



PUNKIN CHUNKIN

FAQs

What is Punkin Chunkin? Punkin Chunkin is Aurora's signature fall festival and competition. The competition attracts highly-competitive teams from around the nation that create all kinds of crazy contraptions that launch, shoot, or sling eight-pound pumpkins anywhere from 100 feet to nearly a mile! In addition to cheering for their favorite team of pumpkin chunkers, visitors can pick their own prized pumpkin from the patch and enjoy pony rides, a petting zoo, a pumpkin carver, face painting, crafts, Carve War's chainsaw carving competition and other family activities. New to the festival this year our larger than life pumpkin carved displays!

Where do I park? Great question! Free parking is available at the Arapahoe Park Racetrack. There are five lots available on a first-come, first-served basis. Handicap parking is available for guests with an approved license plate and/or placard on their vehicle.

Is there an entry fee? Entry into Punkin Chunkin is \$5 for adults and youth 5 years and older. Children 4 years and younger are free to enter. Pre-purchase tickets [here](#).

Does it cost extra to park? No! Parking is free!

Are festival activities free? Unfortunately no, some of the activities such as the pony rides, pumpkin patch and face painters cost extra – ranging from \$1 to \$5.

Are credit cards accepted? Cash and major credit cards are accepted. Checks are not.

Are ATM's available on site? Yes! You may find an ATM near the festival entrance and beer tent. Some vendors may choose not to accept credit cards, we ask that you plan accordingly.



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Is the event handicap accessible? YES! We do have designated handicap parking in close proximity to the entrance and all vendors are handicap accessible.

Are pets allowed? No pets allowed. Arapahoe Park Racetrack is a pet-free zone. For the safety of your animals, we ask that you leave your pets at home.

How is Punkin Chunkin scored? Teams compete in divisions based on their type of machine – air cannon, trebuchet, catapult, centrifugal, torsion, human powered and youth. Division winners are those with the farthest launch along with one overall distance winner.

What are the different types of machines like?

Trebuchet: Powered exclusively by gravity, these machines use a counterweight attached to an arm to swing the pumpkin attached to a sling around and release at an optimal pin angle.

Catapult: Similar to a Trebuchet in terms of an arm swinging a pumpkin around attached to a sling, with the exception that these machines are normally powered by springs or rubber bands.

Air Cannon: If you ever built a potato gun or at least had the opportunity to shoot one, Air Cannons at the annual Punkin Chunkin are the big daddy of potato guns. Using compressed air, nothing flammable, these machines shoot pumpkins over 4,000 feet. Air Cannon “Big 10 Inch” holds the Punkin Chunkin record in Colorado – launching 4,787’ at the 2015 competition.

Centrifugal: Around, around and around the pumpkin goes, when it will be released, no one knows. These machines build up centrifugal force in a circular motion and have ways to release the pumpkin at the optimal trajectory for an outstanding distance shot.

Torsion: A Torsion machine uses twisted rope as its primary source of power. The twisted rope stores mechanical energy when it is twisted. The amount of force it releases is proportional to the amount it is twisted.



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May I bring my own food and drinks? Yes, you may bring your own food and/or non-alcoholic beverages on site but we highly recommend the great quality and variety of food and beverage options offered by our vendors. Glass containers and outside alcohol are not allowed on site.

May I setup a tent? No. For the enjoyment of all of our guests no tents, beach umbrellas or other temporary structures may be set up on the event site.

Where is lost & found? Any lost or found items will be at Volunteer Headquarters.

What if it rains? Punkin Chunkin will occur rain or shine including all live musical acts and activities. However, if there is severe weather or lightning in the area, event management may issue a warning to take shelter in your vehicles. Activities will resume 30 minutes after the storm has safely left the area. The city will post weather information on the city of Aurora Parks, Recreation & Open Space's Facebook account.

Are there restrooms on site? Yes! For your convenience we have port-o-lets available on the event site.

How can I become involved? There are several ways to become involved in Punkin Chunkin, if you would like to work behind the scenes, we are looking for volunteers! To inquire about our volunteer program, please contact Chad Angell at cangell@auroragov.org.

Is this event family friendly? Absolutely! In addition to the world-renowned Punkin Chunkin competition, there are tons of musical and other unique performances, fall festival activities and food all geared toward families.