

**2026
OPEN ENTRY
BOOK**

**BATON
TWIRLING**



**INDIANA
STATE FAIR**

BATON TWIRLING COMPETITION

2026 ENTRY BOOK

Entry Department

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Terms and Conditions for Baton Twirling Competition



Tim Phelps
Indiana State Fair Board

Coordinator: Judy Leap

- NEW Dates and Time of Competition:** The 2026 Indiana State Fair Baton Twirling Competition will be held on **Sunday, August 23, 2026 AND at 9am EST in the Indiana Farm Bureau Fall Creek Pavilion** (on the Indiana State Fairgrounds). See below for the schedule. The event is free to the public with paid Fair admission.
- The Indiana State Fair Baton Twirling Competition is open to all twirlers from any state.
- This is a U.S.T.A. sanctioned contest—all U.S.T.A. rules and U.S.T.A. music will be used.
- This contest is sanctioned by the Division of Student Activities of the Indiana Secondary School Administrators.
- All entrants must be U.S.T.A. members (individual, group, organization, or intro membership). U.S.T.A. offers a intro membership (which is insurance only—not a U.S.T.A. membership) for contestants entering local contests. A competitor may participate in any local contest by paying the \$7.00 fee rather than a regular or associate member fee. Your intention to enroll as a U.S.T.A. intro membership must be noted on your online registration. Any entry received without a U.S.T.A. number will be required to show proof of membership or pay intro membership. If you have any questions regarding this, please do not hesitate to ask. These terms and conditions apply to everyone equally.
- ELIGIBILITY STANDARDS ESTABLISHED. Novice - A contestant who has never won less than three (3) competitive first-place wins in a particular event. If there is an athlete who has previously been competing in Beginner but has less than three (3) competitive first-place wins, they are eligible to compete in Novice. Beginner athletes have won less than 5 competitive first places in a particular event. Intermediate athletes have won less than 10 competitive first places in a particular event. Advanced athletes have won 10 or more competitive first place awards in a particular event.
- Effective September 1, 2019, athletes may only enter one level up from their current level in a particular event. For example, a beginner athlete may enter intermediate but not advanced, since that would be two levels up.
- Teams will enter under the team members' average age. Add all ages of group members and divide by the number in the group; round down, not up. Entrants may be in more than one Dance Twirl group, etc. as long as they are not competing against themselves.
- *Tiny Tot Team Age: All team members in Tiny Tot teams must be seven (7) years of age or younger. The average age rule no longer applies to this category.
- Parade Corps can no longer pass in review. The penalty of 2.0 will be reflected on the Marching and Maneuvering Score Sheet.
- Prior year's champions at all levels MAY compete in the same event in which they won their championships in the previous year.
- The Indiana State Fair Grand Champions and Beginner and Intermediate Champions will be determined by re-competing individually.
- The top 2 in each age category, in 2-Baton, Artistic Twirl, Strut and Solo will compete in Finals. Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced.
- The Indiana State Fair Department Director of Baton Twirling Competition assumes the right to combine any age/group/event/division with three or less contestants.
- Basic Strut, eight count square cradling baton with arm swing; Military "L" is done with a 32 count, retraced "L" with one, two beat of baton in right hand, left hand on hip; Presentation, second 32 count of U.S.T.A. Strut. Novice Beginner Solo, Intermediate Solo, all 2-and 3-baton, time limit 1 minute and 29 seconds each. Please note the new Strut USTA music is 1 minute and 10 seconds each. Advance Solo, Pairs, Special Advance Solo, 1 minute and 44 seconds each. All Artistic Twirls and Artistic Twirl Pairs current U.S.T.A. Dance Twirl/Artistic Twirl Music Costume Modeling in a 'T' must carry baton; no twirling; maximum one (1) minute. Please note that the basic music has been slowed down.
- Parade Corps format: A unit director must declare the classification of the competing unit by September 1. That declaration will be maintained until September 1 of the following year unless the unit has scored out of the category to a higher range. Once you have declared the unit, you may not go back. The classifications are listed under Parade Corps.

17. Artistic Groups: Event is an ensemble of baton twirling athletes that prioritizes EFFECT and ENTERTAINMENT as the cornerstone for the event. The GROUP achieves this through the use of effective characterization, interesting staging, creativity, artistic detailing, and keen sense of musical interpretation, all interlaced to create an entertaining production value. The Artistic Group event is judged via 4 captions: General Effect 40 points, Design/Choreography 30 points, Baton 15 points, and Body 15 points.
18. One level will be offered.
19. Number of members: minimum of 10. No maximum.
20. The group may consist of members of both sexes, if so desired.
21. Content restriction will follow the Content Restrictions for groups – See Page 10 or call Baton Twirling Competition Coordinator, Judy Leap 317-258-5757.
22. Set systems used. All judges are currently U.S.T.A. certified judges.
23. The contest will be held in the Indiana Farm Bureau Fall Creek Pavilion at Indiana State Fair.
24. Restrooms will be available for dressing facilities. Boots may be worn; no powder or rosin allowed.
25. The Indiana State Fair Commission, the contest coordinator, IBTA, and USTA will assume no liability for any injury or accident occurring in transit to or from the Fair or while at the Fair. Not responsible for lost or stolen articles.
26. Beginner Duet time limit is 1.5 minutes.
27. Dance Twirl teams: 2-3 minutes. Twirl Teams: 2-3:30 minutes time limit.
28. Parade Corps: 2-4 minutes. Pom Teams: 1-2.5 minutes.
29. Artistic Group: 3-3.5 minutes.
30. Parade March is now a sanctioned event made up of one (1) person. The USTA Basic/ Military music will be used. This routine is performed in a square in the floor pattern dictated for basic strut in the USTA rule book.
31. **Parade Line is an unsanctioned event made up of two to three (2 to 3) individuals who will march in place in a horizontal straight line. No changing of formations, gymnastics, or illusions will be permitted. The USTA Basic/Military music will be used. The first eight counts of music may be used as an introduction or by just holding a pose. The age divisions will be determined by averaging the ages of the participants.**
32. **The date for determining an athletes age for competition in USTA events has changed from December 31st of each calendar year to August 31st of each competition season. Athletes will compete at the age they are on August 31st of each competition season. The competition season runs from September 1st to August 31st.**

1. All entries must be made in accordance with the terms and conditions.
2. **Online Entry** - To enter into the Indiana State Fair, please go to <https://exhibitorscorner.indianastatefair.com/> and enter online follow the prompts. Each exhibitor is required to pay an entry fee at the time of entry. An exhibitor will not be considered entered into the Indiana State Fair until payment is made in full. Payment can be made online with a valid credit card. Entries will not be accepted over the phone.
3. **Entry Deadlines and Fees** – see below.

Enter between
 May 18, 2026 - July 1, 2026
 Department Fee: \$10
 Per Class Fee:
 Individual –
 All Basic Events: \$8
 Novice & Beginner Events: \$10
 Advanced Events: \$12
 Duet, Compulsories, Movement Techniques: \$12 per person
 Trios, Teams or Corps: \$40 per person

Enter Between
 July 2, 2026 – July 31, 2026
 Department Fee: \$20
 Per Class Fee:
 Individual –
 All Basic Events: \$8
 Novice & Beginner Events: \$10
 Advanced Events: \$12
 Duet, Compulsories, Movement Techniques: \$12 per person
 Trios, Teams or Corps: \$40 per person

Each participant/exhibitor registered will receive one (1) Fair admission and one (1) one-day parking voucher

4. Entry fees apply per entrant, per event for individuals or duets, payable by credit card online. To register a trio, team, or corps one parent or coach must register the trio, team, or corps and list team members and pay trios, team, or corps fees once.
5. No entries will be accepted after July 31, 2026.
6. Each participant/exhibitor registered will receive one (1) Fair admission and one (1) one- day parking voucher, regardless of the number of events entered.
7. Teams should send music to ibatwirl@outlook.com by August 10, 2026.
8. Entry questions? Call 317-927-7515

Order of Events

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Compulsories 2. Movement Techniques 3. Short Program 4. Free Style 5. Parade Corps -1 Level 6. Entertainment Corps – 1 Level 7. Dance Twirl Teams 8. Twirling Teams 9. Artistic Group – 1 Level - Restrictions 10. Show Team – 1 Level 11. Pom Teams 12. Trios 13. Collegiate Events 14. Beginner 2-Baton 15. Intermediate 2-Baton 16. Advanced 2-Baton 17. Advanced 3-Baton 18. Beginner 2-Baton Championships 19. Intermediate 2-Baton Championships 20. Beginner/Intermediate Artistic Twirl 21. Advanced Artistic Twirl 22. Artistic Twirl Pairs 23. Beginner Artistic Twirl Championships | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 24. Intermediate Artistic Twirl Championships 25. Costume Modeling 26. Basic Strut 27. Military “L” 28. Presentation 29. Individual Parade March 30. Parade Line March 31. X Strut 32. Novice Strut 33. Beginner strut 34. Intermediate Strut 35. Advanced Strut 36. Beginner Strut Championships 37. Intermediate Strut Championships 38. Novice Beginner Solo 39. Beginner Solo 40. Intermediate Solo 41. Special Advanced Solo 42. Advanced Solo 43. Duet’s 44. Beginner Solo Championships 45. Intermediate Solo Championships |
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Classes & Class Descriptions



Category	Description
Entertainment Corps (10 or more twirling members)	Youth / Junior / Senior
Parade Corps (10 or more twirling members)	Youth / Junior / Senior
Show Teams	Primary (0-9 years)/Juvenile (10-13 years)
	Junior (14-17 years)/Senior (18+ years)
	Small (4-8 member)/Large (9 or more members)
Dance Twirl Teams Novice, A, AA, AAA, and Elite. <i>Content Restrictions Apply.</i>	Tiny Tot /Primary /Juvenile /Junior /Senior
	Small (4-8 members)
	Large (9 or more members)
Twirling Teams Novice, A, AA, AAA, and Elite. <i>Content Restrictions Apply.</i>	Primary / Juvenile / Junior/Senior
	Small (4-8 members)
	Large (9 or more members)
Artistic Groups	One Level
Trios	Primary / Juvenile / Junior / Senior
Pom Team	Primary / Juvenile
	Junior (15 years and under)
	Senior (1 years and over)
Costume Modeling	Primary (0-9 years)
	Juvenile (10-13 years)
	Junior (14-17 years)
	Senior (18+ years)
Basic Strut Military 'L' Presentation Parade March	Novice
	Beginner
	Intermediate
	Advanced
Parade Line March	Primary (0-9 years)
	Juvenile (10-13 years)
	Junior (14-17 years)
2-Baton 3-Baton Artistic Twirl Strut X Strut Solo Novice/Beginner /Intermediate /Advanced	Novice
	Beginner
	Intermediate
	Advanced
Duet (Solo Duet, Artistic Twirl Duet)	Primary (combined ages 0-18)
	Juvenile (combined ages 19-26 years old)
	Junior (combined ages 27-34 years old)
	Senior (combined ages 35 years & over)
Short Program Compulsories Movement Techniques Freestyle Collegiate	As prescribed in the Competitive Achievement Program. For further information, contact contest coordinator

Awards & Premiums



Description	Awards	Premiums
Grand Champion Solo Twirler	Banner	\$100
Grand Champion Strutter	Banner	\$100
Grand Champion 2-Baton Twirler	Banner	\$100
Grand Champion Artistic Twirler	Banner	\$100
Beginner Solo-Strut-2-Baton Artistic Twirl	Banner	\$25
Intermediate Solo-Strut-2-Baton Artistic Twirl	Banner	\$35
All Solo Events	1 st Place Trophy 2 nd , 3 rd , 4 th , 5 th ribbons	
Grand Champion Groups (twirling teams, dance twirl teams, parade corps, show corps, show team, trios, pom teams, and artistic group)	First Place Trophy and ribbon to each member	
Second, Third, Fourth, & Fifth Place Teams	Ribbon to each member	

All emergencies, safety concerns and suspicious activity should be reported immediately to the Indiana State Fair Operations Center at (317) 927-7520.

Prohibited Items

1. No alcoholic beverages may be brought on to the Fairgrounds during the annual Indiana State Fair.
2. No person in possession of a deadly weapon shall be permitted onto or be permitted to remain on the Fairgrounds, unless that person can demonstrate that the deadly weapon is intended for sale or trade at an event that is taking place on the Fairgrounds (Indiana Administrative Code, Title 80, Section 11-2-2(b)).
 - a. The definition of a deadly weapon includes firearms, knives or sharp bladed items (regardless of blade length), or any object carried or possessed with the intent to be used as a deadly weapon.
 - b. Exhibitors will be permitted to carry and use knives and other tools necessary for the proper care of their animals, tack, and equipment. However, these items may only be carried within the confines of the barn in which the animal(s) is housed. Knives and other tools carried outside of the barn are subject to confiscation under the deadly weapon rules found in the Indiana Administrative Code, Title 80, Section 11-2-2.
3. Any deadly weapon found in the possession of a person while on the Fairgrounds is subject to immediate confiscation by persons authorized to provide security protection services as well as city, county, and state police agencies. Federal, state, or local law enforcement officers or those employed or authorized by the Indiana State Fair Commission are excepted from this rule (Indiana Administrative Code, Title 80, Section 11-2-2 (a), (c), and Section 11-2-3 CI) and (2)).
4. Any person properly licensed to carry a firearm must secure the firearm in a locked compartment of his/her vehicle and it shall not be visible to passersby (Indiana Administrative Code, Title 80, Section 11-2-2(d)).
5. No generators (not attached to a working/in transit RV/trailer/living quarters) or animal scales are permitted on the Fairgrounds except those furnished by the State Fair.

Animal Policies & Procedures

6. The only animals permitted on the Fairgrounds during the Indiana State Fair are animals registered, boarded or entered for exhibition, show or other competition; animals that will be used in a scheduled performance or to perform work at the Fair; law enforcement animals and service animals. Household and family pets, whether domestic or wild, and service animals not recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Section 36.104 are not permitted on the Fairgrounds during the Indiana State Fair. No person in possession of or having control over an unauthorized animal shall be permitted onto or be permitted to remain on the Fairgrounds (Indiana Administrative Code, Title 80, Section 11-2-4).
7. Animals entered for exhibition, show or competition and animals scheduled to perform must remain in approved areas at all times. Violation may be disqualifiable offenses. See individual department terms and conditions for more specific information.

General Safety Policies & Procedures

8. Smoking is not permitted inside barns and buildings. Smoking is only permitted in designated areas on the Fairgrounds.
9. Cameras are located throughout the Fairgrounds for security and promotional purposes.
10. Motorized vehicles, including golf carts, are not permitted in any barns or buildings (IFC 313.1). This does not apply to personal mobility devices. A valid State issued driver's license is required to operate a motorized vehicle including a golf cart on the Fairgrounds.
11. Fans are permitted, so long as they have safety-approved shrouds. See individual department requirements pertaining to size, allowable number, and placement of fans.

Tents, Canopies, & Stall Coverings

- Any tent, canopy, or stall covering in a building must be made of a material to allow for or not block water distribution as well as meet or exceed NFPA Standard 701.
- A portable fire extinguisher must be located under each tent, canopy, or covering. Fire extinguishers mounted in the building by the ISFC do not apply. Exhibitors must have their own fire extinguisher under each tent, canopy, or covering.

Fire Safety

- The Indiana State Fire Marshal's Office conducts regular inspections of all barns and buildings during the Indiana State Fair to identify any potential fire hazards or threats to life safety. The decisions of the fire marshal are final and will be enforced.
- Fire extinguishers are located throughout every barn and building. They may be used for approved purposes only. Do not use a fire extinguisher if you are not trained on its proper use.
- Most buildings and barns are equipped with fire alarm and/or fire suppression systems. In the event of a fire, these systems should be activated.
- Emergency exits are clearly marked in all barns and buildings. In the event of an emergency, calmly evacuate through the nearest accessible emergency exit.
- Do not store tack/supplies in primary aisles, in front of exit doors, or in/under stairwells.

Severe Weather

- In the event of severe weather impacting the Fairgrounds, be it a severe thunderstorm or tornado, you may receive instructions over the barn or building public address system. If the barn or building is not equipped with a public-address system, State Fair staff will notify people in person.
- During a severe weather situation, you will be asked to remain inside, away from windows and doors whenever possible. Staff may be instructed to close all doors and windows, including overhead doors.
- Larger barns and buildings will be used for shelter-in-place (points of refuge) to allow Fairgoers to seek shelter. This may cause an influx of people into livestock areas and result in the postponement of a show or exhibition. Exhibitors should be mindful of this, keep aisles and walkways clear, and tend to their animals accordingly.

Food Preparation/Cooking Policies & Procedures

- Cooking inside and adjacent to barns and buildings is not advised. The Indiana State Fair Biosecurity plan recommends that food be excluded from animal areas. If cooking and/or food preparation is necessary, the following policies and procedures must be followed:
 - All grills and flat-top cook surfaces that are powered by gas, charcoal, or other fuel are prohibited on the Fairgrounds. Only electric-powered cooking devices are allowed. **Any cooking device with an open flame is prohibited.**
 - Approved cooking devices are limited to crockpots, or similar slow cookers, and microwave ovens. Cooking devices must have a cover approved for use with the device and comply with all applicable electrical and fire codes. Cooking devices are also required to be powered by approved cords that are not frayed or malfunctioning in any way.
 - Exhibitors cooking in the barns and buildings do so at their own risk and assume all liability for their actions concerning food contamination from pathogens that may be present in or near a livestock area.

Extension Cords

- Extension Cords shall not be a substitute for permanent wiring. IFC 2012 (605.4.1) Extension Cords shall not be affixed to structures. IFC 2012 (605.5)
- Extension Cords shall not extend through walls, ceilings, doorways, or floors. IFC 2012 (605.5) Extension Cords shall not be buried under carpet or animal bedding.

Multi-plug Adapter/Power Strip

- Multi-plug adapter(s) are prohibited. IFC 2012 (605.4)
- Power strip(s) shall be grounded and be equipped with overcurrent protection. IFC 2012 (605.4.1) Power strip shall be directly connected to an electrical outlet (no piggy-backing). IFC 2012 (605.4.2) Power strip cords shall not extend through walls, ceilings, doorways, or floors. IFC 2012 (605.4.3)

Animal Wellness & Care

The Animal Wellness & Care Plan (AWAC) was established to reinforce the Indiana State Fair's commitment and belief in the proper treatment of all animals in exhibition. The Indiana State Fair holds exhibitors of the various species of animals being exhibited to the highest standards in wellness, care and ethics of exhibition. The AWAC is responsible for ensuring the most up to date standards as well as to be a source for the public to seek answers to their questions relating to the health and safety of the animals involved in the Indiana State Fair. Failure or refusal by an exhibitor or fairgoer to comply with the Animal Wellness & Care Plan can result in penalties up to and including but not limited to removal and a ban from the Fairgrounds for the duration of the event.

Biosecurity

The Indiana State Fair Biosecurity Plan was developed to prevent the outbreak of diseases carried by both animals and humans that spread pathogens that can be transmitted to and from farm animals, as well as through the food supply. Many diseases and pathogens can be prevented through maintaining the cleanliness of facilities and encouraging good hygiene. The Biosecurity Plan will be enforced during the Indiana State Fair and all exhibitors are expected to carryout and preform basic biosecurity and hygienic task including:

- Hand Washing/sanitizing following exposure to animals and always before consuming food or drinks
- Excluding human food and food preparation from animal areas
- Maintaining general cleanliness of animals and animal areas
- Properly disposing of animal waste/soiled bedding in properly identified/designated areas
- Cleaning-up after your animal if it soils/has a biological event in a building/Fair common space
- Reporting the appearance or evidence of animal/human sickness or distress to Fair officials

Failure or refusal to comply with the above can result in penalties up to and including but not limited to removal and a ban from the Fairgrounds for the duration of the event.

The Indiana State Fair is committed to providing opportunities for all 4-H participants to show their animals as part of the State Fair. The State Fair also wants to ensure the integrity of its 4-H competitions as is evidenced by the various terms and conditions set forth in this Entry Book, including its policy with respect to testing for unauthorized substances in certain animals that are entered into these competitions and the penalties associated with positive results. By entering into these competitions, you agree to these terms and conditions and as such, we strongly recommend that you read this information carefully prior to submitting your entry.