



# Snapshot

## Kids show their true colors: red, white, & blue in patriotic parade



Members of the Vista del Lago community in Scotts Valley begin their Independence Day with streamers and horns. It is tradition for young residents to decorate their bikes, mothers their strollers, and seniors their scooters, all parading around the community, to the delight of neighboring bystanders, before all join together for a picnic.

Arriving on bicycles, scooters, and skateboards at about 9:00 a.m., 30 to 40 kids spend the next hour and a half adorning their “creations” with streamers and flair provided by resident manager Cheri Hale. This year, one young participant, Jordan Scargill, caught up on his volunteer hours (required by school) helping to make the process more efficient. He made numbers for contestants to wear, to distinguish themselves to the team of judges, which always includes three impartial neighbors.

Community members gather at the flagpole to recite the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem, signaling the start of the parade. Leading the floats along the parade route are the resident managers, Dave Scargill and Cheri Hale, in a decorated golf cart. Bringing up the rear is Diane Angelini, tossing out stuffed animals from her brown truck to eager neighbors watching from the sidelines. Also, along for the ride, is Laurie Danels, who photographs the event. Patriotic music fills the air as the parade travels around the property and surrounding lakes.



At the parade’s finale, 10 medals are awarded to the proud owners of the best-decorated entries. Categories include “most original” and “most patriotic,” among others. One of the judges announces the winners, adorning them each with a medal around their neck. “The rest get a prize,” says Cheri. “There are no losers.”

With an eventful morning of parading behind them, residents are treated to a picnic at the clubhouse. “It really brings the community together,” tells Cheri. The meal is catered by Erin Buchla of “Cater Care.” Erin also works with Vedder Community Management and Vista del Lago on their annual “Super Q” barbecue and Vista del Lago’s other events.

Cheri dates the parade and picnic celebration back to 1979, when the community was restricted to senior residents. “When it was a senior community, we built floats and marched in the Scotts Valley parade. It was really neat, fantastic!”

*Vista del Lago is professionally managed by Vedder Community Management and Bill Schweinfurth. The community is located at 444 Whispering Pines Drive, Scotts Valley, CA 95066.*

