

Town of Cohutta - Cohutta Celebrates America 250 Stars, Stripes, & Harvest Nights

Yard and Storefront Decorating Contest Rules

As part of our America 250 Celebration, show your Halloween spirit and creativity by combining traditional Halloween decorations with a patriotic theme.

Eligibility

- Participants must reside or be a business within the Town of Cohutta town limits.
- Only one entry is allowed per household or business.
- There is no entry fee.
- Town of Cohutta Employees, Elected Officials, and and America 250 Committee Members are encouraged to participate but will not be considered for judging and/or prize awards.

Entry Period

- Submit completed entry forms by **October 16**.
- Decorations must be installed and visible for judging by **October 18**.
- Participants are encouraged to keep displays in place through **October 31**.

Decorating Requirements

- Entries must be Halloween-themed and include elements honoring America in celebration of America 250.
- Displays must be clearly visible from the street, especially at night.
- Displays may include front yards, porches, entryways, windows visible from outside, lighting, and animated decorations.
- Decorations must be family-friendly. Gore, excessive violence, adult themes, and offensive content are not permitted.
- Costumes and live participants are not considered part of the entry.

Judging

Entries will be judged on the criteria listed below:

- Creativity
- Adherence to the Halloween and America 250 theme

- Use of materials or items
- Attention to detail
- Cleverness

There will be prizes awarded for **1st Place, 2nd Place, and 3rd Place** based on the official judging criteria.

An additional award, the **People's Choice Award**, will be selected through online public voting. Eligible entries may be featured on the Town of Cohutta and Cohutta Celebrates America 250 social media pages, where the public can vote for their favorite display. The entry receiving the most online votes will receive the People's Choice Award. Entries that do not follow these guidelines will not be eligible for voting.

Awards

Awards will be presented for:

- 1st Place
- 2nd Place
- 3rd Place
- People's Choice Award

Winners will be recognized during the Town of Cohutta Stars, Stripes, & Harvest Nights celebration and on the Town of Cohutta and Cohutta Celebrates America 250 social media accounts. All judging and voting decisions are final.

General Rules

- By entering, participants give the Town of Cohutta and the Cohutta Celebrates America 250 Committee permission to photograph their property and use the images for promotional and social media purposes.
- The Town and Committee may reject or remove any entry that does not follow these rules or is deemed inappropriate.
- Participants are responsible for safely installing displays and ensuring they do not obstruct sidewalks or roadways or create hazards.
- The Town of Cohutta and Cohutta Celebrates America 250 are not responsible for damage, theft, or injury related to contest participation.

Costume Contest Rules

Join us for the **Stars, Stripes, & Harvest Nights Costume Contest!** Come dressed in your Halloween best for a chance to win!

Categories

- **Best Overall Costume**
- **Most Creative Costume**
- **Best Patriotic / America 250 Costume**
- **Best Group or Family Costume**
- **Best Pet Costume**

Rules

- There is **no entry fee**.
- Participants must register for the contest AT THE EVENT prior to judging. NO pre-registration required.
- Costumes must be **family-friendly** and appropriate for a community event.
- Costumes containing excessive gore, offensive material, or inappropriate themes will not be eligible.
- Costumes should not include real weapons or items that could create a safety hazard.
- Participants may enter only **one category**.
- Children must have a parent or guardian present.
- Town employees, elected officials, and America 250 Committee members are welcome to participate but are not eligible for prizes.
- Judges' decisions are final.

Judging

Costumes will be judged on **creativity, originality, attention to detail, and overall presentation**. The **Best Patriotic / America 250 Costume** will also be judged on how creatively it celebrates America's 250th birthday.

By participating, contestants give the Town of Cohutta and Cohutta Celebrates America 250 permission to take and use photographs from the event for Town and America 250 promotional and social media purposes.