

Special/Public Events in Charles County

Understanding What Requires a Permit

The following offers a general overview of events that may require a permit. However, the specific details and logistics of your event will ultimately determine whether a public event permit is necessary. To ensure your event meets all requirements, please contact the Department of Planning and Growth Management for guidance.

Category	Examples	Permit Required?
Circuses, Festivals, Fairs & Showcases	Art show, car/boat shows, carnivals, circuses, decorators' showcases, dog fest, food and wine festivals, petting zoos, and themed festivals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Parades, Processions & Walks	Charity races and walks, marches, parades	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Sporting Events & Competitions	Bike races, fun runs, marathons/triathlons, motorcycle rides, tournaments and championships	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Concerts, Performances & Entertainment	Concerts, music festivals, outdoor theater movie nights, pool parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Community & Commemorative Celebrations	Block parties, community day(s), commemorative celebrations, street closures, public dedications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Markets & Vendor Events	Craft/vendor shows, farmers' markets, food truck gatherings/events, pop-up shops	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Charity & Fundraising Events	Awareness campaigns and public fundraisers	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Holiday Events	Christmas tree lighting, haunted house, trunk or treat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Demonstrations & Rallies	Public protests, advocacy events	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Promotional Events	Launch parties, sign up events, promotional advertising, outdoor grand opening events	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Routine Business Operations	Retail sales, regular office meetings, workshops and training standard classes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
School-sponsored Sporting Events	Football games, track meets, or similar school events	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Private Gatherings	Anniversary, birthday, and graduation parties, private weddings, family reunions, office parties	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Regular Religious Activities	Worship services, bible study, prayer vigils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

NOTE: The information provided is for general guidance only. Permit requirements can vary by location and project. Please contact the appropriate local authority to confirm specific permitting needs.