



2026 Maryland State Fair

Vendor Handbook

Fair Dates

August 27–30, 2026
September 3–7, 2026
September 10–13, 2026

Website

www.MarylandStateFair.com

Mailing Address

PO Box 188
Timonium, MD 21094

Physical Address

2200 York Rd.
Timonium, MD 21093

Vendor Point of Contact

Jeremy D'Angelo | Director of Sales
Office: 410-252-0200 ext. 233 (Non-Fair)
Cell: 386-785-7905 (During Fair)
Email: jdangelo@marylandstatefair.com

Additional Departments

David Gordon — General Manager
Rebecca Ensor-Williams — Director of Operations
Edie Bernier — Director of Publicity
Dale Sheats — Director of Maintenance



Our Mission

The Maryland State Fair & Agricultural Society, Inc. is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to supporting agricultural education and preserving and promoting Maryland's agricultural roots through competitions, exhibits, and events that showcase the state's premier industry—agriculture.

About the State Fair

Held at the Maryland State Fairgrounds since 1879, the Maryland State Fair is the largest ticketed event in the state and a cherished end-of-summer tradition. Each year, staff, volunteers, and board members spend countless hours planning an event that blends tradition with innovation.



The Fair features: - Agricultural exhibits, livestock shows, and competitions - Live entertainment, concerts, and family-friendly shows - Carnival rides and classic midway attractions - Signature Maryland food offerings and fair favorites - educational exhibits focused on agriculture, horticulture, and environmental awareness



Dear Vendors,

On behalf of the Maryland State Fair, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to you and thank you for your interest in being part of the **2026 Maryland State Fair**. Our vendors are an essential part of what makes the Fair such a dynamic and memorable experience, and we are proud to work alongside so many outstanding partners each year. We are excited to welcome guests back to the Fair **August 27–30, September 3–7, and September 10–13**.

Following the tremendous success of the 2025 Fair, we are looking ahead to an even bigger and better year. With over **565,000 guests** attending last year, the Maryland State Fair continues to be one of the largest and most anticipated events in the region. This success would not be possible without the creativity, dedication, and hard work of our vendors, who play a vital role in shaping the Fair experience for hundreds of thousands of guests.



The Maryland State Fair has a rich history rooted in agriculture, entertainment, and community, and year after year we are grateful for the continued support of our vendors, sponsors, competitors, and fairgoers. Together, we create an event that brings people of all ages together to celebrate tradition, innovation, and shared experiences.

Whether you are a first-time vendor, a returning partner, or exploring participation for the first time, we hope this Vendor Handbook provides helpful guidance as you prepare for the Fair. To those who have already committed to joining us in 2026, we sincerely thank you and look forward to another successful year together.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me. Our team is here to support you every step of the way and values your partnership.

Warm regards,

Jeremy D'Angelo
Director of Sales
Maryland State Fair
jdangelo@marylandstatefair.com



Key Information

Vendor Move In & Setup Hours

Tuesday, August 25: 8am - 5pm
Wednesday, August 26: 8am - 6pm
Thursday, August 27: 8am - 4pm

All booths must be fully set up by Thursday, August 27 at 5pm.

Operating Hours

Thursday, August 27: 5pm - 9pm
Friday, August 28: 10am - 9pm
Saturday, August 29: 10am - 9pm
Sunday, August 30: 10am - 9pm

Thursday, September 3: 5pm - 9pm
Friday, September 4: 10am - 9pm
Saturday, September 5: 10am - 9pm
Sunday, September 6: 10am - 9pm
Monday, September 7: 10am - 9pm

Thursday, September 10: 5pm - 9pm
Friday, September 11: 10am - 9pm
Saturday, September 12: 10am - 9pm
Sunday, September 13: 10am - 8pm

Vendors must be open, staffed, and operational during all published Fair hours. Failure to open on time or remain open through closing may be considered a material breach of the License Agreement and may result in non-renewal or removal.

The Fair reserves the right to adjust operating hours due to weather, attendance, or other conditions.

Fair Closures Between Weekends (Not Open to the Public)

The Fair will be closed to the public on August 31, September 1, September 2, September 8, and September 9.

During these closure dates, indoor vendors may access the Exhibition Hall only during the following designated times:

- Thursday, August 28: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM
- Thursday, September 4: 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM



Outdoor vendors may access their booths while the Fair is closed to the public for purposes such as restocking, cleaning, and general maintenance.

Security personnel remain on site between weekends while the Fairgrounds are closed to the general public. While the Fair makes every reasonable effort to reduce incidents of theft or property damage, vendors are solely responsible for securing their merchandise, equipment, and valuables. The Fair is not liable for theft, loss, or damage to vendor property.

Tear-Down & Move-Out

Indoor Vendors

Sunday, September 13: 8:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Monday, September 14: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

Tuesday, September 15: 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM

For safety reasons, vehicles are not permitted within the inner perimeter while the Fair is open to the public. Indoor vendors moving out on Sunday will not be permitted to drive up to the Exhibition Hall and must transport booth materials to the parking lot using dollies, wagons, or similar equipment.

If possible, vendors are strongly encouraged to wait until Monday to begin booth teardown and load-out.

All materials must be removed by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

Outdoor Vendors

Tear-down may begin only after the Fair officially closes on Sunday, September 13, 2026.

Closing time varies based on attendance and crowd conditions but typically occurs between 10:00 PM and 11:00 PM.

All outdoor vendors must vacate the Fairgrounds by 5:00 PM on Tuesday, September 15, 2026.

No vehicles are permitted within the inner perimeter while the Fair is open to the public.



Additional Information

Admission & Parking

Company-branded shirts, name tags, or uniforms do not grant admission to the Fair. All vendors and staff must have **valid admission passes** to enter the Fairgrounds. **Parking passes are required for vehicle access to vendor parking areas.**

Each vendor will receive the following complimentary passes:

- Two (2) Season Parking Passes
- One of the following admission options (vendor must indicate preference on the vendor application):
 - Four (4) Thirteen-Day Season Admission Passes, or
 - Fifty-two (52) Single-Use Admission Tickets

Thirteen-Day Season Admission Passes admit one person per day and may be transferred between individuals on different days.

Single-use admission tickets are valid for one entry only and may not be reused. Admission passes are intended solely for employees or volunteers working your booth or space. Additional admission passes may be purchased at a discounted vendor rate.

Additional Vendor Admission Pricing

If needed, additional admission may be purchased at the following discounted pricing.

- Single-Use Admission Passes: \$10 each
- Thirteen-Day Season Admission Passes: \$130 each

These are discounted vendor rates. No refunds or rainchecks will be issued for unused tickets under any circumstances.

Parking Information

Due to limited parking availability, additional parking passes are not available for purchase.

Free parking is available at:

- MTA Park & Ride Lot
- Kaiser Permanente Parking Garage (top four floors)
 - Address: 2299 Greenspring Drive Timonium, MD 21093

Both locations are accessible via Greenspring Drive. Vendors and staff may enter the Fairgrounds by crossing the light rail tracks and entering through the Light Rail Gate.



Parking is first come, first served. If a parking lot reaches capacity, vendors should direct staff to the Kaiser Permanente Parking Garage. Please ensure all staff are aware of this option in advance.

Prior to the Fair opening each day, vendors may drive up to the Exhibition Hall or their outdoor booth to unload supplies or drop off staff. Once the Fair opens, all vehicles must be parked in designated parking lots.

Fair opening times are as follows:

- Thursdays: 5:00 PM
- Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays, and Labor Day Monday: 9:00 AM

Any vehicles parked inside the gates at the time the Fair opens will be towed at the owner's expense.

Animals:

Pets and emotional support animals are not allowed at the Fair or inside the Exhibition Hall. Legitimate service animals are permitted in accordance with ADA law.

Booth Standards:

Each booth should look professional. Banners with proper hooks can be hung from the rods. Please use professionally printed signs.

Complaints:

All complaints by a Vendor or its agents, including, without limitation, those relating to the License Agreement, the Fair's policies, the Fair's officers, directors, employees, or personnel, or the Fair's other Vendors, shall be in writing, signed and promptly and immediately sent to the attention of the Director of Sales at the Fair office.

Concessions and Beverages:

PEPSI is the EXCLUSIVE Soda and Water (Aquafina) provider for the Maryland State Fair and The Maryland State Fairgrounds. All orders for soda and bottled water MUST be purchased from our Pepsi representatives. No other brands are allowed on-site. The contact info for our Pepsi representatives can be found below.

Linda: 443-625-9627

or

Ron: 443-422-7005

Decorating Company:

The Maryland State Fair does NOT provide carpeting, tables, or chairs. However, these items can be rented from our partners at Art Decorating Company. Please contact them for needs such as table, chair, carpet rental, etc. Their phone number is 410-485-1570.

**Deliveries:**

Packages/parcels may be delivered to the Fairgrounds, one week prior to the start of the Fair. Packages will be delivered directly by UPS/USPS/FedEx/Etc. to the package depot sheds, located next to the Grandstand. Vendors may pick up their packages from the shed at any time. The Fair does not and will not deliver your packages/parcels to your booth. The Fair is not liable for any parcels/packages delivered to and left at the Fairgrounds and is not responsible for notifying the Concessionaire of its arrival.

Electricity:

Each booth will have access to a 120 volt, 20 amp outlet. **Additional power needs must be arranged for in advance with our electrician at an additional fee.** You must bring your own extension cords. Please turn off lights in your booth when leaving at night.

Exclusivity:

We will do our best to limit duplicity and too many overlapping items. However, we DO NOT offer category exclusivity. **Exclusivity is a sponsorship benefit.** When applying, please be aware that there may be other vendors selling/promoting similar or the same items/products. The Fair is not held responsible, and this will be YOUR choice as a vendor choosing to apply.

Flames and Candles:

Flames, candles, and other flames are prohibited, without prior written approval from the Fair.

Giveaways:

Vendors are not permitted to give away food, beverages, stickers, or balloons without prior written approval of the Fair. Example: Branded re-usable water bottles are permitted, but bottled water is not. When in doubt, please ask ahead of time.

Health Department Permit:

If you are cooking/sampling, you must have a Health Department Permit. You must complete the application from the Fair and return it and be added on to their License.

Hotel Partners:

The following hotel partners have graciously offered discounted rates for our vendors and other fair participants. We encourage you to take advantage of these offers during the Fair.

Embassy Suites Baltimore North – Hunt Valley

Address: 213 International Circle Hunt Valley, Maryland, 21030, USA

Rate: \$110.00 per room night + occupancy tax (single/double occupancy)

Available Dates: August 26, 2026 - September 14, 2026



Booking Link: COMING SOON

Holiday Inn Express Hunt Valley

Address: 11200 York Road, Hunt Valley, MD 21030

Rate: \$94.00 per room night + occupancy tax (single/double occupancy)

Available Dates: August 26, 2026 - September 14, 2026

Booking Link: <https://bit.ly/25HolidayInnExpress>

Additional hotel information will be available soon.

Ice Deliveries:

Ice is not available for purchase or delivery on the Fairgrounds. Please plan appropriately.

Insurance:

Each exhibitor is required to have General Liability Insurance.

Sponsor will obtain standard general liability insurance coverage in the minimum amount of \$1 million per occurrence and will name the Fair and others specified by the Fair as additional insureds under that policy. Sponsor shall provide full coverage additional personal property insurance for all property, including but not limited to: computer and video equipment, machinery, vehicles, etc. Sponsor will provide Fair with a Certificate of Insurance in a form and with such coverage satisfactory to the Fair by July 1, 2026.

Maryland Sales Tax Licenses are REQUIRED:

Under Maryland Sales and Use Tax Law, the retail sale of tangible personal property is subject to the 6% sales tax, unless specific exemptions are available. Vendors are required to have either a permanent Maryland sales tax license, or a Maryland Thirty Day Temporary license at the event. Vendors without a Maryland permanent sales tax account need to contact Maryland Comptroller's Office at 410-767-1543 or 410-767-6961 and apply for a Thirty Day Temporary License.

Non-Compliance:

We reserve the right to suspend the sale of any items or merchandise at any time for any reason. Noncompliance with a management directive will result in expulsion and forfeiture of all payments made to the Fair.

Pipe and Drape:

Each booth will be curtained with 3' high curtains on the sides and 8' high on the backside. Nothing can be pinned on the curtains.

**Pop-up Tents:**

Pop-up tents are permitted, but must be fire retardant. Tents that are fire-retardant typically have a symbol declaring they have been treated and must be shown to Fair staff.

All tents inside the Exhibition Hall that are excessive in height must be lowered or removed at the discretion of Fair staff.

Outdoor vendors are required to use weights on all tents. Outdoor vendors should lower their tents at night and are encouraged to dismantle their tents during the weekdays when the Fair is closed to prevent damage to property. Vendors who do not remove their tents will be liable for any damage dealt to Fair property, other vendor property, or to people.

Pricing:

All vendors who are selling items, products, or services are required to publicly display their pricing. Refusal to do so will result in removal from the Fairgrounds and forfeiture of any vendor fees paid.

Propane & Fuel:

All vendors needing propane or fuel for their booths are required to purchase their propane and fuel from Tevis Energy. Please contact Josh Barnes at 443-377-6085 or jbarnes@tevisenergy.com.

Security:

Exhibitors are responsible for securing items in their booth. It is recommended that cash not be left unattended in the booth. Please cover your items in the booth overnight.

Solicitations:

Solicitations can only be made from an exhibitor's booth. Commercial Exhibitors may not stand in the aisles to distribute materials or encourage people to stop. Repeated violators will be asked to leave.

Subletting:

Subletting of contracted space is prohibited. Exhibitors are not allowed to sell their space to anyone.

Telephone Lines:

For temporary phone service, please contact Verizon at 800-356-2355 at least 2 weeks in advance.

**WIFI:**

WIFI is NOT included but can be purchased by Indoor Vendors for an additional fee. WIFI should be ordered in advance through the online portal and is \$35.00 for the entirety of the Fair. WIFI codes will be provided inside ticket packets to those that order it to those that purchase it. WIFI will not be prorated.

Outdoor vendors that require internet access are encouraged to procure their own hotpots as WIFI reach is not reliable outside of buildings.