



7/31/2026

Tempe is recognized as one of the most popular event venues in the Valley. From major events on our city's award-winning waterfront to neighborhood picnics and concerts in our nationally recognized parks, we are fortunate to have a diverse array of unique events happening in our hometown each year. To assist you in planning events in our city, Tempe has compiled this helpful Special Events Handbook. Inside you will find information on Tempe event venues, directions on how to file applications for event permits and licenses, and answers to your questions about security, emergency medical services, clean-up, insurance requirements, and more. Our Tempe departments have worked hard to streamline the event permitting process while continuing to provide vital services that help make your event safe and successful.

This handbook contains a timeline of everything you need to know for hosting a special event in Tempe. You will also find a helpful list of contact names and numbers and a list of city services and resources that can help you plan your event.

Please share information about your event with us, so we can list it on Tempe's on-line events calendar at www.tempe.gov/events.

This handbook will be helpful as you plan the events that contribute so much to the spirit and vitality of Tempe. Thank you for all you do to make Tempe a great place to work, live and play!

Sincerely,

Shawn Wagner
Community Services Deputy Director

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SPECIAL EVENTS PERMITS

SECTION 1

Who must apply?

A permit is required if the planned event or activity:

- Is held on or affects City of Tempe streets, sidewalks, city park, parking lots or city facilities; and/or
- Requires City of Tempe services beyond those the city provides its citizens under ordinary, everyday circumstances; and/or
- Requires a liquor license or temporary extension of premises; and/or
- Is held on private property and is a deviation of use of the space; and/or
- Is open to the public; and/or
- Is held in an indoor space in a manner that does not fall under the facility's normal permitted use or if it does not have the appropriate International Building Code occupancy classification
- An activity determined by the Special Events Task Force to need a permit

When will an application be declined?

- Date conflicts with another event
- Location conflict (overlapping footprint, abutting footprint) with another event or activity
- Tempe Public Safety or other agency resources are not available
- Site not appropriate for event
- Surrounding construction or other impacts are too great to host an event in the area
- Event location or date conflicts with the City's Holiday or other moratoriums

What is the process?

Anyone who plans to host a Special Event (as defined above) in the City of Tempe must submit a Special Event Application <https://app.apply4.com/eventapp/usa/tempe>. Once the application is received, you will be contacted by a Special Events Project Coordinator.

To obtain more information about city parks please visit www.tempe.gov/parks.

Depending on an event's type, size and particular features, the Special Events Division may require an applicant to apply for additional permits and licenses, and to submit event maps, proof of insurance and other information before a Special Event Permit can be issued.

- 3) Once a complete Special Event Permit Application is submitted by an event producer, the Special Events Task Force Committee (SETFC) will begin the review process. The SETFC is comprised of the following City of Tempe departments and other various agencies:
 - Public Works
 - Parks & Recreation
 - Police
 - Fire Medical Rescue
 - ADA Compliance
 - Strategic Management & Innovation
 - Transportation & Sustainability
 - Community Development
 - Risk Management
- 4) A City of Tempe Special Events Project Coordinator will schedule the applicant or their representative to attend a Special Events Task Force Committee meeting. The SETFC meets every other Thursday at 9:30 a.m. at the Tempe Transportation Center at 200 E. 5th St., Tempe, AZ.

Preparing for Special Events Task Force Meeting

- Each event representative is expected to be prepared to present their event by giving a brief description of event details.
- Members of the SETFC may have questions or seek clarification from the applicant.
- If an event significantly impacts surrounding businesses or residents, you will be required to notify those businesses and residents, and community outreach material, such as door flyers, signatures or mailings, must be submitted.
- The following items should have been submitted prior to attending the meeting:
 - Online application <https://app.apply4.com/eventapp/usa/tempe>
 - Detailed Site Map – depicting layout of event, to include vendor locations and all infrastructure. Square footage measurements of the area should also be indicated.
 - Entertainment List
 - Vendor List
 - Liquor License Application (if applicable)
 - Letter or email from the property management company indicating approval to have the event if it will be held on privately owned property
 - Traffic Control Plan (if applicable)

Note: Special Event Permits are nontransferable and are valid only as to the original applicant. Any attempted assignment, transfer, or sale of a Special Event Permit will void the permit, and all fees paid will be forfeited. A new applicant for an existing event must submit a new Special Events Permit Application and is subject to any applicable fees and requirements. No changes to maps, vendor lists, or event activities may be made to the event once the permit has been approved by the SETFC.

REQUIREMENTS for Special Event Permits

SECTION 2

Applications must be received 60 days - 11 Months Prior To Hosting a Special Event

- ☐ **Complete the online application. Ensure that it has been SUBMITTED and not still in DRAFT form.**
 - <https://app.apply4.com/eventapp/usa/tempe>
- ☐ **Pay the application and permit fee. Call 480-350-5850.**
- ☐ **Deposit due.** Depending on size and scope of the event, a deposit may be required. It is **non-refundable** 90 days prior to the event date.
- ☐ **Obtain appropriate insurance for your Special Event.** Certificates of may be requested by the City of Tempe Risk Management Division (see Insurance Requirements, Section 10).
- ☐ **Apply for a State of Arizona Transaction Privilege Tax License** (see Tax and Licensing, Section 15, page 23).
- ☐ **Prepare for Special Events Task Force Committee** meeting (see Section 1, page 5)
- ☐ **Prepare applications** for all other permits and licenses required for your particular event:
 - **Liquor License(s)** - If you plan to serve or sell alcoholic beverages at your event, you must submit an application for a Special Event Liquor License or an Extension of Premises (see Alcohol Beverage Control, Section 3, page 7 & 8, for more information).
 - **Health Permit** - If you plan to serve or sell food or drinks at your event (other than prepackaged), you must submit an application for a Health Permit to the Maricopa County Environmental Health Department. (see Health Permits, Section 9, page 15).
 - **Fireworks/Pyrotechnics Permit** - If you plan to have fireworks or pyrotechnic displays at your event, you must submit an online application for an Explosives / Pyrotechnics Permit through the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Office of the Fire Marshal (See Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Displays, Section 8, page 14).
 - **Tent and Canopies** - If you plan to erect a tent, canopy or temporary membrane structure over 400 square feet in size (with sides) or over 700 feet in size (without sides), you must submit an online application for a Tent/Canopy Permit through the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Office of the Fire Marshal (see Tents & Temporary Structures, Section 14, page 21).
- ☐ **Street Closing/Freeway Ramp Closures** - If you need to close streets or freeway ramps you must submit a traffic management plan obtained by a traffic control service company. Freeway ramps require an ADOT permit.

30 Days - Following Receipt of Invoice

- ☐ **Payment Due** - Payment is expected and required. Non-payment will result in your account being sent to Collections, and the SETFC will not accept any future event applications.

Special Event Liquor Permit/Extension of Premises Liquor Permit

If you plan to serve alcohol beverages at your event, a Special Event Liquor License may be required. A Special Event Liquor License is issued by the Arizona Department of Liquor License Control. The AZ Department of Liquor Control will only issue a Special Event Liquor License after the local governing body has reviewed and recommended approval of the license. If your group is requesting to sell any type of alcoholic beverages, you must first get approval from the City of Tempe Special Events Task Force Committee (SETFC).

Anyone selling alcoholic beverages at an event held on private property at an unlicensed location, or public property at a Tempe venue must:

- 1) Be eligible to sell alcoholic beverages in the City of Tempe,
- 2) Apply for and be recommended for a Special Event Liquor License or Extension of Premises Liquor Permit through the City of Tempe Special Events Task Force and ultimately from the AZ Department of Liquor License and Control.

Eligibility

Eligibility for obtaining a Special Event Liquor Permit is determined by A.R.S. 4-203-02. Eligible groups include charitable, religious, fraternal, civic and political organizations. A Special Event Liquor License allows a charitable, civic, fraternal, political or religious organization to purchase or have alcohol donated to sell and serve spirituous liquor for consumption. Consumption of alcohol is only permitted on the licensed premises and only for the period authorized on the license. This is a temporary liquor license. Each qualifying organization is eligible for up to (10) days' worth of Special Event Liquor Licenses. An applicant must be at least 21 years old and a resident of Arizona to obtain an Alcohol Beverage Permit.

Commercial Organization Requirements:

All commercial organizations partnering with a charity or non-profit organization to serve/sell alcohol beverages must provide a letter from the charity stating the following:

- A) The eligible organization and their representative agrees to participate as the agent and applicant for the Special Event Liquor Permit and will receive a minimum 25% of the gross proceeds from the sale of alcoholic beverages, as evidenced by written contracts, invoices, or receipts upon request.
- B) Verification that a principal of the charity will be on site during hours when liquor is being served.

How to apply for a Liquor License:

PLEASE NOTE: As described further below, the City of Tempe's regulations concerning Temporary Extension of Premises Liquor Permits differ from those of the AZ Department of Liquor License and Control. It is the applicant's responsibility to be aware of these differences and comply with the City of Tempe's regulations.

Notwithstanding the terms of any Temporary Extension of Premises Liquor Permits issued by the AZ Department of Liquor License and Control, the City of Tempe requires the following for all Temporary Extension of Premises Liquor Permits within the City:

- Applicants must obtain approval from the SETFC for any continuing Temporary Extension of Premises Liquor Permits at least once every six (6) months. **PLEASE BE ADVISED** that the SETFC in its sole discretion may require applicants to obtain approval more often than every six (6) months if it sees fit.
- Applicants must obtain approval from the SETFC for any changes to the site map of a Temporary Extension of Premises Liquor Permit before any actual changes are made to the footprint of the temporary extension.”

Steps to apply for a liquor license:

- 1) Apply for and be recommended for a Special Event Liquor License or Extension of Premises Liquor Permit through the City of Tempe Special Events Task Force and ultimately from the AZ Department of Liquor License and Control. [**PLEASE NOTE:** As described further below, the City of Tempe’s regulations concerning Temporary Extension of Premises Liquor Permits differ from those of the AZ Department of Liquor License and Control. It is the applicant’s responsibility to be aware of these differences and comply with the City of Tempe’s regulations] (see Insurance Requirements, Section 10, pages 15 & 16).
- 2) Once all application materials are submitted, a Special Events Project Coordinator will schedule your event for a SETFC meeting. SETFC meetings are held every other Thursday at 9:30 a.m., in the Tempe Transportation Center-Don Cassano Community Room, 200 E 5th Street, Tempe, second floor.
- 3) At the SETFC meeting, the committee will either recommend City approval or denial of the liquor application(s).
- 4) If approved, the applicant is responsible for hand carrying the application(s) to the AZ Department of Liquor for final approval before the scheduled event date. *Note: the AZ Department of Liquor Control requires that all Special Event Liquor License requests be submitted at least ten (10) business days before the scheduled event date.*
- 5) AZ Department of Liquor will grant final approval or denial of the application(s). If approved, AZ Department of Liquor will issue a State of Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control Alcoholic Beverage License.
- 6) All licensees are required to display the Alcoholic Beverage License(s) according to standards set by A.R.S. §4-262. Additionally, liquor consumption warning signs are to be displayed as outlined in A.R.S. §4-261. See www.azliquor.gov for more information.

Temporary Extension of Premises

Notwithstanding the terms of any Temporary Extension of Premises Liquor Permits issued by the AZ Department of Liquor License and Control, the City of Tempe requires the following for all Temporary Extension of Premises Liquor Permits within the City:

- 1) Applicants must obtain approval from the SETFC for any continuing Temporary Extension of Premises Liquor Permits as directed by the SETFC.
- 2) Applicants must obtain approval from the SETFC for any changes to the site map of a Temporary Extension of Premises Liquor Permit before any actual changes are made to the footprint of the temporary extension.

An event producer who wants to host an event that will involve closing a public right-of-way or involve a state-maintained right-of-way (street, sidewalk or alley) must request permission from the City of Tempe Transportation office at least (60) days before an event. In addition, ADOT will require an application for an encroachment permit if freeway ramps or right-of ways are closed (see below for instructions on how to obtain ADOT permits). Street closings and placement of barricades/signage on City of Tempe streets and rights-of-way must be coordinated with and approved by the following city departments: Traffic Operations, Police Department's Traffic Unit and the Transportation Division. If an event requires closure of streets or public rights-of-way, proper barricades and signage are required.

All signage and barricades must comply with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices, the City of Tempe Traffic Barricade Manual and the City of Tempe Traffic Barricade Manual. To ensure that event producers are in compliance, the City of Tempe, or an approved barricade company, will be responsible for placement and removal of all barricades and signage before and after an event. Event producers will be invoiced for all costs incurred to rent, insure, and transport barricades to and from an event site. Should a private barricade company do the barricading; the company must submit a traffic control plan to the Transportation Division for review. The staffing of traffic control work shall be determined by the City of Tempe Transportation Division, Traffic Operations and Tempe Police.

Listed below are the procedures to request a road closure and/or barricades:

To request a road closure and/or barricades, submit a Special Event Permit Application to the Special Events Office a minimum of 90 days prior to your event indicating your road closures and/or barricades. Street closures and restrictions will be reviewed on a case by case basis. This information will be sent to the Special Events Task Force Committee for their review. In addition, you must submit a detailed Traffic Control Plan (TCP) showing where barricades and signs will be placed at the event to: trafficbarricade@tempe.gov

Additional information can be found in the City of Tempe Traffic Barricade Manual 2016, Section 6, Page 10 and 11. <http://www.tempe.gov/home/showdocument?id=41250>

For questions contact:

Max Porte, Enterprise Network Engineer
Public Works Department-Transportation Division
200 E. Fifth Street, Second Floor
Tempe, AZ 85281
Phone: 480-350-8584
Email: maximilian_porte@tempe.gov

Obtain ADOT permits visit: www.azdot.gov/highways/districts/Phx_maintenance/permits.asp or call 602-712-7521.

Downtown Street Closure Fee Categories

Category of closure	Nonprofit	Commercial
Minimal Impact 6 th Street East of Mill 4 th Street 6th Street between 6th Street Park and Forest	\$500	\$1,000
Moderate Impact 7 th Street Maple Avenue Rio Salado between Mill and Ash 3 rd Street College Avenue Myrtle Avenue Forest Avenue 6 th Street between 6 th Street Park and College 5 th Street between Mill and Maple	\$750	\$1,500
High Impact Mill Avenue University Rio Salado 5 th Street East of Mill	\$1,000	\$2,000

Bike Corral

Tempe has a permanent bike corral facility in Tempe Beach Park that can hold up to 120 bikes. Use of the bike corral is strongly recommended for all large-scale events and needs to be included in the security plan and pre-event planning for all events at Tempe Beach Park. The use of the facility will not be allowed if the use of the bike corral is deemed a safety hazard to the event.

You must submit a clean-up plan with your Special Event Permit Application. The clean-up plan must include the following information:

- A drawing or site map of the festival or event area, showing the types and locations of dumpsters and individual trash receptacles;
- The names and contact information of individuals and/or groups responsible for cleaning up during and after the festival or event;
- Cooking oils and gray water cannot be disposed of in storm drain sewers, sidewalk openings or garbage or recycling receptacles. Cooking oils should be recycled. The recycling plans located at www.tempe.gov/recycling provide companies that recycle cooking oil.

NOTE: Anyone who disposes of cooking oils, waste or gray water into storm drain sewers or sidewalk openings will be subject to fines and punishments pursuant to Tempe City Code Chapter 12 Article VI. Storm Water Pollution Control Sec. 12-125. Prohibition of non-storm water discharges to the public storm drain system and Sec. 12-149. Civil Penalties.

If your event has barbecuing that uses wood, you must order a front loader for the hot ashes. Placing hot ashes in trash and recycling bins can cause fires and subsequent damage.

If an event producer fails to clean up a venue adequately or causes damage to City of Tempe property or facility, the City of Tempe will bill the event producer for its costs to clean and repair the damaged property. If this occurs, the City of Tempe may also deny an application for a future Special Event Permit.

Event producers are responsible for prompt cleanup and removal of debris from all City of Tempe streets, right-of-ways, affected property owners' sidewalks, steps and alcoves including time after event tear down is complete. Event producers are responsible for clean-up from when the set up begins until tear down crews have finished and have vacated the park.

Subject to their availability, the City of Tempe may be able to provide the following list of cleaning equipment and services to events for the rates quoted (effective April 1, 2025):

Standard Service for Materials, Labor and Equipment	Quantity	Rate	Cost
Under fifty container event mobilization		\$100	\$
Fifty or more container event mobilization		\$250	\$
Per 96-gallon recycling and garbage container set		\$28.31	\$
Front load containers (6 cubic yard recycling container and garbage container set)		\$218.74 per set	\$
Garbage roll-offs		\$309.80 per pull plus	\$

		\$31.33/ton	
Recycling roll-offs		\$309.80 per pull	\$
Solid Waste Services staff will assess recycling container contamination as containers are dumped and weighed. If recycling containers are more than 20 percent contaminated, the following fees will be charged: 1. Contaminated recycling roll-offs 2. Contaminated front load recycling		1. \$309.80 per pull plus \$31.33/ton 2. \$31.33/ton for disposal	\$ \$
Additional Equipment and Labor Charges Above Standard Service	Hours or Quantity	Rate per hour	Cost
Solid Waste Collection Vehicle		\$64.00	\$
Solid Waste Operator		\$71.00	\$
Special Dump		\$84.00	\$
		Total Event Charge	\$

Recycling and Diversion

The City of Tempe is committed to diverting 25% of its commercial waste from landfills by 2030. Your event can contribute to our waste diversion goals by committing to recycling materials to keep as much out of the landfill as possible.

Since recycling is now required at all events in Tempe, a recycling plan must be submitted as part of the application.

Ideally, your event staff and volunteers work to reduce waste before it even gets to the bins. It is recommended that event producers encourage all food vendors to provide sustainable food service to reduce waste by using less material, reusing existing supplies, minimizing landfill waste, and diverting waste from the trash can to the recycle bin. Those measures include the following:

- Use recyclable service ware
- Use uncoated paper products
- Offer vegetarian/vegan options
- Serve locally grown/produced, in-season or organic food
- Use only recyclable drink containers

Thank you for working together to create a more sustainable Tempe. Tempe is committed to the diversion of recycling materials from landfills. Upon request, we will provide training to volunteers on monitoring bins to provide the best diversion rate possible.

To schedule containers, a two-week notice is required. For more information, contact:

Allan VanVleet
Solid Waste Operations Crew Lead
480-536-4900 allan_vanvleet@tempe.gov

Electricity

The City of Tempe does not provide electrical equipment at public venues. Event producers should consult directly with the Special Event Coordinator and Facility Services to discuss all electrical needs for an event and plan on securing their own electrical needs. The event producers should work with city officials to show electrical service information on the Site Map of the event.

- Facility Services Division cannot provide generators, light towers, spider boxes or extension cords for events.

Event producers must obtain permission from a City of Tempe electrician to tap into any City property power source if/when available or permitted.

Parks

The City of Tempe parks maintenance staff takes pride in the appearance and condition of our parks, gardens, and picnic areas. As such we expect them to be returned in a similar condition to the way they were received.

If an event fails to clean up a venue adequately or causes damage to City of Tempe property or facility, the City of Tempe will bill the event for its costs to clean and repair the damaged property. If this occurs, the City of Tempe may also deny an application for a future Special Event Permit.

Event producers are responsible for prompt cleanup and removal of debris from all City of Tempe streets, right of ways, affected property owners' sidewalks, steps and alcoves including time after event tear down is complete. Event producers are responsible for clean-up from when the set up begins until tear down crews have finished and have vacated the park.

A "blue stake" is required for any events that penetrate or break the ground surface including but not limited to; fence posts, tent stakes, or anchors that break the soil surface. Furthermore the event will be responsible for any damage to the irrigation system including heads and laterals even though only main lines can be identified during the blue stake process.

Any damage to park infrastructure including but not limited to; benches, tables, gates, fences, retaining walls, grills, brick or concrete will be billed to the event.

Any damage to the landscape including grass areas will be assigned a replacement value. Damaged trees will be inspected by the City of Tempe's contracted arborist who will assess the damage and assign replacement value.

EMS coverage may be required for special events based on the following guidelines:

- To ensure that patrons attending a particular festival or special event are provided sufficient emergency medical coverage.
- City of Tempe EMS will assist event producers to determine staffing required, based on the expected number of patrons, special need concerns, risk factors and the nature of the event.
- City of Tempe EMS reserves the right to refuse coverage at an event if minimal staffing requirements are not mutually agreed upon, or if inadequate notice is given regarding coverage needs.

Anyone requesting/required to have City of Tempe EMS will be asked to enter into a contract with the City of Tempe that defines the dates, times and number of units that will be needed. It should also set forth the costs for those services. Stand-by service will not be offered. You will be billed for EMS.

Fees

Emergency medical services:

\$65.00 per hour / per employee + set logistics fee

Requirements

Depending on the size and scope of the event, an event producer may be responsible for providing the following equipment for EMS staging:

- 20 x 20 Tent
 - Large first aid sign on tent exterior
 - EVAP cooler or AC (Months from April to October)
 - One port-a-john adjacent to the tent, partitioned off
 - Six chairs & two tables
 - Three beds with linens
 - Ice chest, ice and water (amount of ice and water will vary depending upon weather)
 - Interior lighting
 - Heaters (may be required in winter season)
- City of Tempe EMS officials reserve the right to require the producer of a festival or event to provide hydration stations (non-alcoholic beverages) at an outdoor event. The number of hydration stations required will be based on the anticipated size of the event, weather, and expected attendance.
 - If a mass casualty occurs at an event, causing large numbers of event patrons to need medical attention, the producer of the festival or event shall bear the costs of additional personnel and equipment required at the rates listed above.

For further information and/or to schedule EMS staff, contact:

Tino Ginakes, Fire Captain-Medic
City of Tempe Fire Department
Phone: 480-858-7255
Email: Tino_ginakes@tempe.gov

FIREWORKS AND PYROTECHNIC DISPLAYS

SECTION 8

If a festival or event is going to include a “Public Display of Fireworks” or the use of Pyrotechnics or Special Effects before a Proximate Audience, an event producer must apply for and obtain a Explosives / Pyrotechnics Special Effects Material Permit from the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Office of the Fire Marshal.

Fireworks displays and pyrotechnic special effects must be under the direct supervision of an approved pyrotechnic operator who is employed by a licensed fireworks/pyrotechnic company along with a certificate of insurance which must be approved by the city Risk Manager (see Insurance Requirements, Section 10, page 17 & 18).

To obtain a permit, the applicant must submit a detailed site plan, floor plan, and certificate of insurance with each Explosives / Pyrotechnic Special Effects Material Permit application to the Office of the Fire Marshal **at the time of turning in your special event application.**

Fireworks and pyrotechnic special effects must comply with Chapter 56 of the 2024 International Fire Code, Tempe Fire Code Amendments, and NFPA standards.

Fees

Explosives or Pyrotechnic Special Effects Material Permit - \$186.70 per location. Labor fees additional if after-hours.

To obtain an application or further information, contact:

Annette Betancourt
Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Department
Office of the Fire Marshal
1400 East Apache Blvd.
Tempe, AZ
Phone: 480-858-2064
Email: annette_betancourt@tempe.gov

Applications can be completed and submitted at: <https://www.tempe.gov/government/fire-medical-rescue/permits-fees-forms/permit-application>

If food or drink (other than pre-packaged) will be served at a festival or event, event producers must obtain a Health Permit from the Maricopa County Health Department

The Maricopa County Environmental Services Department is the regulatory authority that issues "temporary food service establishment" permits for food and beverage concessions at special events. It is the Department's responsibility to regulate the food sold at these events. If food or drink is not prepared and handled in a sanitary manner, the public's health may be at risk.

Requirements:

In order to sell or give away any food or beverage product at an event, you are required to apply for a "Temporary Food Service Establishment" permit and pay an associated permit fee. The Guide to Temporary Food Service at Special Events and Application for Temporary Food Service Establishment Permit may be filled out online, downloaded and printed.

- A completed (pages one and two) application and \$85.00 permit fee per booth must be submitted seven days prior to the start of the event. All payments must be Arizona checks or money orders. Please make checks payable to MCESD.
- The Temporary Food Service permit will be issued at the event after a passing inspection has been completed. Please refer to the Guide to Temporary Food Service at Special Events for the requirements. Effective July 1, 2007, **inspectors can no longer accept payments for Temporary Food Service Permits on site, at events. All permits must be paid for by vendors in advance.**
- Only those vendors selling bottled water or canned soda (unopened, from an approved source) are exempt from obtaining a Temporary Food Service permit. All other vendors, regardless of product, are required to obtain a permit and pay the required fee per booth.
- Those individuals who currently possess a valid Maricopa County Mobile Food, Pushcart, Food Peddler or Catering permit are not required to pay the permit fee. However, a copy of the permit is required.

Note: It is the event producer's responsibility to read over the guidelines to determine whether or not a health permit is required for any food vendors at their event. If you are not in compliance with Maricopa County Environmental Services Guidelines, it should be noted that a health inspector **could shut down your food operation the day of the event.** If this should occur, the City of Tempe will not be held liable for loss of income.

For questions or requests for additional information, contact:

Maricopa County Environmental Health Department

1001 N. Central Avenue, Suite 100

Phoenix, AZ 85004

Phone: 602-506-6978

SpecialEvents@mail.maricopa.gov

Applications and guidelines can be downloaded at: <http://www.maricopa.gov/DocumentCenter/Home/View/6283>

The City of Tempe has established insurance requirements for those facility users, vendors, and contractors entering into agreements with the City for the purpose of special events and activities. Before commencing use or services under an agreement with the City of Tempe, a Certificate of Insurance that complies with the requirements (see the Special Event Permit Application) must be furnished.

An event producer must comply with the insurance requirements to be able to obtain a Special Event Permit from the Special Events Task Force Committee (SETFC). Event permits will not be issued until all insurance requirements are satisfactorily met.

With reasonable notice to event producers, the City of Tempe reserves the right to require insurance of event producers and/or vendors for activities other than those specifically mentioned, or to increase the minimum acceptable limits of liability.

Approval of insurance by the City of Tempe does not in any way relieve or decrease the insurance liability of an event producer or vendor. The City of Tempe does not represent that the specified limits of liability, coverage or policy forms are sufficient or adequate to protect the interest or liabilities of the event producer or vendor.

All special event applicants shall name the City of Tempe as an “Additional Insured.” Applicant agrees that any insurance available to the applicant shall be primary and non-contributory to the city’s self-insured retention. Applicant shall obtain Certificates of Insurance from all vendors participating in this event unless covered under applicant’s insurance policy. Vendors must comply with all requirements listed in this section. Complete and accurate certificates must be received by the Special Events Office a minimum of five (5) working days prior to the event. Separate Certificates of Insurance shall be provided by all carnival and amusement companies and firework production companies with the limits shown in this section and shall name the City of Tempe as “Additional Insured.” Additional coverage may be required depending upon the nature and scope of the event. For more information or questions regarding insurance requirements, please contact our Risk Management Department at 480-350-8248. Risk Management reserves the right to evaluate the liability of each event and assess the required insurance limits. Event permits will not be issued until all insurance requirements are satisfactorily met.

The certificate must show:

1. The City of Tempe, its agents, officers, employees and volunteers are named as “Additional Insured”. All Certificate of Insurance policies must reflect this with the exception of workers compensation.
2. The City of Tempe shall be notified at least 30 days prior to cancellation or alteration of any insurance coverage. A 10-day notice of cancellation for non-payment of premium.
3. Workers Compensation Policies shall contain a Waiver of Subrogation clause in favor of the City of Tempe.
4. General Liability Including:

Bodily Injury	Contractual	Independent Contractors
Comprehensive Form	Product/Completed Operations	Hazard
Premises Operation	Personal injury	Broad Form Property Damage

INSURANCE LIMITS

General Events

General events consist of those events held at any city facility other than Tempe Beach Park/Town Lake.

General Liability - \$1,000,000 each occurrence, \$2,000,000 aggregate

Auto Liability - \$1,000,000 combined single limit (each accident)

Workers Compensation – Arizona Statutory Requirements

Liquor Liability - \$2,000,000 each occurrence

Beach Park/Town Lake Events

\$1,000,000 each occurrence - \$2,000,000 aggregate

Events with limited exposure such as souvenir shops, clothing sales, and other small operations, or events with less than 500 people. This level also applies to such events as company picnics and charity walks as long as there is no alcohol or events on the lake itself.

\$5,000,000 each occurrence - \$5,000,000 aggregate

Events with more than 500 people in attendance or any non-motorized activity(ies) in or on the lake.

\$10,000,000 each occurrence Watercraft Liability

Events involving powerboats shall be required to carry at least \$10,000,000 of watercraft liability coverage.

General Liability at the same limit is required for the associated land-based activity(ies).

Auto Liability - \$1,000,000 combined single limit (each accident).

Workers Compensation – Arizona Statutory Requirements

Liquor Liability - \$5,000,000 each occurrence.

OTHER INSURANCE OR RISKS

All other risks shall comply with the Additional Insured requirements as stated in item 1 above.

Fireworks Production

General Liability - \$5,000,000 each occurrence

Auto Liability - \$1,000,000 combined single limit (each accident)

Workers Compensation – Arizona Statutory Requirements

Liquor Liability

If your event is approved to have alcohol you will need to show proof of liquor liability coverage.

Tempe Beach Park - \$5,000,000 each occurrence

All other City facilities - \$2,000,000 each occurrence

Carnival/Amusement Rides

\$2,000,000 General Liability

\$1,000,000 Auto Liability

Workers Compensation – Arizona Statutory Requirements

In addition, specific date(s) and locations(s) of the event, to include set up and take down, must be stated clearly on the certificate. Certificates must be received no less than five (5) working days prior to the event.

For further information, contact:

Chris Hansen, Risk Manager, 480-350-2904, Christopher_Hansen@tempe.gov

It is the responsibility of an event producer to provide adequate security for an event. The type and location of the event, presence of alcoholic beverages, crowd size and other factors will determine the amount of security needed.

After reviewing the event application, the City of Tempe Special Events Task Force Committee may require an event producer to provide private security, hire off-duty police officers, or reimburse the City of Tempe for expenses it incurs by providing on-duty police officers for security, traffic control and/or crowd control.

Off-duty police officers may be available for events. Information regarding hiring an off-duty police officer can be found here: <https://www.tempe.gov/government/police/off-duty>

Off-duty agreements must be submitted within your online application.

The City of Tempe will not provide on-duty personnel for the following needs at events:

- Gate security
- Beer/alcohol sales security
- Security for VIPs and celebrities
- Security for money handling
- Stage security
- Overnight security or security outside event hours
- Private parking lot security
- Security for event equipment trailers supplies, etc.

Requirements for private security company

If you will be using a private security company for your event, please keep in mind that the City of Tempe only allows security companies that are licensed and bonded in the State of Arizona.

Sign Requirements

Event producers wanting to advertise their event by displaying signage prior and/or during their event must follow the guidelines listed below:

- 1) Signage can only be displayed on-site during a special event,
- 2) Signage must be displayed within the boundaries of the event,
- 3) All signage must be removed from the venue immediately after event is over.
- 4) Check with your Special Events Project Coordinator about signage text requirements.

Approved Course Markings

Event producers wanting to mark the sidewalk, asphalt or desert trails for their event must follow the guidelines listed below:

Paint: only white, water-based turf marking paint is permissible.

Chalk: only lining chalk or marking gypsum is permissible.

Most hardware and home improvement stores carry these products.

Anyone planning to host an event in the City of Tempe must include a detailed site map with their online application.

A site map should define the event area and include all of the following features and information, if applicable:

- All affected streets, alleys and rights-of-way, including those that will be closed;
- Alternate routes for traffic and buses, if streets are going to be closed;
- Location of all barricades that will be used;
- Location of ADA compliant drop off areas;
- Location of all tents and temporary structures that will be erected (inflatables, small carnival games, etc.);
- Location of all vendors – fixed and mobile;
- Sources of electrical supply and service, including permanent electrical power sources and portable generators;
- Location of all dumpsters and trash receptacles;
- Location and layout of tables, chairs, picnic tables, etc., that will be used;
- Location of any stages that will be used or placed;
- Entrances and exits;
- Designated parking areas, including ADA spaces; moves ADA spaces;
- Permanent and portable accessible and general restroom facilities;
- Signage and banners that will be hung or installed.
- Location of first aid, emergency, security and disability accommodation stations.

Please note: Fire lanes must be kept open at all times to allow fire trucks to respond to an emergency.

Tents/Membrane Structures - Individual tents and membrane structures having an area in excess of 400 square feet (with sides) or 700 square feet (without sides), or multiple tents placed side by side (without the appropriate fire break clearance) having an aggregate area in excess of 700 square feet shall not be erected, operated or maintained for any purpose without first obtaining a permit and approval from the Fire Medical Rescue Department Office of the Fire Marshal.

To obtain a permit, the applicant must submit a detailed site plan, floor plan, certification of flame resistance materials and structural stability documentation with each Temporary Tent Permit application to the Office of the Fire Marshal **at the time of turning in your special event application.**

Tents and membrane structures requiring a permit must meet all requirements set forth in Chapter 31 of the 2024 International Fire Code

Fees: Temporary Tent Permit - \$186.70 per location. Labor fees additional if after-hours.

Special Event Structure Permit – If you plan on having a temporary special event structure or stage in excess of 400 square feet you will be required to apply for a Special Event Structure Permit through the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Community Risk Reduction Division.

Temporary special event structures in excess of 400 square feet shall not be erected, operated or maintained for any purpose without first obtaining approval and a permit from the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Office of the Fire Marshal.

To obtain a permit, the applicant must submit construction documents prepared by a registered design professional in accordance with the IBC and ANSI E1.21 where applicable, a site plan, an operations plan, and a special inspection report to the Community Risk Reduction Division **at the time of turning in your special event application.**

Special Event Structure permits must meet all requirements set forth in Section 3105 of the 2024 International Fire Code.

Fees: Special Event Structure Permit - \$280.05 per structure. Labor fees additional if after-hours.

For further information, contact:

Annette Betancourt
Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Dept.
Office of the Fire Marshal
1400 East Apache Blvd
Tempe, AZ
Phone: 480-858-2064
Email: annette_betancourt@tempe.gov

Applications can be submitted at: <https://www.tempe.gov/government/fire-medical-rescue/permits-fees-forms/permit-application>

If you plan to hold an event where you use physical barriers to keep people in an area, want to extend an area for an existing A Occupancy, or want to hold an event in a building that is not classified as an A Occupancy, you will be required to obtain a Place of Assembly / Outdoor Assembly Permit through the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Office of the Fire Marshal.

Any event where physical barriers are used to keep people in an area, want to extend an area for an existing Assembly Occupancy, or want to hold an event in a building that is not classified as an Assembly Occupancy, will be required to obtain an approved Place of Assembly / Outdoor Assembly Permit from the Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Office of the Fire Marshal.

To obtain a permit, the applicant must submit a detailed site plan and a requested occupant load for the area to the Office of the Fire Marshal **at the time of turning in your special event application.**

Places of Assembly and Outdoor Assembly permits must meet all requirements set forth in the 2024 International Fire Code and Tempe Fire Code Amendments.

Fees: Places of Assembly / Outdoor Assembly Permit - \$186.70 per location. Labor fees additional if after-hours.

For further information contact:

Annette Betancourt

Tempe Fire Medical Rescue Dept.

Office of the Fire Marshal

1400 East Apache Blvd, Tempe, AZ

Phone: 480-858-2064

Email: Annette_betancourt@tempe.gov

City of Tempe – Tax & License
Special Events Tax & Licensing Guide for Vendors
Email: salestax@tempe.gov | Phone: 480-350-2955

Need help?

We're here to help you understand licensing, filing, and payment requirements. Please contact Tempe Tax & License before your event so we can assist you and help avoid any issues after the event.

Welcome! Here's What You Need to Know

If you're selling goods or services at a special event in Tempe, we want to make the tax and licensing process as simple as possible. Businesses selling only at Tempe special events with a valid event permit do not need a Tempe General Business License.

If your activity is taxable, you will need an Arizona Department of Revenue (ADOR) Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT) License. If you're unsure whether your activity is taxable, please reach out—we're happy to help.

Do I Need a TPT License?

Most vendors with taxable sales or activities need a TPT license. Common taxable activities at special events include:

- Retail sales of merchandise or goods
- Prepared or served food and beverages
- Amusement activities such as rides, games, contests, or admission-based events

TPT licenses are obtained through ADOR at www.aztaxes.gov. One license allows you to file and pay Arizona State, Maricopa County (MAR), and City of Tempe (TE) taxes on a single return. Contact us for help with filing.

Common Taxable Activities

- Retail: Sales of tangible personal property, including crafts (even hobby sales) and food for home consumption.
- Restaurant: Sales of prepared or served food and beverages. Alcohol sales require coordination with the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses & Control.
- Amusement: Games, rides, contests, sporting events, exhibitions, or any activity that charges admission or participation fees.
- Personal Property Rental: Rentals such as tables, chairs, tents, or scooters.
- Vendor Space Rental: Rental of booth or vendor space. Some nonprofit exemptions may apply.

Are There Any Exemptions?

- Fine Art: Original artwork sold by the artist is exempt from City tax (State tax still applies).
- Charitable Organizations: Sales by qualifying 501(c)(3) nonprofits.
- Farmers & Producers: Sales of food products grown and sold by the producer.

How the Tax Works

Transaction Privilege Tax (TPT) is a tax on the business for the privilege of doing business in Arizona. You may choose to add the tax to your sales price or include it in your listed price. The current combined tax rate for Arizona, Maricopa County, and Tempe is 8.10%. Note: TPT is commonly due on the 20th day of the month following the event.

Questions or unsure where to start? Contact Tempe Tax & License anytime—we're happy to walk you through the process.

Americans with Disabilities Act Requirements

Americans with Disabilities Act Compliance

Tempe is an inclusive city. People with disabilities must be able to obtain or enjoy “the same goods, services and benefits” that are provided to other members of the public. Special events on city rights-of-way or city property that are open to the public are required by the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) to be accessible to people with disabilities. As the event planner, it is your responsibility to provide fully accessible events that comply with Tempe codes and ADA regulations. Responsibilities may be different for each event depending on the location, size and activities presented.

Here is a guide that may be of help: <https://adata.org/publication/temporary-events-guide>.

At the end of the section are additional resources.

Some specific elements of accessibility to include are listed below:

Site selection

- All temporary venues, parking, related structures, and outdoors sites associated with your event must be accessible to all individuals with disabilities. If an area is not accessible, an alternate area must be obtained with the same or equivalent activities. There are some areas in Tempe that are not fully accessible for events. You must be prepared to provide disability access, if the location you choose is not already accessible. There are some areas of Tempe that are not accessible sites for public events.

Vendors, Volunteers and staff selection

- Work with your vendors, volunteers and staff to ensure that people with disabilities will have access to food, drinks, merchandise, or services offered. Vendors selling food or other merchandise or operating activities such as games or contests should ensure accessibility. However, if an existing design of a permanent chassis, such as a food truck, cannot be modified to be accessible, then the method of providing the services must be altered, for example by providing access at the ground level. All staff and volunteers should have a basic awareness of and sensitivity to disability issues.

Communications

- Accessible communication can be accomplished by ensuring that all marketing medium includes an invitation for patrons to request accommodations or alternate formats as soon as possible. It is important to provide statements and a contact for access on all publicity and informational material. Statements affirming nondiscrimination are an important part of your commitment to providing accessibility.
- Inclusion of the invitation also ensures that you will have sufficient time to acquire qualified American Sign Language (ASL) Interpreters, or to provide print accommodations for people who have visual disabilities. Availability of a listening system for people who are hard of hearing is advised, should you have a speaker or receive a request.
- Signage is needed to direct the public to accessible parking spaces, drop-off points and other areas. Such directional signage is critical where these features are positioned in only a few select locations. Signage may be needed to direct and identify accessible entrances and gates. Signs should include the international symbol of accessibility and use easy-to-read type faces and be large enough to be read from a distance.

Paths of Travel/Accessible Routes from the nearest bus stops, light rail stops, loading zones, parking locations, and throughout your event.

- Your event must include accessible routes throughout your event venue. This includes accessible

routes to parking areas, passenger loading zones, registration areas, amenities, seating areas, information and booth areas, restrooms, first aid areas and more. Grass and sand are not compliant surfaces for accessible routes.

- Accessible routes are to be 48 inches wide or more. Temporary ramps that do not exceed an 8.33% or 1:12 grade may be required to provide accessible routes and should be used when elevation changes more than ¼" vertical or ½" beveled.
- Cable ramps or rubberized mats should be used to cover all cords, wires, hoses, etc. located within a path of travel.
- An alternate path of travel is required when the public right-of-way is obstructed.
- If an alternate path of travel is provided, signage designating the alternate travel path should be placed in readily visible locations.
- The alternate path of travel should be parallel and as close as possible to the disrupted pedestrian access route.
- An alternate path of travel should have no obstructions, level changes or protrusions up to a height of 80 inches, including scaffolding and scaffolding braces.
- If the alternate path of travel is adjacent to a potentially hazardous condition, the path should be protected with barricades or other safety devices.

Accessible Parking/Transportation and access routes across vehicular traffic areas

- The temporary removal or closure of existing accessible parking areas (including production and other staff areas, must be replaced with full-sized accessible parking spaces on a one-to-one basis. The parking areas must be on a route close to the entrance.
- If no accessible parking areas are provided at your location, you should provide, at minimum, one accessible passenger loading zone marked with the international symbol for accessibility and one accessible parking space per 25 general parking spaces.
- Include accessible parking for VIP or other specifically designated parking areas such as limo and taxi zones. Taxis provide accessible vehicles for passengers using wheelchairs or other mobility devices; be sure you have a location that includes a 20' long by 5' wide boarding area for taxis. If the ground is unstable, acquire rubber matting to provide accessible route to the sidewalk.
- Evaluate the need to provide additional accessible parking beyond that if your event would typically draw more people with disabilities. There should be one accessible space per 25 general parking spaces, at a minimum.
- Accessible vehicles must be included in your transportation plan if a shuttle program supports your event. Shuttles and golf carts must be accessible to mobility device users if you provide this service.
- Incorporate accessible public transportation in your event plans whenever possible.
- Provide training and informational materials for your event staff and volunteers regarding accessible parking and transportation.
- If meters are bagged to create additional accessible parking locations for the event a \$15 fee will be incurred. This fee is to be paid to the Downtown Tempe Community (DTC).

Accessible Restrooms/Sinks

- A minimum of 5 percent of portable restrooms provided to support your event must be accessible; placed on a level area not to exceed a 2% cross-slope in any direction.
- In any location where multiple restrooms are provided, at least one unit must be accessible.
- If only one restroom is placed in a location, it must be accessible. If the facility you are holding a public event in does not have an accessible restroom, you must provide one.
- In any location where multiple sinks or hand sanitizing units are provided, at least one unit must be accessible.
- If only one sink or hand-sanitizing unit is placed in a location, it must be accessible.
- An accessible route to each portable restroom and sink or hand-sanitizing unit must be provided.

Accessible Booths/Service Counters

- An accessible route to all booths and/or service counters and first aid areas are to be provided.
- Booths and/or service counters should be no more than 36” in height and must be 36” or greater in width. Condiments or other items are to be within reach at the edge of the table.
- Outside vendors for your event should be provided this information as well.

Accessible Staging/Seating

- If the public has access to the stage at your event, it must be accessible with a ramp with handrails and/or a lift.
- If you provide designated seating on a stage or within your venue, you must provide accessible seating and companion seating within the footprint of the seating area.
- An accessible seating area or corral, on an accessible route, is suggested to accommodate attendees with disabilities and their guests. The area shall provide line of sight to the stage. Signage to this area is suggested.

Policies and Procedures

- Policies and procedures must not inhibit access. Some flexibility is necessary when accommodating people with disabilities, whether needs are specific for performers, or general for the public. However, modifications to policies and procedures and the addition of services are not required if they would alter the nature of the event or pose a safety hazard.
- Include information on addressing safety of people with disabilities in an emergency or safety situation, shooting or violence, heat or inclement weather, etc.
- Attendants and service animals, necessities for some people with disabilities present a good example of when policies and procedures should be modified. Attendants should be allowed to accompany a person with disabilities as needed, yet this may not require a two for one ticket pricing policy. Service animals are not pets, but act as a guide and perform tasks and they are to be allowed to accompany an individual into the event.
- Ticket sale policies must comply with ADA and include ticket policies and sales to seating areas that are accessible to people with disabilities.

Resources

<https://adata.org/publication/temporary-events-guide>
www.ada.gov
<http://adata.org/>
https://www.ada.gov/service_animals_2010.htm
https://www.ada.gov/ticketing_2010.htm
<https://www.access-board.gov/>

Fire Department

Michael Atkinson, Deputy Fire Chief, 480-858-7215
Dustin Preston, Assistant Fire Chief, 480-858-7202
Monique Rodriguez, Emergency Manager, 480-858-7264
Annette Betancourt, Acting Assistant Fire Marshal, 480-858-2064

Police Department

Michelle Heermans, Licensing Specialist, 480-858-7899
Lieutenant Aaron Levi, 480-858-6246
Sergeant Luke Trader, Traffic, 480-858-6479
Sergeant Tim Bulson, Safety & Security, 480-858-2339
Off-Duty Coordinator, 480-350-8789

Special Events

Shawn Wagner, Community Services Deputy Director, Parks & Rec 480-350-5299
Jonni Wolfe, Special Events Manager, 480-350-5225
Chad Holmes, Sr. Special Events Project Coordinator, 480-350-5847
Jenny Leon Hagstrom, Sr. Special Events Project Coordinator, 480-350-8784
Matthew Peterson, Sr. Special Events Project Coordinator, 480-284-3222
Jerry Hall, Jr., Diablo Stadium Supervisor, 480-350-5265
Mary Keane, Administrative Assistant, 480-350-5850

Parks

North Parks: Steve Leslie, 480-350-8419
South Parks: Ronald Plumb, 480-858-2505

Risk Management

Chris Hansen, Risk Manager, 480-350-2904

Facility Services

Allan VanVleet, Support Services, Solid Waste Operations Crew Lead, 480-536-4900

Transportation Department

Max Porte, Traffic Engineering Analyst, 480-350-8584

Sales Tax & License

Juliane Moore, Vendor Permitting, 480-350-8512

Planning and Zoning (Signs & Use Permits)

Chris Jasper, Signs & Use Permits, 480-350-8096

Environmental

Jeremy Mikus, 480-350-2852

Neighborhood Services

Elizabeth Thomas, 480-350-8223

Special Event Fees

Effective January 1, 2021

Special Events Office • 3500 South Rural Road • Tempe, AZ 85282 • Phone 480-350-5180

Fees to be submitted prior to Task Force (if applicable)

Application Permit Fee.....	\$50
Late Fee (added if submitted within 60 days of event).....	\$100 <i>Acceptance of late applications is at the discretion of the Special Events Task Force Committee</i>
Special Event Fee.....	\$100 permit fee per day
Deposit.....	25% of expected costs (Due 6 months prior to the event, and is non-refundable 90 days before the event)
Special Event Liquor.....	\$50 (Series 15 or 16)
Temporary Extension of Premises Liquor Permit.....	\$50

Remaining fees and City services to be assessed and invoiced following the event

Event Space Rental Fees. Per Day	Non-Commercial	Commercial
Rio Salado: Tempe Beach Park	\$1,500	\$3,000
Rio Salado: Arts Park	\$1,000	\$2,000
Rio Salado: Neil G. Giuliano Park	\$ 500	\$1,000
Rio Salado: North Linear Park	\$ 500	\$1,000
Rio Salado: Tempe Town Lake Marina	\$ 500	\$1,000
City Parking Lot	\$ 500	\$1,000
All Other Spaces: (Park, Plaza, Sport Field, Court)	\$ 250	\$ 500
Road Closure-Minimal Impact	\$ 500	\$1,000
Road Closure-Moderate Impact	\$ 750	\$1,500
Road Closure-High Impact	\$1,000	\$2,000
Additional Rental Use Fees		
Rio Salado: Park User Fee	\$ 250	\$ 250
Tempe Marketplace Path Fee	\$1,000	\$1,000
Rio Salado: Park Set-up/Take-down*	\$ 250	\$ 500
Non-Rio Salado: Park Set-up/Take-down*	\$ 125	\$ 200
<i>*Fees assessed if any equipment is in the park</i>		
Kiwanis Park, <i>Fiesta & Ruben additional fees apply</i> <i>Walk/Run Fee additional, see below</i>	\$ 250	\$ 500
Tempe Town Lake User Fee, <i>less than 200 users</i>	\$ 200	\$ 200
Tempe Town Lake User Fee, <i>200+ users</i>	\$ 200 (plus \$1 per user over 200, \$1000 max)	Same as non-commercial
Non-Rio Salado: Walk/Run Fee	\$ 250	\$ 250
Facility Charge (<i>applies to gated admission events</i>)	\$0.50/ticket sold (no min.)	\$1/ticket sold (\$5,000 minimum)

Additional City Service Fees May Apply