



# 2026 ENTERTAINER HANDBOOK COMMUNITY STAGES

THE BIG FRESNO FAIR  
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# ENTERTAINER HANDBOOK

Thank you for your interest in performing at The Big Fresno 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 Big Fresno Fair has a very limited entertainment budget and those groups willing to perform for free will be considered first, followed by those willing to perform at a discounted rate.

APPLICATION GENERAL GUIDELINES .....	3
BOOKING INFORMATION.....	4
SELECTION CRITERIA.....	4
COMPENSATION, TRAVEL, LODGING AND MEALS.....	5
STAGE AND TIME ALLOCATION POLICIES .....	5
CANCELLATIONS.....	6
PERFORMANCE POLICIES AND EVALUATIONS.....	6
SOLICITATION POLICIES .....	7
PROHIBITED ITEMS AND ACTIVITIES.....	7
ADMISSION AND CREDENTIAL POLICIES .....	8
PERFORMER CREDENTIAL POLICIES .....	8
PARKING POLICIES.....	8
FAIR LIABILITIES .....	9
COMMUNITY STAGES .....	9

## APPLICATION GENERAL GUIDELINES

Submission of an application does not guarantee a booking, nor does it constitute any 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. Application submission deadline is May 31, 2026. Once the online application is submitted, an automatic confirmation is generated indicating a successful submission with a specific application reference number. Please be sure to print and/or save the confirmation page. The reference number is used to identify the entertainment application should there be any questions/issues down the line.

## FAXES, WALK-INS, MAILED OR EMAILED APPLICATIONS

### WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED

All applicants who submit their application by the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline will be notified by email no later than Friday, August 7, 2026, regarding whether they are chosen to perform or not. If a performer is **NOT** booked, they will be notified by email and placed on our **WAITLIST**. Should cancellations arise, we will select from the **WAITLIST**. Applications received after the May 31<sup>st</sup> deadline will automatically be placed on the **WAITLIST**. We will pull from the **WAITLIST** only after the applications received prior to the deadline have been processed.

Performers 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 or performed for The Big Fresno Fair before, you are still required to fill out an application.

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

- Save Mart Beer & Wine Garden Stage
- Pavilion Stage
- Craft Brew Court Stage
- Yosemite Station Stage

## BOOKING INFORMATION

Once we process your application and you have been chosen to perform at The Big Fresno Fair, we will send out an EMAIL INVITATION. This invitation will have a deadline to reply. **If you do not respond by the deadline date, you will forfeit your performance opportunity.** The Entertainment Department does most of its correspondence by email. Check your spam/junk file for anything from the Big Fresno Fair and add the [entertainment@fresnofair.com](mailto:entertainment@fresnofair.com) and [booking@fresnofair.com](mailto:booking@fresnofair.com) emails to your address book.

Shortly after the invitation to perform is accepted, a NEXT STEPS email will be sent. Read this email carefully and save for future reference. There are specific deadlines included in the NEXT STEPS email. Please pay close attention to the deadline dates. **Failure to complete the NEXT STEPS requirements by these deadline dates will result in forfeiture of your performance opportunity.**

NOTE: An important NEXT STEPS requirement is the Megan's Law Screening (MLS). It is the responsibility of the Performer's Authorized Representative to verify that all selected performers, chaperones, assistants, and directors, 18 years or older, have been processed through the Megan's Law Screening, and that everyone, as certified by the Authorized Representative, is not a registered sex offender per the Megan's Law Registry. Performers who are minors (17 years old or younger) DO NOT need to be screened.

*PLEASE DO NOT CALL THE OFFICE TO CHECK ON YOUR BOOKING STATUS.*

## SELECTION CRITERIA

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

Due to the volume of applications received, not all groups may be accommodated. Each application is given consideration by management based on the following:

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

## COMPENSATION, TRAVEL, LODGING AND MEALS

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

## 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 maximum of 60 minutes, unless otherwise arranged by the Entertainment Department.

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

- Be prepared to facilitate your own music.
- Bring your own USB/Aux cords.
- Bring 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 Tapes or CDs.

## CANCELLATIONS

If you need to CANCEL your performance, your Notice of Cancellation must be in writing, via email, to [entertainment@fresnofair.com](mailto:entertainment@fresnofair.com), 48 hours prior to the 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. If you cancel during the run of the fair, it must be 48 hours before the scheduled performance.

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

## PERFORMANCE POLICIES AND EVALUATIONS

The Big Fresno Fair is a family event. 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 Big Fresno 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 Big Fresno Fair. It is the performance group director's responsibility to inform all performers of the impact these evaluations have on future participation at The Big Fresno Fair. These evaluations are based on the following:

- Timely arrival of the performer/group.
- Organization of the performer/group.
- Attitude and professionalism of performers and directors.
- Adherence to performance rules & regulations, along with general Big Fresno Fair rules & regulations.
- Adherence to scheduled arrival and performance 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 The Big Fresno Fair Management decides 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.

## 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 Big Fresno Fair. If approval is granted, distribution will be limited to the scheduled performance time at your assigned stage. Tacking or posting of an advertisement, handbill, 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 The Big Fresno Fair property prior to, during or after a performance is prohibited unless authorized by Fair Management. Performers will not offer or give any gift or gratuity to any employee or officer of the Big Fresno Fair. Employees and officers are not permitted to accept gifts or gratuities.

## PROHIBITED ITEMS AND ACTIVITIES

Visit *The Big Fresno Fair's* website [HERE](#) for the complete list of *FAIR-TIME GUIDELINES, POLICIES, AND CODE OF CONDUCT*.

- Offensive or inappropriate language.
- 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.

The Big Fresno Fair Management reserves the right to approve, in its sole and exclusive discretion, all merchandise, displays, materials and images. Fair 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.

## ADMISSION AND CREDENTIAL POLICIES

### *PERFORMER CREDENTIAL POLICIES*

Each performing group will be allotted one (1) admission credential (aka admission ticket or pass) 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 in the Megan's Law Screening Certificate and Credential Count form. Admission credentials **WILL NOT** be issued to relatives, friends, guests, or fans of the performers.

- 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 Department

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

Misuse of the credentials will result in the performance cancellation and will affect any future participation with the Big Fresno Fair. Unused admission and parking passes must be turned in to the Stage Manager prior to or on the day of your performance.

### *PARKING POLICIES*

The appropriate number of parking passes will be determined by The Big Fresno Fair Entertainment Department. The general rule is 70% parking passes in relation to 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 your 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.

## FAIR LIABILITIES

The Big Fresno Fair 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 Big Fresno 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 Big Fresno 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.

## COMMUNITY STAGES

### **The Big Fresno Fair will provide the following:**

- Electrical Outlets
- Professional sound tech and lights
- Microphones
- Mic Stands
- Monitors
- Tables and chairs - *limited tables & chairs available. Request must be submitted in writing at least two weeks prior to performance to the Entertainment Department at [entertainment@fresnofair.com](mailto:entertainment@fresnofair.com) - no guarantees.*

### **Performers will need to bring the following regardless of their performance location.**

*The Big Fresno Fair does NOT provide a Backline. You MUST bring your own instruments.*

- 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 thumb drive, you will need to bring your own laptop and cords/cables.
- MP3 and aux cables.
- **Absolutely NO tapes or CDs.**