



COMMUNITY CARVED PUMPKIN CONTEST

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

CAN ANYONE CARVE? HOW MANY TIMES CAN I ENTER THE CONTEST?

Anyone of any age can enter a carved pumpkin into the contest. Each person may enter one pumpkin.

ARE THERE RULES ABOUT HOW TO CUT OR DECORATE MY PUMPKIN?

Yes!

- Please cut the pumpkin open from the BOTTOM and leave the top stem part intact. We will illuminate from beneath the pumpkin with lights.
- 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).
- 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, and then after drying, coating 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 contest entry based on inappropriate or graphic content.

WHAT ARE THE CATEGORIES?

Nine total prizes will be awarded.

The contest will be divided into three age groups:

- Youth: 11 and Under
- Teen: 12-17
- Adult: 18+

Categories for each age group will be:

- Funniest
- Best "Magic Garden"-Themed Carving
- Most Original Carving

WHAT DOES THE WINNER GET?

As a thank you for your support of the event, 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 TICKET FOR ENTERING THE CONTEST?

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 October 19, we will refund your ticket 50 percent 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 that we are only able to discount the carver's ticket. If a family carves a single pumpkin together, we will discount one ticket. If multiple members of a family enter the contest with multiple individually carved pumpkins, each carver will receive the discount.

I KNOW I CAN ONLY ENTER ONE PUMPKIN IN THE CONTEST, BUT CAN I DONATE OTHER CARVED PUMPKINS TO THE GARDENS?

Sure! We would be happy to accept carved pumpkins that will not be part of the official contest. We would use these extra pumpkins to decorate the event area. These can be dropped off with your contest entry—just make sure we know which one you want to be judged!

HOW DO I REGISTER AND IS THERE A DEADLINE?

[Register online here](#). You must register by 5 p.m. on Monday, October 16 to enter the contest.

WHERE CAN I GET MY 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.

CAN MY WHOLE FAMILY CARVE THE 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 THE CONTEST. CAN I HELP THEM?

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

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 19 between 9 a.m. - noon.

CAN I PICK UP MY PUMPKIN AFTER THE CONTEST?

Unfortunately, we cannot accommodate returning carved pumpkins or decorative items. All pumpkins will be donated to local farms for animal feed or 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.

WHEN ARE THE WINNERS ANNOUNCED?

Our panel of judges will select the contest winners on Thursday night during the event—October 19. We will post the winners on The Gardens social media channels ([Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)) the following day, Friday, October 20, by 5 p.m.

DO I NEED TO ATTEND THE EVENT OR 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, October 20 by 5 p.m.