

Capitola Beach Festival Lighted Nautical Parade Builders Guide-2025



Thank You for participating in the 2025 Capitola Beach Festival Lighted Nautical Parade!
This document contains the information you need to plan and prepare for the parade.

ENTRANCE FEE: We ask each entrant for a \$100.00 deposit check which reserves your barge. *This check will be returned* - after cleanup of barge/assembly site. Make check out to: *Capitola Beach Festival* send to *Capitola Beach Festival PO Box 501 Capitola CA 95010*.

PARADE AWARDS

Two types of Awards are available to the Nautical Parade participants.
The floats Awards will be judged on the following criteria:

- Best Use of Parade Theme
- Creativity of Float Design
- Wow Factor (Showmanship, Entertainment)
- Technical Success (Music & Light Interaction, Sound Projection, Light Projection)
- Completion of Float Route (Cross under the bridge and circle the lagoon)

Highest Ranking Awards

Based on judges' numeric ranking totals, floats will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place.
The Capitola Beach Festival will donate to the Float team's designated charity the award money based on their award level.

Category Awards

Awards will be provided (TBD) for the following categories of floats:

- Capitola Neighborhood
- Commercial
- Non-Profit

FLOAT DESIGN: 2025 Theme – “Vacation Snapshots”

- Must be Family Friendly
- Does not extend beyond barge perimeter
- Completed floats must be able to pass under Stockton bridge (*or be disqualified!*)
~8 feet clearance from bottom bridge to water
- Keep design manageable-able to transport parts by footpath/ carts
- You will be given a foam board with your float number to attach to the rear left corner of the float. Save a space for it.

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BARGES: Floating Barges provided by Festival. Size 8 x12 feet with plywood top. Available at Stockton Bridge, Friday Sept 27th between 11:00 am-Noon (time to be confirmed...) You provide the manpower/paddles or electric motor to move barge up creek to your building site.

MATERIALS NEEDED: *Use your imagination!*

- Use existing frames- lattice-PVC-clip ties-cardboard...
- Assemble/build framework /attach strings of lights.
- You can use Staples, Nails, Tape, Screws or other material you need to attach your design, however, please keep in mind that all barges **MUST** be returned the way they are found with all materials used removed including the nails, screws and staples.
- Power Requirements – have electrical generator or sufficient large batteries (minimum 2) to power both
 - a) Light Display and
 - b) Electric motor to maneuver the barge: minimum 50# thrust or if using 2-3 kayaks to pull
- Use separate batteries to power the lights/ string lights very effectively
- Bring extra batteries / manual paddle on board as back up

OFF SITE PREP:

- Provide short narrative to Float Committee to introduce your float
The narrative should be less than 2 minutes in length.
See Attached Guideline
- Select background music (2-3 min.) See Below
- Complete the Float Talking Points (3-4 items)
- **Send all info to Nautical Leads By Sept 15th at capitolabeachfestival@gmail.com**
- Visit site assignment /plan for transporting materials Sept 27th/28th

MUSIC:

- **Please ensure** your selected music is family friendly. We have all ages watching the parade.
- **DJ MUSIC: Starting Song: You can provide the song name “XXXXXX” BY “BAND NAME” (LENGTH OR SECTION OF SONG);** Include any Instructions to DJ (ie, fade after 30 seconds and play in background)
- **IF YOU ARE PLAYING YOUR OWN MUSIC:** Please let us know in advance. The DJ will still announce you, so you need to be sure to give him time to do so that he can be heard over the music. it is ok to start it after your announced and play it all through your journey. Also, it would be a good idea to give us a backup of the music your going to play just in case you have last minute Audio issues. (send backup per instructions for music above)

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FLOAT RIDERS:

- Each float rider must sign a waiver prior to parade-collected Sat at 3:00pm (Attached). If float rider is a minor, it must be signed by their parent.
- PFD / life vest available every rider
- Limit: 4 riders (please watch the weight)
- Some houses require an additional waiver, which you will be sent if you need to sign.

GENERAL SITE INFO:

- Please be respectful of the homeowners.
If you want to bring a picnic lunch or have other guests beside float builders, please ensure you clear that with the home owner first.
It is best for you to meet in advance and discuss openly any plans/expectations you have for the weekend.
- Friday night - Lights out -no noise after 8:00PM; no overnight access on the property.
- Saturday night – Any work completed by 10:00PM; no overnight access on the property
- Sunday – Finish dis-assembly and cleanup by 12:00 noon
- Porta Potties have been provided and there are public restrooms in the village.
The homeowners have been instructed that float builders should not enter their homes.

FRIDAY SEPT 27th

- Meet up time is approximately 12:30PM, when the Corp Yard gives us more detail, we will let you know.
- Meet Nautical Leads at the Stockton Bridge sand -get assigned barge and float#
- Bring paddles or motor to move your barge upriver to site
- OK to do barge prep on Friday if you are building at one of the assigned sites (no building on the Sand Friday).

SATURDAY SEPT 28th- Attach your pre-built pieces to barge:

- Access through the village is restricted in morning as Little Wharf race runs from early morning until about 11:00am.
- Stockton Bridge is closed to traffic 6:00-11:00am and 7:00-9:00pm
- Access to your creek site is via the foot trail.
- *PARK-Temporarily* under trestle to load equipment on cart/ dolly - short walk to assigned site.
- Attach frame to barge in ways that enable dismantling after event.

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DURING PARADE ROUTE- SAFETY PROCEDURE:

Fish & Game prohibits float participants from wading in the creek. Water from creek is not to be sprayed on people. Please do not toss items into the crowd. Alcohol consumption is not permitted on barges, kayaks or paddle boards during parade.

- At Twilight ~7:30 parade starts. Line up by number near Shadowbrook
- Someone will signal the barges from a kayak or paddle board using whistle or blow horn.
- Water marshals will be in kayaks/paddle boards on creek to help direct barges and for safety along with Capitola City Life Guards.
- Parade route is from trestle to Stockton Bridge to lagoon for turn-around (~4-6 minutes)
- Judges are seated just before the bridge...***show your best, Perform for the Judges, not the announcers. (Circle around so they can see all your sides).***
- **Pass under bridge stay to right -then Circle counter-clockwise in lagoon until all floats arrive & winner announced**
- Return barge to building site, secure it & take valuables with you
- All floats will receive either a 1st, 2nd or 3rd or participant award. Please don't leave before picking them up. The Announcers will let you know when the 1st, 2nd, 3rd decisions have been finalized. You will pick the awards at the announcer booth.

SUNDAY-BARGE BREAKDOWN

- Sunday AM Return to remove extra material let on barges.
- Return cleaned barges between 11:00AM-12:00 noon - tie it up under Stockton Bridge.
- Rowboat races start at 1:00pm, so we don't have much time to clear out.
- Check off barge with staff at sand by bridge
- Your checks held for deposit will be returned at sign off.

THANK YOU! for team participation in 2025 Capitola Beach Festival-Lighted Nautical Parade.
For further Information, please see the website: www.capitolabeachfestival.com or reach out to one of the Nautical Team Leads.

Nautical Team Lead Contacts:

Nautical Parade Chair: Keith Cahalen (831) 334-0607 cahalenkp@gmail.com

Nautical Team Member: Cindy Kiernan: (831) 428-9875 Kiernanc@sbcglobal.net

Nautical Team Member: Mary Beth Cahalen: (831) 332-4528 mbbythesea@aol.com