

2026 FLORIDA STATE FAIR POLICIES

Welcome to the Florida State Fair (“Fair”). We are proud to be a family-friendly destination. To ensure a safe and enjoyable experience while visiting the Fairgrounds of the Florida State Fair Authority (“Fairgrounds”), please respect and comply with the following policies:

1. General Health and Safety

The Fair encourages frequent handwashing for all employees and guests, reminding everyone of the importance of frequently washing their hands with soap and water for 20 seconds. If soap and water are not readily available, use hand sanitizer.

The Fair provides easy-to-access handwashing or hand sanitizer/hygiene stations in locations such as: on entry, in key walkways, at various attractions, in food and beverage locations, in merchandise shops, etc.

COVID/ECOLI/INFLUENZA and other communicable disease exposure is an inherent risk in any public location where people/animals are present. Guests should only attend after evaluating their own health risks. Purchase of a ticket and entry on to the Fairgrounds constitutes your understanding of these risks and your willingness to undertake and assume the risk of exposure.

2. Prohibited Items on the Fairgrounds

The following items shall not be brought onto on the Fairgrounds unless specifically authorized:

- Bicycles, skateboards, rollerblades, roller-skates, motorcycles, scooters (unless employed as a mobility device to accommodate a person with a disability), hover boards, Segways, or golf carts;
- Unauthorized vehicles as determined by the Fair’s Chief Executive Officer, or any employee or agent of the Fair designated by the Fair’s Chief Executive Officer;
- Unlawful weapons or firearms;
- Fireworks, explosives or explosive devices, and inflammables.
- Remote controlled devices, including but not limited to drones and remote-controlled toys which shall not be operated on or above the Fairgrounds;
- Alcohol or alcoholic beverages, or any other outside food or drink.
- Coolers.
- Controlled substances.

- Any other object or objects which in the opinion of the Fair's Chief Executive Officer, or any employee or agent of the Fair designated by the Fair's Chief Executive Officer may affect the safety and well-being of persons attending events on the Fairgrounds;
- Destructive devices;
- Laser pointers;
- Selfie Sticks;
- Pets or animals, with the exception of service animals as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act;
- Bags not in compliance with the Fair's policy as defined in Section 8
- Sharp objects, sticks or poles of any kind;
- Folding chairs;
- Noisemakers and horns;
- Masks that cover the entire face;
- Large banners or signs, or banners and signs with obscene language or images and language and images not appropriate for children under the age of five

Exceptions to the above prohibitions are limited to:

- Weapons or Firearms carried by law enforcement officials and persons authorized by law to carry weapons or firearms in a manner authorized by law;
- Alcoholic beverages served by, and alcoholic beverage containers belonging to licensed concessionaires, or catering service contracting with the Fair;
- Prohibited items that have been permitted by the Fair by virtue of a signed agreement;
- One water container per patron of 16.9 oz or less is allowed when entering the Fairgrounds;
- Prescription medications necessary for licensees and contractors to perform their duties, when they possess the authorizing lawful prescriptions;
- Lawfully authorized prescription medication for patrons;
- Such prohibited items expressly permitted in writing by the Fair's Chief Executive Officer, or any employee or agent of the Fair designated by the Fair's Chief Executive Officer.

3. Prohibited Activities.

Pursuant to Section 616.185, Florida Statutes, entering and remaining upon any grounds or facilities owned, operated, or controlled by the Fair and committing any act that disrupts the orderly conduct of any authorized activity of the Fair, or its lessees, licensees, or the general public on those grounds or facilities; or entering and remaining on those grounds or facilities after being directed not to enter or to leave them by the executive director of the authority, or any employee or agent of the association designated by the executive director, to maintain order on those grounds and facilities, after a determination by the executive director, employee, or agent that the entering or remaining on those grounds or facilities is in violation of the rules and regulations of the Fair or is disrupting the orderly conduct of any authorized activity of the Fair, or its lessees, licensees, or the public on those grounds or facilities; constitutes trespass. A law enforcement officer may arrest any person on or off the premises, without a warrant, if the officer has probable cause for believing such person has committed the offense of trespass upon the grounds of the Fair. Such an arrest does not render the law enforcement officer criminally or civilly liable for false arrest, false imprisonment, or unlawful detention.

Other prohibited activities include the following:

- Disruptive, harmful, or disorderly behavior;
- Violence, fighting, threatening, taunting, physical or verbal harassment;
- Making abusive, sexist, racist, or obscene remarks or gestures;
- Intoxication or any signs of impairment related to alcohol or drug consumption;
- Engaging in commercial activity not authorized by the Fair;
- Entering into restricted areas without permission from the Fair, such as ride-restricted areas, animal habitats and backstage areas;
- Commercial photography, videotaping and recording are prohibited;
- Use of tobacco products (i.e. cigarettes or cigars) or e-cigarettes or vaporizers, except in designated areas;
- Running, inciting others to run, blocking pathways, loitering or forming large groups that obstruct the path of travel for patrons;
- Selling Fair tickets, credentials or other entitlements;
- Failure to comply with ride and game rules, or requests from Fair Staff, including those relating to Fairground policies, operations and emergency response.

4. Non-Solicitation/First Amendment Policy

An individual may not advertise, canvass, petition, solicit, or disseminate written materials, or attempt to sell merchandise or goods, in any location within the Fairgrounds, which includes the parking areas, of the Fair.

Notwithstanding the above, it is the policy of the Fair to allow free speech activity whenever said activity is not inconsistent with the normal operations or activities of the Fair. However, due to the unique nature of the activities at the Fair, there necessitates the creation of a First Amendment Activity Zone. The Fair specifically finds that the buildings and Fairgrounds become congested with numerous patrons and vehicles during the annual Fair and other events. The Fair further finds that pedestrian traffic is generally confined to narrow walkways to and from various areas and the First Amendment Activity Zone is designed to balance the interests by those engaged in First Amendment Activity with the Fair's interest in providing reasonable and safe movement of patrons.

First Amendment Activity Zone is defined to mean the place which the Fair has designated for the exercise of First Amendment activities on the Fairgrounds. The location of the First Amendment Activity Zone shall be determined and located annually by the Fair.

The Fair reserves the right to place a sign or signs in the areas adjacent to the designated First Amendment Zone stating that the activities in which the speaker is engaging are not sanctioned, condoned, or endorsed by the Fair.

Any organization or individuals seeking to engage in First Amendment Activities shall ensure their conduct and the use of any signs, banners, or other devices do not result in injuries to patrons or property; persons engaged in First Amendment Activities shall comply with the following restrictions on time, place and manner:

Time Restrictions for First Amendment Activities:

First Amendment activities may occur during the opening hours of the Fair and when the Fair facilities are licensed to third parties. Because of security, safety, and cost concerns, First Amendment activities are not permitted at any other times.

On-site Registration: Organizations or individuals desiring to engage in First Amendment Activities on the Fairgrounds must register with the Fair at least 24

hours prior to the planned First Amendment Activity. The purpose of the Fair registration is not to censor in any way or review discretionarily the content of the speech involved, but to allow sufficient opportunity for the Fair to assign space for First Amendment Activities and to provide the participants with copies of the rules governing the use of the First Amendment Activities Zone. Registration will be granted on a first-come, first served basis. A request for registration may be made at least 24 hours prior to the planned First Amendment Activity, but not more than 15 days prior to the planned First Amendment Activity at the Fair. Interested parties should apply at the Administration Offices of the Florida State Fair, 4800 U.S. Highway 301 North. Information to be provided shall include, but is not limited to:

- The date and time of the planned event;
- The nature of the planned activity;
- The approximate number of persons proposed to be involved; and
- A designated contact person, including a means of communication of said person such as an address, email, or phone number.

In evaluating the registration, the Fair will not discriminate on the basis of content of ideas or beliefs. The Fair may, however, require certain individuals or organization to maintain a reasonable distance from other individuals or organizations, if there is reasonable belief Fair's Chief Executive Officer, or any employee or agent of the association designated by the Fair's Chief Executive Officer that there may be conflict among or between various individuals or groups, or if groups with competing views or incompatible philosophies have requested use of the same general area on the same date and during the same hours.

A registrant may not use unprotected speech, in any manner, such as fighting words or obscenities. Within the Fair grounds, no individual shall participate in loud, rude, or unreasonable behavior; disturb the public peace; make threatening comments, actions or gestures towards others; obstruct the use and enjoyment of any facility, area or event; act in a disorderly manner; or participate in any behavior or activity which in the opinion of the Fair's Chief Executive Officer, or any employee or agent of the Fair designated by the Fair's Chief Executive Officer, may affect the safety or well-being of any person attending the Fair or a Fair licensed event.

5. ADA & Service Animals

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (“ADA”), persons needing auxiliary communicative aids and services for the Fair should call (813) 621-7821 prior to visiting.

During the 12 days of the Fair, pets or animals are not allowed on the Fairgrounds, with the exception of service animals, as defined in the ADA, or animals approved as part of an exhibition. Service dogs are those that have been trained to perform tasks directly related to a person’s disability.

6. Miscellaneous

Persons entering the Fairgrounds are subject to video surveillance and to having their image and/or likeness reproduced for promotional and/or publicity purposes in Fair, Sponsor or Media photography, video, broadcasts and/or webcasts. Proper attire, including shirts and shoes are required to be worn at all times. Smoking is not allowed in indoor facilities, including vapes and e-cigarettes. Persons entering a facility assume all risks incidental to the event. All guests are expected to behave in a family-friendly manner.

7. Resales of Admission Ticket Policy

While on the Fairgrounds or within 1,500 feet of Fair property, no person shall offer to resell or solicit the resale of any ticket for entry to the Fair or for any event or amusement at the Fairgrounds. Any person engaged in such activities will be directed to cease and desist; and failure to do so may result in removal from the Fairgrounds and/or possible arrest.

8. Security Measures/Bag Policy

All persons, and items carried, or held by them, may be subject to screening/security checks, including X-ray scanner, upon entry to the Fairgrounds.

The Fair reserves the right to deny admission, prevent entry, or require a person already admitted to leave the Fairgrounds, without refund, liability or compensation, for failure to comply with Florida and local laws, these policies, for unsafe, illegal or offensive behavior, for safety, security or order, or if the Fair’s Chief Executive Officer, or any employee or agent of the Fair designated by the Fair’s Chief Executive Officer consider that the circumstances otherwise so require, in his or her sole and absolute discretion.

The Fair may from time to time, in its sole and absolute discretion, without prior notice and without refund, liability or compensation, change the operating hours of the Fair, close the Fairgrounds, or any part of it temporarily, as circumstances so require.

9. Youth Attendance

All children should be supervised by an adult. Fairgoers under 18 years old entering after 5 p.m. must be accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or chaperone 21 years of age or older. Proof of age may be required. IDs may be verified at the gate.

Each adult can only chaperone 4 minors at a time. Groups larger than 4 individuals under the age of 18 will require an additional chaperone for every 4 minors.

I.D. checks may be conducted and may be required at the entrance gates before entering the Fairgrounds. Anyone who violates or attempts to bypass entrances where security checkpoints are in place has committed a trespass offense which is subject to prosecution.

Chaperones are required to remain at the Fair if they are bringing minors. Any adult who drops off minors (even if their own admission fees are paid), are in direct violation of the policy.

Any and all misbehaving minors will be taken to Gate 4 to be reunited with their parent, guardian, or chaperone. Failure to comply will result in immediate dismissal from the Fairgrounds.

The Fair considers chaperones as a parent, guardian, or other supervising adult age 21 or over with a valid ID, including a photograph and date of birth.

Valid types of identification include driver's license, non-driver ID card, passport, visa, or military ID.

Organized and ticketed group outings, such as school, church, corporate, summer camp, sports, and other pre-scheduled group visits are exempt from the policy, provided they have established chaperone policies and practices already in place.