

# 66TH ANNUAL GARDEN GROVE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Established in 1958  
Tax ID # 95-2504195

May 22-25, 2026

66 YEARS  
OF SUPPORTING OUR  
COMMUNITY THROUGH  
GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS  
AND MORE

Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary

**GARDEN GROVE, CA — FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Stars Align for the 66th Annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Parade Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary**

GARDEN GROVE, CA – The [Garden Grove Strawberry Festival](#) is proud to announce its star-studded celebrity lineup for the annual parade on Saturday, May 23, 2026. In alignment with this year's theme, "Celebrating our Nation's 250th Anniversary," the parade will honor a distinguished group of veterans, actors, and community icons.

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**Meet the 2026 Celebrity Lineup:**

Leading the procession as the **Celebrity Grand Marshal is Emilio Rivera**, U.S. Army Veteran and known for his powerful roles in *Sons of Anarchy*, *Mayans M.C.*, and *Collateral*.

**Joining Emilio are three Theme Grand Marshals representing the spirit of American service:**

- Hal Yoak: U.S. Navy Veteran and local craftsman.
- David Bambrila: U.S. Marine Corps Veteran and State Commander of the California American Legion.
- Donald Marshall: U.S. Navy Veteran, Pilot, and Astronaut.

**Other Featured Celebrities & Personalities:**

- Noel Gugliemi: Iconic actor from *The Fast and the Furious* franchise.
- Kate Linder: Beloved star of *The Young & The Restless* (celebrating 43 years on the show).
- Adan Correa: Cast member from Netflix's *Love on the Spectrum*.
- Yadi Valerio Rivera: Writer and star of *The Family Business*.
- Brenda Garcia: Retired Lt. Commander and former Presidential Video Documentarian.
- Kii Arens: Renowned pop artist and art director.
- Don "Nuge" Nguyen: Professional skateboarder and musician.
- Wing Lam: Co-founder of Wahoo's Fish Tacos and California Love Drop.
- Miss California Volunteers: Prestin Bueno (Miss) and Genesis Quietie (Teen).

The parade will also feature popular radio personalities from KLOS fm (Heidi & Frank Show), iHeart Radio and 88.5 The SoCal Sound, along with mascots Wild Wing (Anaheim Ducks) and the festival's own BERRY Mascot.

**New for 2026: "Celebrating America" Youth Writing Contest**

In honor of the nation's 250th milestone, the festival has launched a special [Writing Contest](#) for ages 4–18. Students are invited to share a memory or an idea that inspires them to reimagine a brighter future for America.

**Contest Categories:**

- **Emerging Berries (Ages 4-6):** 2–5 sentences.
- **Bright Berries (Ages 7-11):** 1–3 paragraphs or up to 12 lines of poetry.
- **Stars & Strawberries (Ages 12-14):** 3–5 paragraphs or up to 20 lines of poetry.
- **Berry Bold (Ages 15-18):** 500–800 words or up to 30 lines of poetry.

Entries are due by **May 8, 2026**, and winners will be recognized for their creativity and vision for the country's next chapter.

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Page 1 of 4

## Our 2026 Festival Sponsors:

The [Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association](#) is incredibly grateful to our sponsors. Their generosity ensures we can keep giving back to the local nonprofits that make our community thrive.

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## Parade Highlights

The parade begins at 10:00 AM on May 23, starting at Ninth and Chapman, traveling through Garden Grove to Euclid, and ending at the festival grounds. After the parade, fans can head to the Autograph Table at the Courtyard Center around 1:00 PM to meet their favorite stars.

## About the Festival:

Since 1958, the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival has donated over \$7 million to local charities. The 2026 event runs from May 22–25 at Village Green Park. For more information, visit [strawberryfestival.org](http://strawberryfestival.org) and follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)

Page 2 of 4

### Event Highlights

The 66th Annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival promises an exciting lineup of events, including:

- Opening Ceremony with FREE Strawberry Cake to all in attendance
- Grand Parade featuring celebrities, local organizations, high school bands, community leaders, and more
- FREE concerts and entertainment at the Garden Amp and Strawberry Stage
- Carnival rides, games, and family-friendly entertainment
- Saturday Celebrity Breakfast
- Celebrity Autograph Signings
- Family fun contests including the Berry Beautiful Baby Contest, Tiny Tots King & Queen Contest, Redhead Roundup, Fashion Frenzy, and Jamtastic Art
- Featured strawberry food items, with many new additions this year

As always, admission to the festival is FREE, and proceeds support local nonprofit organizations serving children, seniors, and the arts.

### Join Us for This Unforgettable Event

Mark your calendars and bring your family and friends to experience the 66th Annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival, May 23–26, 2026, at the Village Green, located at Euclid Street and Main Street in Garden Grove, CA.

### About the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival

The Garden Grove Strawberry Festival is an annual free community event produced by a dedicated group of volunteers. Since its founding in 1958, the festival has raised over \$7 million for local charities. The festival's mission is to give back to the Garden Grove community by supporting nonprofit organizations focused on children, seniors, youth, and the arts.

### About Emilio Rivera

Emilio Rivera is an acclaimed actor, producer, and philanthropist whose three-decade career includes standout roles in *Sons of Anarchy*, *Mayans M.C.*, *Con Air*, *Traffic*, *Venom*, and *Flamin' Hot*. Born in San Antonio and raised in Los Angeles, he enlisted in the U.S. Army at 18 before pursuing acting full-time. Rivera went on to appear in major films such as *Collateral*, *A Man Apart*, *Bullet*, and *Don't Worry*, and is widely recognized for his iconic portrayal of Marcus Álvarez. His television work also includes *On My Block*, *Hand of God*, *Z Nation*, *The Upshaws*, *Landman*, and *Law & Order: Organized Crime*, as well as the Emmy-nominated short *RZR*. His journey, resilience, and leadership make him an inspiring representative for this year's America's 250th celebration.

### About Harold "Hal" Yoak

Harold "Hal" Yoak is a 100-year-old World War II Navy veteran and beloved Garden Grove resident. He served in Operation Magic Carpet, helping bring American servicemen home after the war. After his service, he spent 41 years teaching biology at Pacifica High School, inspiring generations of students. In retirement, Hal became known for handcrafting wooden toys in his home workshop, a cherished local tradition that now draws national attention. His resilience, creativity, and lifelong commitment to community embody the American spirit.

### About David Brambila

David is a United States Marine Corps veteran, business leader, and community advocate whose life reflects service, discipline, and dedication. After building a successful 24-year retail business, he went on to support veterans and families as a real estate broker, marketing firm owner, and now as State Commander of the California American Legion, representing veterans statewide with distinction.

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## About Donald Marshall

Donald is a Navy veteran whose 41-year aviation career spanned civilian, military, and intelligence service. A pilot of more than 40 aircraft — including the SR-71 — he served both the CIA and U.S. Navy, trained for NASA's Space Shuttle program, and later continued his work as a test pilot, consultant, and aviation documentary producer. His lifelong commitment to innovation and service reflects the excellence we are proud to celebrate.

## For inquiries and more information, Contact:

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**Join us as we celebrate 66 years of tradition and America's 250th anniversary at the Garden Grove Strawberry Festival!**

To learn more and for updates on this year's Festival, please visit [www.strawberryfestival.org](http://www.strawberryfestival.org)

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