



FREE SPEECH ACTIVITIES

GUIDELINES FOR COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION FACILITIES

Both the California Constitution and the First Amendment to the United States Constitution protect your right to free expression in public forums. Parks and park facilities are, by nature, public forums where the community can recreate, congregate and exercise their constitutional rights to free speech.

The County of San Diego Department of Parks and Recreation supports free speech and peaceful assembly as long as it follows rules and regulations (see below for full list) and it does not interfere with park operations, prevent free movement or pose any risks to an individual's health or safety. These are guidelines using County policies regarding the time, place and manner of a free speech event.

Free speech activities are welcome at parks and in park facilities; however, reservations are required to use onsite power, secure permits and reserve specific areas for events.

Reservations are highly encouraged, and park staff work closely with applicants to ensure there are no conflicts or property limitations that could affect a free speech event.

To learn more about these guidelines or to make a reservation, contact us Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. at 858-565-3600 or 877-565-3600 (toll free).

6 Reasons to Make Reservations:

- 1 Gain access to electrical outlets.
- 2 Sell and/or distribute food.
- 3 Bring in vendors to sell items.
- 4 Build stages; install large, complex audiovisual equipment.
- 5 Use drones to collect aerial footage.
- 6 Secure a designated event space.

NOTE:

Parking permits, tables, chairs, sound systems and other support equipment/supplies will not be provided.

Use of electrical outlets is not allowed without a reservation.

A full list of regulations relating to County of San Diego Parks and Recreation facilities is located at sdparks.org or by scanning this QR code:



FREE SPEECH ACTIVITY GUIDELINES

General

- All park areas are available on a first-come, first-served basis unless there is a prior reservation. Reserved areas are not available for free speech activities.
- Free speech activities should take place during park hours. (SEC. 41.125)
- Drones are not allowed without a preapproved and separate permit. (SEC. 41.130c)
- Glass is not allowed. (SEC. 41.141)
- Smoking is not allowed, including vapes and e-cigarettes. (SEC. 41.118.5)
- Alcohol is only allowed at designated facilities; please inquire in advance. (SEC. 41.139)
- Dogs must be on a leash measuring no longer than 6 feet. (SEC. 41.123)

Materials

- Equipment and signage may not be attached or affixed to County property. (SEC. 41.111, 41.115)
- Use of sidewalk chalk or any other colored substance on park surfaces is not allowed. (SEC. 41.115)
- The following items are prohibited: Open flame, hay bales, confetti, glitter, rice, birdseed, oil lamps and artificial flower petals. (SEC. 41.106, 41.115, 41.118)

Actions

- A permit or written authorization may be required for commercial vending. (SEC. 41.136b)
- Food sales, giveaways and related distribution must comply with applicable County Department of Environmental Health and Quality Food and Housing Division requirements, www.sdcountytempevents.org. This includes prepackaged food, water bottles and food prepped onsite. (SEC. 65.105)
- Vehicles may only be driven on designated roads and in parking areas. Vehicles are not permitted on grass, lawn or turf. (SEC. 41.11, 41.127, 41.128)
- Walkways must remain free of obstruction from equipment and forms of delineation. (SEC. 41.130a)
- The erection of structures, such as stages, must have prior approval/authorization. (SEC. 41.122)

