

CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR

ENTERTAINER HANDBOOK 2025

COMMUNITY STAGES

ENTERTAINER HANDBOOK

Thank you for your interest in performing at the 2025 California State Fair. Here at the Fair, we are thrilled to offer an opportunity to feature talent in front of audiences of all sizes. Please remember that these performances are offered to provide exposure and experience rather than for financial gain. The California State Fair has a very limited entertainment budget and those groups willing to perform for free will be considered first.

APPLICATION GENERAL GUIDELINES

Submission of an application does not guarantee a booking, nor does it constitute a guaranteed agreement to provide a stage, space, services, or compensation. Each performing group must have a separate application. Multiple groups under one name will not be accepted.

All applications **MUST** be filled out online and must be filled out completely with no missing information in order to be accepted.

FAXES, WALK-INS, MAILED OR EMAILED APPLICATIONS

WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

Once you submit your online application you will automatically receive confirmation that your application was successfully submitted. Please be sure to print your submission confirmation page which will include your specific application reference number. We will need that number to follow up on your application should there be any questions/issues. Applications received after the February 15th deadline will automatically be placed on the waiting list.

If you are **NOT** booked, you will be notified by email and placed on our waiting list. If we receive cancellations, we will select from the waiting list. We will pull from the waiting list **AFTER** the applications received prior to the deadline have been processed.

Applicants with the most availability have the best opportunity of getting booked to perform. Weekend spots are the hardest to accommodate.

Each year we start the screening process over. If you have applied for or performed at the Fair before, you will still be required to fill out an application.

Entertainment applications are only for **COMMUNITY STAGE ENTERTAINMENT**. This includes the following stages:

- **Promenade Stage** - Bands, musicians, all community groups.
- **Center Stage** - There is an extremely limited number of performance spots available on this stage. No bands will be booked for this stage.
- **Wine Garden Stage** - Small solo or duo acoustic acts only
- **Craft Brew Stage** - Small acoustic acts only
- **Western Saloon Stage** - Small bands
- **Tiki Lounge Stage** - Small bands
- **Blues & Brews Stage** - Daytime bands and musicians
- **Cantina 1854 Stage** - Hispanic entertainment

BOOKING INFORMATION

Once we process your application and you are chosen to perform at the 2025 California State Fair, we will send out an EMAIL OFFER. Because the Entertainment Department corresponds primarily by email, be sure to list an email address on your application that you will check regularly. Be sure to also check your spam/junk file for anything from the California State Fair and add entertainment@calexpo.com and booking@calexpo.com emails to your address book. Once you accept an offer you will receive an email with "NEXT STEPS" Information.

NOTE: There are deadline dates included in your NEXT STEPS document. Please pay attention to the deadline dates and save the email for future reference.

PLEASE DO NOT CALL OR EMAIL THE OFFICE TO CHECK ON YOUR BOOKING STATUS. THANK YOU!

SELECTION CRITERIA

We appreciate everyone who has the desire to perform at the California State Fair. We could not have grounds entertainment without our community groups and we thank you. Community stages are meant to promote talent in our communities across the state. The California State Fair has extremely limited entertainment budgets so scheduling priority is given to groups that are willing to perform on a beautiful stage with professional lighting and sound, in front of large crowds and on a volunteer basis. After all of the volunteer groups have been booked, we look to the groups that will only play for compensation and make very careful, considerate choices with the few paid spots that are available.

Because of the volume of applications received, not all groups may be accommodated. Each application for performance time during the fair is given consideration by Management on the following basis:

- Timely receipt of a completed application;
- Uniqueness and appeal of performance;
- Appropriateness of the performance for our Fair audience;
- Overall presentation of promotional material; and
- For returning applicants, a satisfactory history of evaluation, as conducted by the California State Fair Management.

COMPENSATION, TRAVEL, LODGING AND MEALS

The California State Fair **does not** provide travel, lodging or meals for community acts booked to perform at the fair. Compensation for the community stages is limited and groups willing to perform for free public exposure are given priority booking.

MEGAN'S LAW FORM

This form is **mandatory** and will require the following information for each performer, and crew/administrator 18 years of age and older.

- Full Name (first, middle and last)
- Date of Birth
- Zip Code (current residence)
- Driver's License Number and Issuing State (OR Identification Number and Issuing State)
- Phone Number (including area code)

Once you have accepted your time slot and have been sent the NEXT STEPS email, each performance group representative must ensure that the Megan's Law Form is completed.

The Megan's Law Form must be filled out completely, legibly, and accurately as this will also serve to determine the number of admission credentials and parking passes each group will receive. All incomplete and/or illegible Megan's Law Forms will be returned and will delay credential distribution and may result in the cancellation of performance. Specific instructions and a link to the Megan's Law Form will be provided in the NEXT STEPS email.

NOTE - Performers who are **17 years old and younger** DO NOT need to have their information included in the Megan's Law Form. However, you will be required to indicate the number of minor and adult performers, and crew/administrators in the UPDATED Entertainment Application form. This form link will be provided in the NEXT STEPS email.

CANCELLATIONS

If you need to **CANCEL** your performance, your **Notice of Cancellation** must be in writing, via email, to entertainment@calexpo.com, 48 hours prior to performance date to allow arrangements to be made for replacements. Notification may first be made by telephone call; however, the written cancellation must follow. Performers who fail to appear without adequate advance notification will not be allowed to perform at future fairs.

Misrepresentation of your group on the application, or in photographs accompanying the application, is grounds for cancellation. The California State Fair reserves the right to select acts that it deems most appropriate.

STAGE AND TIME ALLOCATION POLICIES

Performers do not get to choose their stage. Returning applicants might not get the same stage or time from year to year. We do try to accommodate all requests for dates and times, but please understand it is not always possible. All performance times are a minimum of 20 minutes and a maximum of 60 minutes.

Performers check in with the Stage Manager at least 60 minutes prior to performance time. All songs must be on Mp3 technology (iPod, Cell phones, etc.) with the following requirements.

- Be prepared to facilitate your own music
- Appropriate USB/Aux cords
- Backup equipment in case of failure with main equipment intended for playing music
- Battery fully charged to accommodate full set
- If your music is on a flash drive, you must bring your own laptop, cords, etc.
- **Absolutely NO CDs**

PERFORMANCE POLICIES AND EVALUATIONS

The California State Fair is a family event. The attire and image of all performers, as well as content of performance, must be family friendly. Shirts and shoes must be worn at all times. The State Fair management has the right to monitor sound levels and make adjustments at its sole discretion. To produce a quality, attractive, family-oriented experience for our patrons, and to determine future eligibility to perform, all performances are evaluated during the State Fair. Each performance group's designated party is responsible for informing all performers of the impact these evaluations have on future participation at the California State Fair. These evaluations are based on the following:

- Timely arrival of group
- Organization of the group

- Attitude and professionalism of performers and directors
- Adherence to performance rules & regulations, along with general Fair rules & regulations
- Adherence to scheduled time
- Audience response
- Overall performance

Please see section “Prohibited Items and Activities” in the Entertainer Handbook for the complete list of prohibited items and activities.

If we experience inclement weather or in case of an emergency, and it is the State Fair's decision to stop a show on any stage, or stages, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to rebook a performance. If you are cancelled, and want to be rebooked, please contact the Entertainment Department.

PHOTOGRAPHY AND VIDEOGRAPHY

Performers may bring a photographer and/or videographer, but they need to be cleared by the Entertainment Department and notified of our rules and regulations. All photographers and videographers **MUST** be included in the Megan's Law Form. Photographers and videographers with professional equipment or tripods will be treated as part of your performance group's crew; if information is not provided beforehand, access will not be guaranteed. They will also need to be in full compliance with the Stage Manager for that day.

PROHIBITED ITEMS AND ACTIVITIES

Visit <https://calexpostatefair.com/about-us/safety-security/> for complete list of prohibited items and activities.

- Offensive or inappropriate language. This includes all profanity/cuss words in your music tracks.
- Depictions of pornographic, lewd, or obscene images.
- Any material that promotes or depicts sexual, racial, or religious harassment or discrimination.
- Pyrotechnics or weapons of any kind, including martial arts weapons. (Please call the Entertainment Department for details regarding pyrotechnics equipment or weapons if any are considered part of your performance).
- Items are **NOT** to be thrown from the stage into the audience.
- NO confetti cannons are allowed.

NOTE: California State Fair Management reserves the right to approve, in its sole and exclusive discretion, all merchandise, displays, materials and images. Management also reserves the right to determine whether an item is considered offensive or in poor taste, and to prohibit the free distribution/sale/display of such an item.

MERCHANDISE SALES

Arrangements for the sale of merchandise must be made in advance by contacting the Entertainment Department at entertainment@calexpo.com at least two weeks prior to your performance. An 8-foot table will be at the stage designated for the sale of merchandise. At the end of your performance, please clean up after yourself and dispose of all trash.

SOLICITATION POLICIES

You **MUST** have approval in advance from the Entertainment Department for the distribution of advertising, handbills, flyers, tokens, or other material during the California State Fair. If approval is granted, distribution will be limited to the scheduled performance time at your assigned stage. Tacking or posting of an advertisement, bill, sign, banner, or printed matter is prohibited. No one is allowed to solicit or distribute materials while roving on the grounds. No “playing for tips” or other tip solicitation is allowed.

Conducting personal business on Cal Expo (California State Fair) property prior to, during or after a performance is prohibited unless authorized by California State Fair Management. Performers will not offer or give any gift or gratuity to any employee or officer of Cal Expo (California State Fair). Employees and officers are not permitted to accept gifts or gratuities.

FAIR LIABILITIES

The California State Fair and Exposition is not responsible for fire, theft, damage to, or loss of vehicles, or articles left therein, on the premises. Persons parking in non-designated areas do so at their own risk and are subject to towing and storage fees. The California State Fair Management reserves the final and absolute right to interpret rules and regulations and to arbitrarily settle and determine all matters, questions, or differences in regard thereto, or otherwise arising out of, connected with, or incident to the California State Fair. It further reserves the right to determine unforeseen matters not covered by these rules, to amend or add to these rules as in its judgment it may determine necessary.

ADMISSION AND CREDENTIAL POLICIES

PERFORMER CREDENTIAL POLICIES

Each performance group will be allotted one (1) admission credential (aka admission ticket) for each performer per performance day. Additionally, admission credentials for crew and administrators (including assistants, directors, and chaperones) will be allocated based on the size of the group as indicated by the information on the Megan's Law Form and the UPDATED Entertainment Application:

- 1 - 5 performers: 3 crew/administrator tickets maximum
- 6 - 10 performers: 6 crew/administrator tickets maximum
- 11 - 30 performers: 9 crew/administrator tickets maximum
- 31 - 50 performers: 12 crew/administrator tickets maximum
- 51+ performers: At the discretion of the Entertainment Dept

For those performers with several small children in their group, extra crew/administrators tickets may be available but will be issued at the discretion of the Entertainment Dept. **Child performers (17 years of age and younger) DO NOT automatically get accompanying chaperone tickets.**

Admission credentials will not be issued to relatives, friends, guests, or fans of the performers. Performer discount admission tickets will be available for purchase. All performers, friends and family of performers will need admission tickets to enter the Fairgrounds.

Misuse of the credentials will result in the performance cancellation and will affect future participation with the California State Fair.

NOTE - All unused admission credentials must be turned in to the Stage Manager on the day of your performance.

PARKING POLICIES

An appropriate number of parking passes will be determined by the Entertainment Dept. The general rule is 70% of the number of performers. Because of limited parking spots for entertainers, carpooling, mass transportation, and ride-share options are strongly recommended. Acts that abuse their Parking Passes by using these for purposes other than their performance will **NOT** be allowed to perform in the future. **Parking Passes must be left on the dashboard and may not be reused or replicated for re-entry.**

NOTE - all unused parking passes must be given to the Stage Manager on the day of your performance.

PERFORMER DISCOUNT ADMISSION TICKETS

For those who would like to purchase performer discounted tickets for family and friends, the Entertainment Dept will provide specific details in the Performance Confirmation Letter.

COMMUNITY STAGES

COMMUNITY STAGE SIZES

Performance Areas:

- Promenade Stage - 24' x 36'
- Center Stage - 24' x 36'
- Wine Garden Stage - 8' x 8'

Stage dimensions for Craft Brew, Western Saloon, Tiki Lounge, Blues & Brews and Cantina Stages will be available soon.

The California State Fair will provide the following:

For the Stages; Promenade, Center, Tiki Lounge, Western Saloon, Blues & Brews, Wine Garden, Craft Brew and Cantina.

- Electrical Outlets
- Professional sound tech and lights
- Microphones
- Mic Stands
- Monitors
- Tables*
- Chairs*
- Dressing Room*

**Only available at the Promenade Stage & Center Stage*

Performers will need to bring the following:

- Instruments/Backline
- All Props
- Costumes
- Dance groups and vocalists singing to tracks must bring all music on MP3 technology, i.e. iPod, iPad, mobile phone. If your music is on a flash drive, you must bring your own laptop and cords.
- MP3 Aux Cables
- **Absolutely NO CDs**

**THE CALIFORNIA STATE FAIR DOES NOT PROVIDE A BACKLINE.
YOU MUST BRING YOUR OWN INSTRUMENTS.**

DRESSING ROOMS

Dressing Rooms are ONLY available at the Promenade Stage and Center Stage. Dressing room space is scarce and could possibly be shared. Each group will be assigned a dressing room or rooms at the discretion of the Stage Manager. If you have a large number of performers, we advise that you have a dressing schedule when you arrive. Only performers and crew/administrators will be allowed access to this area. The entertainment crew will assist in securing dressing room space, but please be aware that no one performer or group will be allowed to take over all of the dressing room space. We ask that you vacate the dressing room area as soon as the performance has been completed. When vacating the dressing area, remove all trash and leave the dressing room as tidy as possible.