



## 33rd Annual Hot El Camino Cruise Nite FAQ's

Friday, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 6:30 pm

### How do I register?

Participants may register using one of the following methods:

- **By Mail:** Mail-in registrations will be accepted through **Friday, August 1\***
- **In Person:** Visit **Colony Park Community Center**, Monday through Friday, from **9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**, located at **5599 Traffic Way, Atascadero**
- **Pass Sales Deadline:** Cruise passes will be available until **4:00 p.m. on Friday, August 21\***  
*\* Or until registration is full*

**Does my vehicle meet the classification requirements?** Please review the [Vehicle Classification Guidelines](#) for eligibility requirements.

**What are the route rules?** Please review the [Rules of the Road & Registration form](#) before registering your vehicle!

**How many cruise passes will be available?** A total of **200 cruise passes** will be sold.

**What is the new cruise route?** Please view the [Official Cruise Route Map](#) for details.

### Why is the Cruise Nite route changing for 2026?

The City continually evaluates major events to ensure they provide the best possible experience for participants, spectators, businesses, and residents. Following feedback from attendees, businesses, public safety personnel, and event organizers, adjustments have been made to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, and expand opportunities for community participation.

### Why can't the event continue using the original route?

The original route served Cruise Nite well for many years. However, roadway configurations, traffic patterns, and event participation have evolved over time. The updated route reflects current conditions and is intended to provide a safer, more efficient, and more enjoyable experience for everyone involved.

### What has been the experience from past Cruises?

Past cruises have continued to experience a bottleneck of traffic as the cruise approaches Downtown. This has been an ongoing challenge each year as more and more people congregate in these popular areas. This causes a significant amount of slowing that then results in overheating. In addition, closing Hwy. 41 at El Camino Real and detouring motorists' causes significant traffic congestion at the interchange of Curbaril Avenue/US 101/El Camino Real.

## How will the new route improve the experience?

- Improve traffic circulation and reduce bottlenecks.
- Allow vehicles to maintain a more consistent cruising pace.
- Provide easier access to Highway 101 for participants who need to exit the route.
- A more convenient location for re-entering the cruise at Traffic Way & Palma Ave.
- Improve safety and traffic management operations.

In the past, once the Cruise was underway, the south section of the Cruise didn't have a consistent flow as the cars end up in traffic getting through Downtown. Moving the cruise route will help make this transition smoother and be more of a consistent flow so vehicles are actually "cruising!"

## Why was the vehicle check-in location changed?

The previous check-in location often resulted in vehicles lining up onto major streets including the freeway, as well as creating impacts to nearby businesses who need to close early to miss the road closure. The Cruise also closes down a major corridor in our City, Hwy 41/ Morro Road.

**New check-in location at the corner of Olmeda and West Mall** provides additional space for staging vehicles and allows event operations to be managed more efficiently while reducing traffic impacts in surrounding areas. Vehicles will stage from Olmeda Avenue to West Mall prior to check-in.

## Does this mean Cruise Nite is leaving downtown?

Cruise Nite remains a downtown-focused event and a signature community tradition. The revised route will bring spectators through additional areas of the Downtown, offering visitors an opportunity to engage with new businesses during this iconic community event.

## Was public safety considered in the route change?

Yes! Public safety, emergency access, traffic management, and participant experience were all key considerations during evaluation of the new route. The updated route was developed in coordination with City staff, public safety personnel, and event organizers.

## Will the event still have the same Cruise Nite vibe?

Absolutely! Cruise Nite will continue to feature the classic cars, community spirit, local businesses, & family-friendly experience that has made the event a Central Coast tradition for more than 3 decades. The route may be changing, but the heart of Hot El Camino Cruise Nite remains the same.

## How can I view the new route?

The updated route map, event details, and registration information are available on the City and Visit Atascadero websites.

***Enjoy the 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Hot El Camino Cruise Nite!***