



More Info: Elizabeth Gourde
Communications and Public Relations Coordinator
EGourde@TheBigE.com
(413)205-5041

May 19, 2026

For Immediate Release—West Springfield, Mass.

**THE BIG E SCHOLARS PROGRAM WELCOMES EDUCATIONAL GROUPS TO THE FAIR
Priority Deadline for Applications is Sunday, May 31**

The Big E Scholars Program pairs the educational mission of Eastern States Exposition (ESE) with learners and educators to create a meaningful, experiential day at the Fair that has a lasting impact on students beyond their visit. [Applications](#) are live, and the priority deadline, May 31, is approaching fast. Additional details, including requirements and examples of accepted projects, can also be found through the application link.

Eastern States Exposition launched The Big E Scholars Program in 2025 to give educators the opportunity to present an academic lesson in line with the mission of ESE, the home of The Big E. If your proposal is approved, you and your students receive free admission to the Fair, so long as you can demonstrate the educational impact of your outing.

This program is available to educators and students in any grade, year of study or educational program. Educators must design a Fair-based experience that compliments their classroom curriculum in alignment with ESE's tenets of education, agriculture, innovation and entertainment.

Who Can Apply

- K-12 teachers
- Homeschool group facilitators
- College professors
- College students
- Adult day programs
- After school programs
- Anyone with an innovative idea for integrating ESE's mission into a learning goal

This application process is comparable to a grant application; applicants accepted to the program receive complimentary admission to The Big E for all participating students and educators. Additionally, members of ESE's Education department will make recommendations for your self-guided tour and work to connect The Big E Scholars with relevant ESE staff to complete your lesson.

The priority deadline is Sunday, May 31. Any submissions received by May 31 will be notified of the status of their application by June 5. After the start of June, applications will be reviewed on a rolling

UNEXPECT EVERYTHING
TheBigE.com



basis through July 31. Applications submitted after July 31 will be deferred to the following year's fair unless space remains available.

- 30 -

About The Big E

The Big E is the only multi-state fair in North America, and it celebrates the rich history, culture and traditions of the six New England states. As the principal event of Eastern States Exposition, The Big E has presented the finest in agricultural, innovative, commercial, industrial and artistic developments, as well as the highest caliber of variety entertainment, to the people of the United States for more than a century. The 17-day event has grown and become the largest event on the East Coast, recognized as the fourth largest fair in North America by its recent record annual attendance of 1.6 million fairgoers and counting. Head to TheBigE.com or follow us on social media to see what all the buzz is about.



Above: ESE President and CEO Gene Cassidy speaks to a group of law enforcement students from The Big E Scholars Program about the Public Safety and Security procedures at the Fair.

