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**Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival Celebrates 53 Epic Years**

**October 18–19 | Historic Main Street | Free Admission**

The iconic **Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival** returns for its **53rd year**, celebrating the beauty, bounty, and creativity of the autumn season. Taking place on **October 18–19, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.**, this family-friendly event transforms downtown Half Moon Bay into a spectacular fall wonderland.

The scenic drive along the California coast sets the stage: vibrant pumpkin fields, rustic barns, whimsical scarecrows, and the region’s breathtaking coastline all combine to create a quintessential autumn experience. Visitors can enjoy not only the festival but also the charm and natural beauty of the “World Pumpkin Capital.”

**Safeway World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off**

**October 13 | 7 a.m. | IDES Grounds, 735 Main Street**

The festival kicks off with the **Safeway World Championship Pumpkin Weigh-Off**, the Super Bowl of pumpkin growing:

* **Top Prize:** $9 per pound for the heaviest pumpkin
* **Mega-Prize:** $30,000 total prize for a new world-record pumpkin
* **Awards:** Pumpkin King Champion Ring & Mel Mello Sr. Grand Champion Growers Jacket, Plaque with the Winners Name added to the Winners Wall in downtown Half Moon Bay.

**Last year’s champion, Travis Gienger**, a **four-time winner**, broke the **world record at Half Moon Bay in 2023** with a **2,749-pound pumpkin**. Visitors will see the largest pumpkins on display during the festival.

**Attractions & Entertainment**

**Great Pumpkin Parade – Festival Highlight**

The **Great Pumpkin Parade**, a longtime festival centerpiece, takes place **Saturday, October 18 at noon**, traveling up historic Main Street from Miramontes Street to Mill Street. This vibrant procession features **pumpkin-themed floats, marching bands, vintage cars, and colorful participants** from the community, including dancers, local performers, and costumed characters. It is widely considered the festival’s **largest draw**, offering a magical, family-friendly spectacle for attendees of all ages. Early arrival is recommended to secure prime viewing spots along the parade route.

**Giant Pumpkins & Farmer Mike**

See **massive pumpkins rivaling the size of Volkswagens**, and watch **Farmer Mike, the “Picasso of Pumpkin Carvers,”** create intricate carvings on Atlantic Giant pumpkins weighing 300–1,500+ pounds. This year, Farmer Mike will focus on **“The Many Faces of Farmer Mike,”**, crafting three-dimensional sculptures that highlight the pumpkin’s natural depth.

**Mavericks Community Foundation Giant Pumpkin Photo Booth**

Festivalgoers can take **one-of-a-kind photos with a 1-ton grand champion pumpkin** at the **Mavericks Community Foundation Giant Pumpkin Photo Booth**. Photos are printed instantly as a **4x6 keepsake ($20 each, discounts for multiple copies)**, with proceeds benefiting the Cabrillo Education Foundation, supporting local Coastside students.

**Fine Art & Crafts**

Meet **over 250 top artists and craft makers** offering thousands of handcrafted items across multiple city blocks. Find sculptures, paintings, photography, jewelry, glass, textiles, ceramics, wood, leather, and more. Special features include **hand-blown glass pumpkins** and unique harvest-inspired art.

**Live Music & Entertainment**

Four stages feature live performances for all ages:

* **IDES Main Stage:** Ryan Woodard Band, Coast Tribe, Pete Floyd, Extra Large, Paper Kayak, Midnight Flyer, and Jim Stevens & Friends.
* **Ritz-Carlton South Stage at Gazebo:** Roger Glenn, Mike Annuzzi, Rosebud, Campfire Quartet, Carmen Ratti Band featuring Jill Dineen.
* **Cunha’s Country Stage at Mac Dutra Park:** Workshop, Walter Anderson and the Half Moon Bay High School Marching Band, Red Hot and the Saltines, The Musers, Stereo Lust, Dee Coco Johnson, and Mixx Company.
* **New Safeway Community Stage:** Featuring **up-and-coming local talent**, this stage presents a wide variety of acts throughout the weekend, showcasing fresh voices and performances.
* **Special Events:** Pie-eating contests at 2 p.m. both days.

**Food & Beverage Offerings**

**Community-Prepared & Highly Praised:**
All festival food is prepared by **local non-profits as community fundraisers**, making this event unique in its **support of the local community**. While not prepared by famed chefs, the dishes are **adored by attendees and locals for exceptional quality**.

**Savory & Sweet:**

* Pumpkin-inspired: pancakes, pies, cake rolls, cheesecake, ice cream, milkshakes, ravioli, spiced cotton candy, churros, nachos with pumpkin salsa.
* Coastal favorites: Portuguese linguiça, bratwurst, Italian sausage, clam chowder in sourdough bowls, hamburgers, veggie burgers, grilled corn, garlic fries, acai bowls, Spam Musubi.

**Beverages:**

* **Half Moon Bay Winery:** Limited-edition festival-label **2022 Monterey Red Blend** and **Monterey Sauvignon Blanc**.
* **Half Moon Bay Brewing Company:** Seasonal craft beers including **Pumpkin Harvest Ale**, **Kolsch**, and **Full Swing IPA**.
* **Other Craft Beers:** Elysian Space Dust IPA, Stella Artois, Golden Road Mango Cart, Big Wave Golden Ale.
* **Non-Alcoholic Options:** Best Day Brewing beers.
* **Hard Seltzers & Cider:** Happy Dad’s Hard Seltzer, limited-edition **Ace Hard Pumpkin Cider**.
* **Sustainability:** Partnered with **Open Water**, offering responsibly sourced aluminum-bottled water.

Sip your favorite beverage in a **collector festival glass or beer mug**, perfect as a keepsake.

**Family-Friendly Activities**

* **Pumpkin Carving ($10 per pumpkin):** Non-competitive carving guided by CoastPride, at Cunha’s Country Store Parking Lot, 448 Main St.
* **Costume Contest:** Saturday at 10 a.m. in front of the **Half Moon Bay Library, 620 Correas Street**, followed by the **Great Pumpkin Parade**.
* **Bungee Jump, Water ballerz, Face Painting:** Thrills and fun throughout the festival.

**Special Local Features**

* **“Made on the Coast” Local Artists Block (Sunday, October 19):** Pop-up show highlighting local painters, photographers, potters, jewelers, glassblowers, and furniture makers, with live demos.
* **Pancake Breakfasts (Saturday & Sunday, 7–11 a.m.):** All-you-can-eat buttermilk or pumpkin pancakes with sausage, orange juice, and coffee or tea. Tickets $20 via Eventbrite.
* **47th Annual Pumpkin Run (Sunday, October 19):** Half Marathon, 5K, 10K, and Kid’s Fun Run benefiting Senior Coastsiders. **Register at** [**Race Roster**](https://raceroster.com/events/2025/95409/47th-annual-pumpkin-run-by-senior-coastsiders-october-19-2025). Virtual participation options available.

**Accessibility & Transportation**

* **Parking:** Metzgar, Half Moon Bay High School, Our Lady of the Pillar Church, and Community Center/Shoreline Station lots (nominal fees). Limited free street parking.
* **Bike & Stroller Parking:** $5 donation at Kelly & Purissima (Sea Hugger®). Free filtered water refill.
* **Public Transit:** SamTrans stops near the festival.
* **Ride Sharing & Accessible Parking:** Shoreline Station and Purissima Street zones.
* **Street Closures:** Main Street closed from Mill Street to Monte Vista Lane during the weekend.

The Half Moon Bay Art & Pumpkin Festival, created by the **Half Moon Bay Beautification Committee in 1971**, has grown into a world-famous celebration of art, community, and harvest, raising **millions of dollars for local civic projects and organizations** throughout its history.

**When:** October 18–19, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.
**Where:** Main Street, Half Moon Bay, CA
**Admission:** Free