



First Weekend in October | Elk Grove Regional Park | 10 am - 5 pm

Presented by



Cosumnes Community Services District Parks and Recreation Department

8820 Elk Grove Boulevard, Elk Grove, California 95624

916.405.5300 • www.yourcsd.com

Dear Scarecrow Contestant:

Congratulations and thank you for participating in this year's CSD GIANT Pumpkin Festival of Elk Grove. This letter includes information and instructions for participating in this year's contest.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

Location: **Elk Grove Regional Park (9950 Elk Grove- Florin Rd, Elk Grove, CA 95624)**

Date: **Saturday, October 1st – Sunday, October 2nd 2011**

Time: **10:00 am - 5:00 pm Daily**

THEME:

This year's theme is **SCARECROWS OF THE CARIBBEAN**. Create your very own pirate inspired scarecrow! Cash prizes will be awarded in four categories. Additional prizes will be awarded for Best Depiction of Theme and Peoples Choice categories. All entries must be appropriate for a family audience.

LOAD-IN AND SET UP INSTRUCTIONS:

The **Scarecrows of the Caribbean** area is located behind the **Jerry Fox Swim Center**. Please enter from the **Main Gate on Elk Grove Florin Road** and use the parking area at the Jerry Fox Swim Center to unload your vehicle. Please relocate your vehicle to Festival parking within the park immediately after unloading to allow other contestants the chance to unload. You must hand carry or cart your supplies to your designated spot. **ABSOLUTELY NO VEHICLES ARE ALLOWED ON THE GRASS.** No exceptions.

Security will be in place Friday and Saturday. Entrants are responsible for bringing and assembling their scarecrows. Please bring your own tools. Scarecrows must be free standing or have their own support system. Children under the age of 12 assisting with set up must be accompanied by at least one adult for every four children.

SET UP DATES AND TIMES:

Friday, September 30th from 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Saturday, October 1st no *earlier than* 7:00 am and ready for display by 9:00am

You are highly encouraged to set up on Friday, September 30th from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm

- Your display space number will be assigned when you check in with staff on Friday afternoon or Saturday morning. Staff will be available to direct you to your designated space.
- Scarecrows must be set up and on display for the entire weekend. All entries must be fully assembled and checked in by **9:00 am on Saturday, October 1st** and remain on display until **5:30 pm on Sunday, October 2nd**.
- All entries checked in **after 9:00 am on Saturday, October 1st** will be considered **non-competitive** and for display purposes only. No prizes will be awarded.
- To keep judging impartial, *no signs or names* may be placed on the display to identify a family or group who created the scarecrow.

PARKING:

Each paid entry will receive one complimentary parking pass in their confirmation package, sent out the week before the Festival. If you need additional parking passes, they can be purchased in advance for \$5 each at the Main Office. **Please be sure to inform your group they will not be allowed access into the park without payment or a parking pass.** No exceptions.

ELECTRICITY:

No electricity is available for scarecrow displays.

MATERIALS SPECIFICATIONS AND LIMITATIONS

- Contestants in the youth open and teen open categories must construct the scarecrow themselves with minimal help from adults. Staff will be on site to observe set-up. Scarecrows may be reclassified in another judging category based on these observations.
- All scarecrows will be displayed outdoors throughout the weekend and must be durable enough to withstand fall weather conditions.
- All accessories are to be securely attached. Entries deemed unstable, unsecured, or inappropriate for a family event will be removed.

- Open flames are not permitted.
- **The dimension of the display area is 6 feet wide by 4 feet deep.** This entire area can be used to display your **“Scarecrows of the Caribbean”** scarecrow contest entry.
- All entries are subject to the standards of public display set by Cosumnes CSD. The CSD reserves the right to deny exhibition to any entry considered to be inappropriate.
- The CSD is not responsible for any lost, stolen, or damaged personal items associated with the scarecrow while on display.

CATEGORIES/PRIZES:

Entries will be evaluated by a panel of volunteer judges and scored based on use of theme, creativity, and overall appeal. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three entries in each category. Please remember, while creativity is encouraged the overall statement must be positive and entries must be “family friendly.”

Group/Family

First Place	\$250
Second Place	\$100
Third Place	\$50

Adult Open (Individuals Over 18)

First Place	\$250
Second Place	\$100
Third Place	\$50

Youth Open (Individuals 12 and Under)

First Place	\$250
Second Place	\$100
Third Place	\$50

Additional Awards:

People's Choice

A \$100 cash award will be presented to the entry which receives the most votes from event attendees.

Teen Open (Individuals 13 to 17)

First Place	\$250
Second Place	\$100
Third Place	\$50

Best Theme Scarecrow

A \$100 cash award will be presented to the entry which most accurately captures the spirit of this year's theme.

JUDGING & JUDGES

- Volunteer judges will review all entries and select the winners. **Decisions of the judges are final.**
- Judging will occur on **Saturday, October 1st between 10:00 am and 12:00 pm.** A panel of judges will give entries a score from 1-10 in the categories of: use of theme, creativity and overall appeal. Highest combine scores between the judges panel will win. All ties will be decided by a vote of the judges.
- People's Choice voting will take place all day on Saturday at **Scarecrows of the Caribbean** scarecrow contest area. Staff members will monitor the ballot box. We would like an honest vote of festival guests, no ballot box stuffing, please.

AWARDS

Awards will be presented at **2:00 pm on Sunday, October 2nd at the Safeway Pumpkin Gang Plank** where the giant pumpkin weigh off takes place. All entries that place in the top three of each category will be notified Saturday night by telephone. Please have a good contact number on your application.

SCARECROW REMOVAL

All scarecrows must remain on site until 5:00 pm, Sunday. **Scarecrows must be removed on Sunday between the hours of 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm.** Scarecrows remaining after 7:00 pm will be discarded.

Scarecrow Contest Schedule

Friday, September 30th 2:00 pm – 7:00 pm check-in/set-up

Saturday, October 1st

7:00 am – 9:00 am check-in/set-up

10:00 am – 12:00 pm judging

10:00 am – 5:00 pm People's Choice judging

Sunday, October 2nd

2:00 pm awards – Safeway Pumpkin Gang Plank

5:30 pm – 7:00 pm pick up/remove scarecrows

FESTIVAL REMINDERS

- 1. We will have security Friday and Saturday night.**
- 2. No vehicles will be allowed on grass area to load or unload! Please bring hand carts for heavy items.** Parking after unloading will be as available. Again if you need assistance please look for Event Staff.
- 3. Festival organizers will be wearing Giant Pumpkin Festival staff shirts.** They are available to answer questions, but are not available to set-up or remove scarecrow displays.
- 4. This is a “Rain or Shine” event.** No refunds will be issued in the event of rain.

Please call me at (916) 684-7550 ext. 108 or e-mail deniseblake@csdparks.com if you have any other questions. Thank you once again for your participation.

Denise Blake

Recreation Coordinator II

Cosumnes CSD, Department of Parks and Recreation