



CARVED PUMPKIN CONTEST

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Can anyone enter?

Anyone of any age can enter a carved pumpkin into the contest.

How many entrees can I have?

Each person may enter one pumpkin.

Are there rules about how to cut or decorate my pumpkin?

Yes, please note the following before you begin to carve:

- We require the pumpkins to be carved, so we can illuminate them for this evening event. You can also use paint or other props and decorations (please note: props and décor cannot be returned to you after the event).
- Please cut the pumpkin open from the BOTTOM and leave the top stem part intact.
- To keep your carving looking great all weekend, we recommend you carve as close to the drop-off as possible. Other preservation tips we've found work well include spraying surfaces inside and out with a bleach or castile soap solution. After drying, coat the inside surfaces with a light layer of petroleum jelly.
- Carvings must be appropriate to be viewed by an audience of all ages. This is a family-friendly event. We reserve the right to exclude any entry based on inappropriate or graphic content.

What are the judging categories?

Nine total prizes will be awarded in the following age groups and categories:

- Ages Groups:
 - Youth: 11 and Under | Teen: 12-17 | Adult: 18+
- Categories for each age group:
 - Funniest | Best Garden-Themed | Most Original

Can my family carve a pumpkin together?

Yes! If a family carves together, will judge the pumpkin under an adult category if applicable. Please note that the ticket discount is only applicable to a single ticket per entry.

My young child wants to enter by themselves. Can I help them?

To be fair to all contestants of a similar age, guardian help should be limited to safety-related assistance only. Please do not help your young child with designing the pumpkin or detailed carving work.

Where can I get a pumpkin to carve?

All contestants will need to provide their own pumpkin. These can be picked at a pumpkin patch, home-grown or purchased at a store. They can be any shape, size, or color.



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Where and when do I drop off my pumpkin?

Finished, carved pumpkins must be delivered to The Gardens on Spring Creek at 2145 Centre Avenue in Fort Collins on October 17 between 9 a.m. - noon.

When are the winners announced?

Our panel of judges will select the contest winners on Thursday night during the event—Oct. 17. We will post the winners on The Gardens social media channels (Instagram and Facebook) the following day, Friday, Oct. 18, by 5 p.m.

Do I need to be present to win?

No, you do not need to be present to win, and you do not need to attend the event. When you drop off your pumpkin, we will collect your contact information. We will contact all of our contest winners on Friday, Oct. 18 by 5 p.m.

What does the winner get?

As a thank you, each contestant will receive half off their Pumpkins on Parade admission. Additionally, prizes will be awarded in each category. Prizes include gift cards to local nurseries and restaurants, locally-authored children's books, and more!

How do I get my discounted tickets?

Please buy your regular-priced Pumpkins on Parade event ticket in advance (we expect certain dates and times will sell out!). When you deliver your carved pumpkin on Oct. 19, we will refund 50% of the purchase price. Please allow five to 10 business days for our staff to process your refund. We cannot refund tickets before we receive your carved pumpkin.

Please note: we are only able to discount the carver's ticket. If a family carves a single pumpkin, we will discount one ticket. If multiple members of a family enter the contest with individually carved pumpkins, each carver will receive a discount.

Can I pick up my pumpkin after the contest?

Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate returning carved pumpkins or decorative items. All pumpkins will be composted after the event. Any decorative props will be disposed of. Please do not use anything to decorate your pumpkin that you will want back.

Count me in! How do I register?

[Register online here.](#) You must register by 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 14 to enter the contest.

