

# 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY Elk Grove Giant Pumpkin WEIGH-OFF & REGATTA INFORMATION 2024



**COSUMNES**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



# 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY Elk Grove Giant Pumpkin 2024 SAFETY FIRST



*There is no higher priority to the Cosumnes CSD than the health and safety of our community, staff, volunteers, and growers. Please carefully review the safety measures and restrictions outlined below.*

## BEFORE ARRIVING AT THE EVENT

- Take your temperature. If your temperature is 100.4°F/38°C or higher, you should stay home.
- Perform a self-assessment to verify you do not have a fever, shortness of breath or cough. If you or a member of your household are experiencing these symptoms, please stay home. **Refunds will be granted to folks who err on the side of caution and stay home.**
- In addition, Event Staff will be asked to make a visual inspection for signs of illness when you arrive which could include flushed cheeks, rapid breathing or difficulty breathing (without recent physical activity), fatigue, or extreme fussiness.





**Official California Weigh-off Site**  
for the Great Pumpkin Commonwealth  
International Competition

**30<sup>TH</sup> ELK GROVE  
GIANT PUMPKIN  
WEIGH-OFF & REGATTA**

# Registration

## ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS ENCOURAGED

Help us plan for success by registering in advance! The Pride of Laguna Creek Lions Club will provide a complimentary Growers Breakfast for pre-registered participants from 7 am – 10 am. Sign up for all categories you plan to compete in. Late withdrawals will be accepted, and refunds will be granted for produce that does not make it to the scale.

### REGISTRATION

ONLINE: [CosumnesCSD.gov/GPF](https://CosumnesCSD.gov/GPF)

ACTIVITY #46632

CALL: (916) 405-5600

### REGISTRATION FEE

ADVANCE REGISTRATION*	DAY OF
\$10	\$25 + \$10 PARKING

\*All growers who register in advance are invited to the Growers Breakfast, 7 am to 10 am. And, FREE PARKING is included.

### EVENT SCHEDULE

#### SATURDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2024

7 am - 9 am	Check-in
10 am - 3 pm	Weighing
4 pm	Awards
5:30 - 7 pm	Load Pumpkins**

\*\*1st through 3rd place pumpkin entries are required to remain on site until 5:30 pm Sunday, October 6. All other entries must remain until 5:30 pm on Saturday, October 5, and must be picked up by 7 pm.

### JUDGING

This event is meant to be an enjoyable experience for the public. Decisions made by the GIANT Pumpkin Festival Committee and Pumpkin Judges are final.

All winners are required to provide seeds back to Cosumnes CSD for the Pumpkin Growers Forum by January 1, 2025.

### DAY OF THE EVENT

Growers are responsible for delivering their entries to the Weigh-Off site at Elk Grove Park between 7 am - 9 am.

### DELIVERY OF ENTRIES

- **Late check-in** (arrival after 9 am) will result in disqualification from the event.
- Do NOT arrive earlier than 7 am.

**WEIGH-OFF**

**2024**







# Official Rules

For a complete set of Official Rules for Giant Pumpkins and Produce, visit [www.gpc1.org](http://www.gpc1.org).

## OFFICIAL RULES FOR THE GIANT PUMPKIN AND PRODUCE COMPETITION

1. The entry must be exhibited by the grower or team. In the case of an emergency where the grower or team cannot be present to exhibit the entry, the site coordinator, club/grower representative, and site representative will make a determination regarding the validity of a grower or team's absence.
  - "Grower" is defined as a person who has grown and cared for the entry from planting to harvest.
  - "Team" is two growers contributing equally to the care of a fruit/vegetable grown at the same address and exhibited together.
2. All specimens that will be submitted to the GPC for awards and recognition must be weighed on a certified scale with only the fruit on the scale. Any fruit weighed with a tarp, pallet, or any other lifting device will be classified unofficial weight or "EXH".
  - A certified scale is one that has been inspected and certified by a governmental agency and must have a current certification sticker attached to the scale. Scales that have been certified by other qualified agencies for commercial purposes as "legal for trade" are also acceptable.
  - All sites should use a 4' x 4' platform scale or larger, sitting level on a solid stable surface.
3. No foreign material (i.e.: fungicides, caulking, skin additives et cetera) will be permitted in the weighing of any fruit.
  - Vines must be trimmed to within one inch of the stem of the fruit.
  - The stem itself will not be applicable to judging as stated below.
4. The specimen must be sound, healthy, and undamaged.
  - Entries must be free of rot.
  - Entries must be free of holes or cracks into the interior cavity of the fruit.
  - Entries must be free of damaged areas that are greater than 3 inches in diameter and greater than 3 inches deep. Any single damaged area greater than 3 inches deep will classify the fruit as damaged (DMG). The dimensions of the damage will be measured after all soft material has been removed with a spoon, if needed.
  - If there are more than two damaged areas, the pumpkin will be disqualified even if each is smaller than described in 4C.
  - Small damaged areas are acceptable if naturally healed over with new rind, also known as natural scabs or new cantalouping.
  - The Judges reserve the right to probe cracks, holes, and to dig out soft spots to judge a fruit official or not. Before the Judges can execute any of the previous they must have the grower present.
  - Judging is to be completed before a fruit is officially weighed.
  - Refusal of any inspection to an entry will cause the entry to be classified exhibition only.

WEIGH-OFF

2024



5. The GPC will recognize one entry per grower or team for top ten average calculations.
  - *Entries other than the grower's one official entry will be entered as "EXH – exhibition" for legal fruit and "DMG – damaged" for illegal fruit.*
  - *If a grower or team wants to bring multiple entries they must contact the site representative(s) prior to the weigh-off day to ensure the site can accommodate their multiple fruit.*
6. No specimen will be allowed into competition at a GPC site if that specimen has been previously entered at another competition.

## COLOR REQUIREMENTS AND PRIZE MONEY RULES

1. Squash will be classified as follows: 100% of the following colors or color combinations green, blue, and gray. The surface area of the fruit as grown in the garden, not including the portion that was in contact with, or close proximity to the ground will be considered. This area will include the area between the ribs, around the stem, and the blossom end. This will not include any netting (cantaloping), any discoloration caused by the close proximity to the ground, or minimal amounts of striping or mottling associated with some squash. Mottling may appear as white to cream or beige to bronze.
  - *Pumpkins will be all fruit not classified as squash.*
2. Only the heaviest entry per class by a grower or team will receive GPC awards.
3. The GPC will only recognize one award per fixed address per class. With the exception of Future Farmers.
  - *A fixed address will be defined as a parcel of land used by growers and/or teams to grow their entries.*
4. In the event of a tie of two or more places, all entries that are tied will equally split the total award for the places that are tied.
5. Cosumnes Community Services District and the Event Staff are not responsible for any damage to specimens.
6. Decisions of the judges are final in all cases.

## ADDITIONAL RULES

- First through Third place pumpkin entries are required to remain on site until 5:30 pm Sunday, October 6. All other entries must remain until 5:30 pm Saturday, October 5, 2024 and must be picked up by 7 pm. Overnight hotel accommodations will be provided to the top 3 pumpkin growers.
- All participants who pre-register will receive a free parking pass.
- All specimens must be accompanied by their owners and must arrive at Elk Grove Park between 7 am and 9 am on Saturday, October 5, 2024.
- All entries checked in after 9:00 am will be placed in the Non-Competitive category and ineligible to receive a prize. Large specimens should be brought on pallets. Festival personnel will be on hand to assist entrants in positioning entries.
- 1 Cash prize per category per family. Future Farmer category is exempt.
- Minimum age to participate as a Future Farmer is 6 years old. Minimum age for standard weigh off is 18 years old.





# 2024 Elk Grove Pumpkin & Produce Weigh-Off Prize Money

30<sup>th</sup> ELK GROVE  
GIANT PUMPKIN  
WEIGH-OFF & REGATA

Giant Pumpkin	
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$7,000
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$4,000
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$3,000
4 <sup>th</sup>	\$2,000
5 <sup>th</sup>	\$1,000
6 <sup>th</sup>	\$800
7 <sup>th</sup>	\$750
8 <sup>th</sup>	\$700
9 <sup>th</sup>	\$650
10 <sup>th</sup>	\$600
11 <sup>th</sup>	\$550
12 <sup>th</sup>	\$525
13 <sup>th</sup>	\$475
14 <sup>th</sup>	\$450
15 <sup>th</sup>	\$400
16 <sup>th</sup>	\$350
17 <sup>th</sup>	\$300
18 <sup>th</sup>	\$250
19 <sup>th</sup>	\$200
20 <sup>th</sup>	\$150

All Other Produce	
<i>Bushel Gourd, Long Gourd, Marrow, Cantaloupe, Corn Stalk, Field Pumpkin, Sunflower, Tomato, Watermelon &amp; Zucchini</i>	
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$100
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$75
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$50

Squash	
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$700
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$400
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$150



Russ Pugh, of Los Gatos, took First Place in 2023 with a 1,940-pound pumpkin.

Future Farmers	
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$500
2 <sup>nd</sup>	\$300
3 <sup>rd</sup>	\$200
4 <sup>th</sup>	\$150
5 <sup>th</sup>	\$100

Largest Future Farmer Pumpkin Grown in Sacramento County	
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$500

Heftiest Pumpkin Grown in Sacramento County	
1 <sup>st</sup>	\$1,000

Howard Dill Prettiest Pumpkin	
People's Choice	



Harrison Kennedy took Future Farmer First Place with a 615-pound pumpkin.

WEIGH-OFF  
2024





# Registration & Official Rules

## ADVANCED REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

For the 16th year at the festival, massive pumpkins will be turned into canoes for an exciting race across the lake! Preview this unique spectacle in our video from the [2022 Regatta](#). Don't just hear about it—be a part of Elk Grove's most cherished tradition. Register today!

Please note the Top 3 Heftiest Pumpkins from the Weigh-Off cannot participate.

### REGISTRATION

FEE: \$5

STARTS: **August 14**

ENDS: **October 4 at 5 pm**

ONLINE: [CosumnesCSD.gov/Regatta](https://CosumnesCSD.gov/Regatta)

ACTIVITY #46631

CALL: **(916) 405-5600**

- Advance registration is required.
- Participants must be age 18+

### EVENT SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024**

LOCATION: **Elk Grove Park located at  
9950 Elk Grove Florin Rd, Elk Grove,  
CA 95624**

9 am	Check-in
11:25 am	Starting position lottery
11:30 am	Splash In
12 noon	Race begins

### SPECIAL PRIZE PURSE\*\*

*This year, to celebrate the 30th anniversary of Elk Grove's Giant Pumpkin Festival, we have increased the prize for our Regatta winners!*

1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
\$1,500	\$1,000	\$500

\*\*All taxes are the sole responsibility of the winners.

### ENTRY RULES

1. All Skippers must bring their own pumpkin.
2. All skippers must be 18 years of age or older and must have a completed hold harmless on file.
3. Skippers may begin preparing their pumpkins on-site at 9 am on Sunday.
4. Skipper and CREW Members ONLY are allowed in the Pumpkin Pit Stop.
5. Each skipper will have the opportunity to test their pumpkin in the water once before they begin to cut. Once the pumpkin is cut, it may not go into the water until Splash In.
6. A maximum of 2 skippers will be allowed to row/ride in each pumpkin boat.





7. Motors are not allowed.
8. No additional floatation devices may be utilized or attached to the pumpkin-boat.
9. Life Jackets are REQUIRED.
10. The following list of items may be needed by each Skipper.
  - Life Jacket (available upon request)
  - Paddle/Oars
  - Battery-powered Sawsall/Hand Saw/Shovel to prepare pumpkin (no available power outlets)
  - Snorkel/Swim Fins
11. No Skipper or Crew Member shall be physically aggressive toward any Skipper or Crew Member – on land or on the water. This includes any unwanted physical contact, by paddle, power-tool or person, including shoving pumpkin or person before, during or after the race.
12. No Skipper shall use unnecessary roughness against any opposing Skipper from the time the pumpkin-boat is dropped in the water through the duration of the race.
13. The Skipper must maintain possession of the Regatta Race Flag that they pick up at the halfway point during the race. Loss of this race flag will result in disqualification.
14. The Skipper(s) must remain in they/their pumpkin throughout the duration of the race. The Skipper(s) can finish the race if thrown overboard as long as they have a part of their body inside the vessel for the remainder of the race (i.e. feet in the pumpkin as they swim back). If the Skipper(s) crosses the finish line without their pumpkin they will be disqualified.
15. Cosumnes Community Services District employees and their immediate families are not eligible.
16. No Homemade Oars or Paddles. Standard kayak paddles no longer than 8 1/2' for a single skipper or 2 oars not to exceed 5' each for a tandem.
17. By entering this contest, entrants agree to the Elk Grove GIANT Pumpkin Festival Pumpkin use of their name, photographic likeness, and results in advertising and publicity related to the Festival without restriction.
18. Decisions of the Pumpkin Referees are final in all cases.
19. Winners will be announced in Pumpkin Pit Stop immediately following the race.



2023 winner, Johnny "The Shark" Gayton.

## SPONSORED BY:

Pumpkin Regatta  
Sponsored by:



# REGATTA

2024





# 30<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Elk Grove Giant Pumpkin WEIGH-OFF & REGATTA INFORMATION 2024

## FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Elizabeth Rhoan

(916) 405-5334 | [elizabethrhoan@cosumnescsd.gov](mailto:elizabethrhoan@cosumnescsd.gov) | [CosumnesCSD.gov/GPF](https://CosumnesCSD.gov/GPF)

## DIRECTORY

### REGISTER

[CosumnesCSD.gov/Register](https://CosumnesCSD.gov/Register)

Weigh-Off Activity #46632

Regatta Activity #46631

(916) 405-5600

### OFFICIAL RULES

[www.gpc1.org](http://www.gpc1.org)

### OFFICIAL WEBSITE

[CosumnesCSD.gov/GPF](https://CosumnesCSD.gov/GPF)

### CONNECT ON SOCIAL MEDIA

- [Facebook/ElkGroveGPF](https://Facebook/ElkGroveGPF)
- [Twitter@ElkGroveGPF](https://Twitter@ElkGroveGPF)
- [Instagram@ElkGroveGPF](https://Instagram@ElkGroveGPF)

## HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

We've partnered with Explore Elk Grove to make your stay a memorable experience with an exclusive "Stay & Play: Giant Pumpkin Festival" package.\* **Book your hotel room today!**

[elkgrove-attend.idss.com/stay-play-giant-pumpkin-festival](http://elkgrove-attend.idss.com/stay-play-giant-pumpkin-festival)

*\*Stay & Play: Giant Pumpkin Festival package includes a \$20 e-gift card for a one night stay and a \$50 e-gift card for a 2 night stay*

## GIANT THANKS

### Weigh-Off & Regatta Sponsors



## BECOME A SPONSOR



### FOR SPONSORSHIP INQUIRIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

Sandhya Sami  
[SandhyaSami@cosumnescsd.gov](mailto:SandhyaSami@cosumnescsd.gov)  
(916) 405-5303  
[CosumnesCSD.gov/Sponsors](https://CosumnesCSD.gov/Sponsors)



**ELK GROVE  
GIANT  
PUMPKIN  
FESTIVAL**

*First Weekend in October*

Elk Grove Park

[CosumnesCSD.gov/GPF](https://CosumnesCSD.gov/GPF)

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Cosumnes Community  
Services District  
Parks and Recreation Dept.  
8820 Elk Grove Blvd.  
Elk Grove, California 95624