

Tennessee State Fair 2026: Dates, Tickets & Lebanon Travel Guide



The Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair, commonly known as the Tennessee State Fair, returns to Lebanon for 10 days of carnival rides, livestock shows, live entertainment, competitions, fair food, and family activities. Held at the James E. Ward Agricultural Center, the fair is one of Middle Tennessee's biggest annual events and attracts visitors looking for a classic Southern fair experience.

If you are planning a visit in 2026, this guide covers the Tennessee State Fair 2026 dates, tickets, hours, attractions, entertainment, transportation, nearby things to do, and practical travel tips.

What Is the Tennessee State Fair?

The Wilson County-Tennessee State Fair brings together agriculture, community traditions, competitions, entertainment, and carnival attractions in Lebanon, Tennessee. The 2026 edition also celebrates America's 250th anniversary with the theme “**Tennessee Voices and Volunteers Celebrating America 250!**” and highlights forestry as its featured agricultural commodity.

The fair combines traditional agricultural programming with modern entertainment, including livestock shows, carnival rides, motorsports, food vendors, competitions, historic exhibits, and performances across numerous stages.

Key Details of the Tennessee State Fair 2026

The 2026 fair runs for 10 days, giving visitors plenty of opportunities to plan a family outing, evening visit, or weekend trip to Lebanon.

- **Dates:** August 13 - 22, 2026
- **Venue:** James E. Ward Agricultural Center, 945 E. Baddour Parkway, Lebanon, Tennessee
- **Tickets:** [Check Tickets](#)

How to Get to the Tennessee State Fair

Lebanon is located east of Nashville, making the fair relatively easy to reach for both local visitors and travelers staying in the Nashville area.

- **By Car**

The fairgrounds are located at 945 E. Baddour Parkway in Lebanon. Driving is the most convenient option for visitors coming from Nashville and surrounding Middle Tennessee communities.

- **From Nashville**

Lebanon is approximately 30 miles east of downtown Nashville, making the Tennessee State Fair an easy addition to a Nashville vacation or weekend getaway.

- **Parking**

Parking is available around the fairgrounds, but demand increases during evenings, weekends, and major entertainment events. Arriving earlier can make finding a convenient parking location easier.

What to Expect at the Tennessee State Fair

The Tennessee State Fair combines traditional agricultural competitions with carnival entertainment, live performances, food, and family activities. The 2026 fair features more than 60 carnival rides, more than 150 livestock shows, numerous entertainment stages, and a wide range of competitions and exhibits.

Carnival Rides and Midway Attractions

The midway is one of the fair's biggest attractions, with more than 60 rides ranging from family-friendly options to larger thrill rides. Carnival games and other attractions add to the classic fair atmosphere.

Livestock Shows and Agriculture

Agriculture remains central to the Tennessee State Fair. Visitors can see livestock competitions, 4-H activities, agricultural exhibits, horticulture displays, and educational programs throughout the fairgrounds.

Live Entertainment

Entertainment takes place across numerous stages throughout the fair. The 2026 schedule includes music, bluegrass, clogging, square dancing, competitions, and other performances. The concert lineup includes RaeLynn and Linda Davis & Lang Scott.

Motorsports and Special Events

Motorsports events add another layer of entertainment to the fair, alongside demonstrations, competitions, pageants, and other scheduled activities.

Fair Food

Visitors can expect classic carnival favorites, Southern-inspired dishes, sweets, drinks, and other fair foods from vendors throughout the grounds. Food is an important part of the Tennessee State Fair experience, especially for visitors spending an entire evening at the fair.

Fiddlers Grove Historic Village

Fiddlers Grove Historic Village provides a glimpse into Tennessee's past and adds a historical dimension to the otherwise entertainment-focused fair experience.

2026 Special Attractions

The 2026 fair introduces several new attractions and events, including a Lumberjack Show, Freedom 250 Truck, Timber Callin' Contest, 4-H Sheep Expo, Highland Cattle Show, and Rock It the Robot.

Best Time to Visit the Tennessee State Fair

Choosing the right time can make a significant difference, especially if you want to enjoy the rides and entertainment without spending the entire visit in large crowds.

Weekday Evenings

Weekday evenings can be a good choice for travelers who want to experience the fair after the day's heat begins to ease.

Saturday Mornings

Saturday is one of the busiest periods, but arriving when the fair opens at 10 AM gives families more time to explore before the crowds build.

Evening for Rides and Entertainment

The fair becomes especially lively after sunset when the carnival lights come on and entertainment continues across the fairgrounds.

Check the Schedule Before You Go

If you're interested in a particular concert, livestock show, competition, or special event, check the official schedule before choosing your visit date.

Tennessee State Fair Tickets and Ride Deals

Understanding the ticket options before arriving can help you choose the best value for your visit. The fair offers regular admission, advance-purchase deals, season tickets, and ride packages.

General Admission

Advance daily admission is listed at \$14 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6–12, and free for children 5 and under.

Mega Ticket

The **\$35 Mega Ticket** includes fair admission plus one unlimited ride armband for one day and is available during the advance-sale period.

Season Ticket

A \$50 season ticket provides admission for all 10 days of the fair but does not include rides.

Because ticket prices and promotions can change, check the official ticket page before purchasing.

Things to Do Near Lebanon During the Fair

Lebanon's location in Middle Tennessee makes it easy to combine the fair with additional attractions and a day trip to Nashville.

Explore Historic Downtown Lebanon

Downtown Lebanon offers locally owned restaurants, shops, historic buildings, and a quieter alternative to Nashville's busy tourist districts.

Visit Cedars of Lebanon State Park

Outdoor travelers can explore hiking trails, picnic areas, forests, and recreational opportunities at Cedars of Lebanon State Park.

Explore Nashville

Visitors can extend their Tennessee State Fair trip with a visit to Nashville for live music, museums, restaurants, historic attractions, and entertainment.

Visit the Grand Ole Opry Area

The Grand Ole Opry and surrounding entertainment district provide an opportunity to experience one of Tennessee's most recognizable music destinations.

Discover Middle Tennessee's Food Scene

Lebanon and the surrounding Nashville area offer everything from traditional Southern cooking and barbecue to modern restaurants, coffee shops, and local breweries.

Travel Tips for Visiting the Tennessee State Fair

A few practical preparations can make your fair visit much more comfortable, especially during warm August weather.

- **Buy tickets in advance:** Advance purchases can provide access to special pricing and ride packages.
- **Arrive early:** This is particularly useful on Saturdays and during major entertainment events.
- **Check the daily schedule:** Plan around concerts, livestock shows, and special attractions you want to see.
- **Wear comfortable shoes:** Expect considerable walking between exhibits, stages, food vendors, and rides.
- **Stay hydrated:** August temperatures in Middle Tennessee can be hot and humid.
- **Use sunscreen:** Much of the fair experience takes place outdoors.
- **Plan your parking:** Traffic can increase around the fairgrounds during peak periods.

- **Carry a payment method:** Having a card and some cash can be useful for different vendors and activities.
- **Review the bag policy:** Security screening and metal detectors are in place at entry points.
- **Check weather conditions:** The fair's official policy states that there are no refunds or rain checks, and events are subject to weather conditions.

Is the Tennessee State Fair Worth Visiting?

The Tennessee State Fair is a strong choice for travelers who want to experience a traditional American state fair while exploring Middle Tennessee. Its combination of agriculture, livestock, carnival rides, live entertainment, Southern food, historic exhibits, and family activities gives visitors plenty to experience during a full day.

Its proximity to Nashville is another major advantage. Travelers can visit the fair in Lebanon while also exploring Music City, making it easy to turn a fair visit into a longer Tennessee getaway.

Conclusion

The Tennessee State Fair 2026 brings 10 days of rides, livestock, live entertainment, competitions, food, and family activities to Lebanon from August 13-22. From the midway and agricultural exhibits to Fiddlers Grove Historic Village and the new 2026 attractions, the fair offers a traditional Tennessee experience with plenty of modern entertainment.

Its location near Nashville also makes the event particularly appealing to travelers. You can experience the Tennessee State Fair and then continue your trip with Nashville's music, food, history, and entertainment.

Frequently Asked Questions

The following questions address the information travelers are most likely to search for before planning a visit to the Tennessee State Fair.

When is the Tennessee State Fair 2026?

The Tennessee State Fair 2026 runs from August 13 through August 22, 2026, at the James E. Ward Agricultural Center in Lebanon, Tennessee.

Where is the Tennessee State Fair held?

The fair is held at the James E. Ward Agricultural Center, also known as the Wilson County Fairgrounds, at 945 E. Baddour Parkway in Lebanon, Tennessee.

How much are Tennessee State Fair tickets?

Advance daily admission is \$14 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-12, and free for children 5 and under. Additional ticket packages and ride deals are available.

What time does the Tennessee State Fair open?

The fair opens at 4 PM on weekdays, 10 AM on Saturdays, and noon on Sundays. Closing times vary by day.

What can you do at the Tennessee State Fair?

Visitors can enjoy carnival rides, livestock shows, agricultural exhibits, live music, motorsports, fair food, competitions, historic attractions, family activities, and entertainment across multiple stages.

Who is performing at the Tennessee State Fair 2026?

The 2026 concert lineup includes RaeLynn and Linda Davis & Lang Scott, along with numerous other performances across the fairgrounds.

Is the Tennessee State Fair good for families?

Yes. The fair offers children's activities, family-friendly rides, livestock exhibits, educational programs, food, entertainment, and attractions for different age groups.

Is the Tennessee State Fair near Nashville?

Yes. The fair is held in Lebanon, approximately 30 miles east of downtown Nashville, making it convenient to combine the fair with a Nashville vacation.