**

Only rigid trucks are permitted. Articulated vehicles and semi-trailers are not permitted.

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## 7 Wet Weather

The parade may proceed during rain where it remains safe to do so.

Should severe weather warnings be issued, the Committee may postpone or cancel the event. The Committee's decision is final.

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## 8 Photography and Media Release

Participants consent to being photographed or filmed during the Festival.

Gympie Gold Rush Festival Incorporated may use photographs, video or other recordings for promotional, educational and archival purposes without further notice or compensation.

## 9 Authority to Refuse or Remove an Entry

Gympie Gold Rush Festival Incorporated reserves the absolute right to refuse, suspend or remove any parade entry where:

- documentation is incomplete;
- insurance requirements are not met;
- driver's licences are not produced;
- safety requirements are not satisfied;
- the float fails inspection;
- directions from authorised officials are ignored;
- an entry presents an unacceptable safety risk;
- behaviour is inconsistent with the Festival's values; or
- removal is considered necessary in the interests of public safety or the orderly conduct of the event.

The decision of the Committee, Parade Coordinator or Festival Safety Officer is final.

No compensation shall be payable in relation to any decision to refuse or remove an entry.

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## 10 Indemnity

To the fullest extent permitted by law, the Float Leader agrees to release, indemnify and hold harmless Gympie Gold Rush Festival Incorporated, its Committee, volunteers, contractors, Parade Officials and representatives from any claim, liability, loss, damage, cost or expense arising from participation in the parade except where liability cannot lawfully be excluded.

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## 11 Definitions

**Cost** includes loss, liability, damage and expense.

**Harm** means property damage, personal injury, illness, death or psychological injury.

**Law** includes all applicable Commonwealth, State and Local Government legislation, regulations, standards and lawful directions.

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**The Gympie Gold Rush Festival Committee thanks you for helping create a safe, enjoyable and memorable Community Street Parade. Together, we can celebrate the rich history, vibrant present and exciting future of the Gympie region.**





## PARADE ENTRY APPLICATION

Gympie Gold Rush Festival Community Street Parade proudly sponsored by Watson's Marine Centre

Please complete all sections of this application. Fields marked (\*) are mandatory.

| 2.1 Organisation Details                         | Organisation Information |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Business / Organisation / School / Club Name (*) |                          |
| ABN (if applicable)                              |                          |
| Primary Contact Person (*)                       |                          |
| Position                                         |                          |
| Postal Address (*)                               |                          |
| Suburb                                           |                          |
| Postcode                                         |                          |
| Email Address (*)                                |                          |
| Mobile Number (*)                                |                          |
| Alternative Phone Number                         |                          |

| 2.2 Parade Day Contact | Parade Leader |
|------------------------|---------------|
| Contact Person (*)     |               |
| Mobile Number (*)      |               |
| Email (*)              |               |

| Information Session                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mandatory to attend a Group & Parade Leader Information Session.<br>Saturday 5 September 2026<br>Gold Mine Function Room<br>30 Nash Street, Gympie | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – 10.00 – 11.00 am<br><br>OR<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Yes – 2.00 – 3.00 pm |
| Name of Attendee:                                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                |
| Email of Attendee:                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                |

| 2.3 Parade Entry Details                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Entry Information |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Name of Float / Group (*)                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                   |
| Entry Type (*)                                                                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Float<br><input type="checkbox"/> Walking Group<br><input type="checkbox"/> Vehicle<br><input type="checkbox"/> Band<br><input type="checkbox"/> School<br><input type="checkbox"/> Community Group<br><input type="checkbox"/> Other |                   |
| Theme Title                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                   |
| Brief Description of Entry                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                   |
| Theme Statement                                                                                            | How does your entry celebrate Gympie's:<br><input type="checkbox"/> Past<br><input type="checkbox"/> Present<br><input type="checkbox"/> Future                                                                                                                |                   |
| Please explain your theme. This information may be used by the Parade MC and Judges.                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                   |
| <b>MC Commentary</b><br>This information will be read by the Parade MC.<br>Tell Us about your organisation |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                   |

| 2.4 Participants                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Participant Details              |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
|                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Estimated Number of Participants |  |
| Adults:                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                  |  |
| Children: (Under 18                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                  |  |
| Total Participants:                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                  |  |
| Will your group include:                                                                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Children – Please list age range<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Elderly Participants<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Participants with Disability<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Animals<br><br><input type="checkbox"/> Performers<br><br>If yes, please provide details. |                                  |  |
| <b>Accessibility Requirements</b><br>Please advise if your participants require any accessibility assistance. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                  |  |

| 2.5 Music and Commentary        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Will your entry include:        | <input type="checkbox"/> Recorded Music<br><input type="checkbox"/> Live Music<br><input type="checkbox"/> Voice-over<br><input type="checkbox"/> PA System<br><input type="checkbox"/> Generator<br><input type="checkbox"/> Lighting |
| If yes, please provide details. |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

| 2.6 Public Liability Insurance                                              |  | Insurance Details |  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-------------------|--|
| Insurer                                                                     |  |                   |  |
| Policy Number                                                               |  |                   |  |
| Expiry Date                                                                 |  |                   |  |
| Amount of Cover                                                             |  |                   |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have attached a current Certificate of Currency. |  |                   |  |

**Minimum Cover Required: \$20 Million Public Liability Insurance (or such amount as required by Gympie Gold Rush Festival Incorporated).**

## 2.7 Vehicle and Float Details

Will your entry include a vehicle?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If yes, complete the following.

**Vehicle Information**

**Vehicle Type**

**Registration Number**

**Registered Owner**

**Driver's Name**

**Driver's Licence Number**

**Driver's Mobile Number**

**The original driver's licence must be presented during the Festival Safety Inspection before entering the marshalling area.**

## 2.8 Float Dimensions

## Measurement

**Height (Metres)**

**Width (Metres)**

**Length (Metres)**

**Maximum Height: 4 metres from the ground level**

**Maximum Width: 4 metres**

**Only rigid trucks are permitted.**

## 2.9 Safety Information

Please indicate if your entry includes:

☐ **Electrical Equipment**

☐ **Generator**

☐ **Battery System**

☐ **Smoke Machine**

☐ **Animals**

☐ **Trailer**

☐ **Elevated Platform**

☐ **Live Performance**

☐ **Other Potential Hazards**

**If yes, please describe.**

# PARADE LEADER DECLARATION

Organisation / Business

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Entry Name

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Parade Leader

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Mobile

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Email

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Declaration

I declare that I am authorised to sign this document on behalf of the organisation named above.

I acknowledge that I have read and understood the **Gympie Gold Rush Festival 2026 Community Street Parade Participation Agreement**, including the Terms of Agreement, Parade Rules, Float Safety Requirements, Safety Checklist, Wet Weather Policy and Code of Conduct.

By signing this declaration, I confirm that:

- ☐ I am authorised to act on behalf of the organisation submitting this application.
- ☐ I accept responsibility for ensuring every participant associated with this parade entry complies with the Participation Agreement.
- ☐ A current Public Liability Insurance Certificate of Currency has been provided.
- ☐ All vehicles are registered, insured and roadworthy where required.
- ☐ Every driver holds the appropriate current Australian driver's licence and understands that their licence must be produced during the Parade Safety Check.
- ☐ I understand that Gympie Gold Rush Festival Incorporated may refuse or remove this entry if any requirement of the Participation Agreement is not met.
- ☐ I agree to indemnify Gympie Gold Rush Festival Incorporated as outlined within the Participation Agreement.
- ☐ I certify that the information contained within this application is true and correct.

**By signing below I acknowledge that I have read, understood and agree to be bound by the Gympie Gold Rush Festival 2026 Community Street Parade Participation Agreement on behalf of the organisation named above.**

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Parade Leader Name

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Signature

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Date:

Once submitted your application will be signed and processed by a Gympie Gold Rush Festival team member.

Signed By:

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**GYMPIE GOLD RUSH OFFICIAL**

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**Signature**

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**Date:**

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**Application Checklist**

**Please ensure you have included:**

- ☐ **Completed Application Form**
- ☐ **Certificate of Currency**
- ☐ **Theme Description**
- ☐ **Driver Details (where applicable)**
- ☐ **Vehicle Details**
- ☐ **Supporting Information (if required)**
- ☐ **Signed Parade Leader Declaration**

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**Submission**

**Applications Close**

**Friday, 21 August 2026**

**Please return completed applications to:**

**Parade Coordinator**

**Gympie Gold Rush Festival Incorporated**

 **0425 850 360**

 [programming@gympiegolddrush.com.au](mailto:programming@gympiegolddrush.com.au)

