



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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GUIDELINES FOR MEDIA PARTICIPATION 2026 STATE FAIR OF TEXAS®

The State Fair of Texas ("State Fair") welcomes media outlets to Fair Park and onto the fairgrounds during the 2026 State Fair event ("2026 Fair" or the "Fair"). The 2026 Fair will run from Friday, September 25, 2026, through Sunday, October 18, 2026.

We appreciate the value of this information pipeline to your viewers, readers, and listeners. To create and maintain a fun and safe environment, we have developed guidelines for participation as an on-site media outlet or media partner. Since these guidelines apply to both non-paid and paid media, please take a few minutes to look over the guidelines and determine which category or categories apply to you and your company. If you have any questions, please let us know. Thanks for your support and cooperation!

GUIDELINES FOR ALL MEDIA OUTLET CATEGORIES

- State Fair's primary spokesperson/public information officer (PIO) is **Karissa Condoianis**, Senior Vice President of Public Relations. When appropriate, another designated representative may serve as spokesperson at the discretion of the Public Relations Department (PR Dept.).
- Media will enter the fairgrounds at **Gate 3** (Parry Ave. & Washington St.), unless otherwise coordinated through State Fair's PR Dept.
- For safety, a representative from the PR Dept. must accompany photographers and videographers who have tripods, monopods, and similar equipment on the fairgrounds, unless they have applied for and received an official temporary photographer pass issued by the PR Dept. for the Fair.
- In instances where the State Fair's PR Dept. provides artwork, photos, or video footage, credit should be given to the State Fair of Texas.
- **The image or likeness of Big Tex® and Little Big Tex® should not be altered.**
- At least **one employee of the media outlet must be on-site and designated as the responsible party** anytime a booth or broadcast location is being used at the Fair for the media outlet's activities.
- The State Fair will make every effort to find an opportunity for visibility at some time during the 24-operating-days of the Fair for each media outlet desiring to participate. Requests will be handled in the order received and according to the stated guidelines.
- The Fair, Fair Park and the entire fairgrounds are a **"No Drone Zone."** Per FAA regulations, Small Unmanned Aircrafts (UASs), Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UVAs), or drones are restricted

in Class B Airspace which encompasses the entire downtown Dallas area and beyond. UVAs, drones, and model aircrafts with cameras attached are strictly prohibited in Class B Airspace unless granted a waiver from the FAA.

NOTE: Leading up to and during the Fair, Fair Park is under lease by the State Fair and considered private property, therefore approval from the FAA does not guarantee the right to fly above Fair Park, even if granted the waiver by the FAA. For the safety of our guests, the State Fair, in partnership with the Dallas Police Department (DPD), will not allow drones to fly above Fair Park during the Fair.

- Guidelines for media coverage of the Fair and opportunities for promotional participation at the Fair are considered independently from decisions regarding advertising buys.
- **No product giveaways or food sampling is allowed anywhere on the grounds** unless approved by State Fair's Exhibits Dept. and memorialized in a written contract with State Fair. Food samples must be pre-packaged, and all sampling/giveaway items must be approved by State Fair. The media outlet must provide indemnity in favor of State Fair and the City of Dallas, along with proper insurance coverage.
- **No merchandise retailing is allowed unless** specifically permitted by written contract with the State Fair.
- **No distribution of balloons, stickers, or other adhesive-backed materials is allowed. No distribution of the media outlet's promotional items that might cause injury to fairgoers in crowded conditions is allowed.** Prior written approval must be secured from the PR Dept. prior to distribution of any promotional items.
- **No distribution of literature or other promotional materials is allowed, except from inside a fixed exhibit booth/broadcast location approved by State Fair.** Samples must be submitted to State Fair's PR Dept. for approval prior to distribution.
- **Media outlets may not bring third parties (clients/advertising partners) to the Fair as part of the media outlet's participation at the Fair. Demonstrations or marketing of a client's product or services to live audiences or Fair patrons will not be permitted.** Under no circumstances will the media outlet's clients/advertising partners be allowed to share the outlet's booth space or assigned broadcast area. Displays of client's products and/or giveaways of client's merchandise or promotional items will not be permitted. Recognition of a media outlet's clients will be limited to the inclusion of literature in "goody bags" and signage on the back wall of the exhibit space/broadcast location unless additional interior signage is specifically approved by State Fair in writing. On-air promotion of clients during a broadcast from the Fair is at the station's sole option.

GUIDELINES FOR SPECIFIC MEDIA OUTLET CATEGORIES

CATEGORY 1: MEDIA OUTLETS PROVIDING EXTENDED LIVE NEWS COVERAGE OF THE FAIR, WHICH REQUIRES A BASE LOCATION.

- Selection of a broadcast base is made by mutual agreement between the media outlet and the State Fair following a site inspection.
- There will be no charge to the media outlet for the location itself or for electrical connections if adequate power can be drawn from an existing State Fair power source. Any arrangements for power and/or space controlled by the museums or other non-State Fair institutions are the responsibility of the media outlet. Phone lines are the responsibility of the media outlet. The media outlet is also responsible for providing cable protectors for all cords and cables, to ensure safe traffic flow for fairgoers, pedestrians and others walking in the area.
- Broadcast set or booth should be visually attractive. Plans must be approved by State Fair's PR Dept. The media outlet is responsible for all construction and signage costs, including but not limited to, stanchions, cabling, cable protectors, and anything else necessary to provide a safe environment. No vehicles may be parked at the site other than production vehicles necessary for on-air broadcasting, with prior written approval of the PR Dept.
- Parking passes for broadcast personnel and appropriate permits for vehicular movement inside the lift gate zone (equipment drop-offs or live remotes) must be obtained from State Fair's PR Dept.
- Media outlets will be encouraged to have ongoing activity at their broadcast location during operating hours of the Fair; or design their booth/set so that it serves as an attractive static display when it is not staffed.
- When possible, the State Fair's PR Dept. will use golf carts to facilitate transporting the media outlet's guests and station personnel to the booth/set. State Fair will use approved scooter routes whenever practical. Media outlets will not be permitted to bring their own carts, nor will they be allowed to drive State Fair's carts. Specific PR Dept. members will be assigned to each broadcast operation and will carry cell phones. Stations are requested to give State Fair's PR Dept. as much advance notice as possible of the media outlet's broadcast plans.
- Media outlet vehicles are not allowed through any interior lift gates without appropriate parking credentials. If there is ever need for an exception, prior approval from State Fair's PR Dept. is required for temporary access, and the PR Dept. will notify State Fair's Maintenance/Operations Department and obtain appropriate credentials for media outlet's vehicle. Decisions regarding the need for an escort to lead a media outlet's vehicle to or from an interior zone broadcast site will be made exclusively by State Fair's Maintenance/Operations Dept.
- The PR Dept. will be responsible for notifying other State Fair departments in advance when broadcast plans could impact their area or activities.

CATEGORY 2: MEDIA OUTLETS PROVIDING SPOT NEWS COVERAGE.

- Media parking passes are to be obtained from the PR Dept. prior to the Fair. Media outlets must provide advance notice to the PR Dept. If vehicle access to interior zone is being requested, permission and appropriate credentials will be provided, if possible. The State Fair's PR Dept.

will provide golf cart transportation based on availability of PR Dept. staff and carts, in addition to overall access to the grounds due to crowd size. Decisions regarding the need for an escort to lead a media outlet's vehicle to or from an interior zone broadcast site will be made exclusively through the PR Dept.

CATEGORY 3: MEDIA OUTLETS PROVIDING LIVE BROADCASTS OF A SPECIFIC EVENT AT THE FAIR.

- If initial arrangements are made with the event producer or another State Fair department, the PR Dept. should be notified ASAP to avoid possible conflicts. Approval of technical set-up, access and special parking needs must come from the PR Dept. The event producer is responsible for providing State Fair's PR Dept. with a written summary of media agreements made independently of the PR Dept. State Fair's PR Dept. will provide golf cart transportation based on availability of PR Dept. staff and carts. Decisions regarding the need for an escort to lead a media outlet's vehicle to or from an interior zone broadcast site will be made exclusively through the PR Dept.

CATEGORY 4: MEDIA OUTLETS CONTRACTED AS FAIR SPONSORS.

- Media outlet is required to abide by all provisions of its sponsorship contract. Parking passes and special arrangements are the responsibility of the State Fair department designated in the contract.
- Special consideration will be given to requests by these media outlets for additional promotional space and/or broadcast opportunities if there are needs beyond the original contractual agreement.

CATEGORY 5: MEDIA OUTLETS DESIGNATED AS A MEDIA PARTNER FOR A FAIR CORPORATE SPONSOR.

- A corporate sponsor (with agreement from the State Fair's Marketing Dept.) can select a media partner. Parking passes for the media partner are the responsibility of the sponsor and/or State Fair's Marketing Dept.
- The media outlet is responsible for booth construction (if space is available), signage, and broadcast phone lines. The physical and technical set-up must be approved by State Fair's PR Dept. State Fair's PR Dept. should receive notification of the media partner's involvement as soon as possible.

CATEGORY 6: MEDIA OUTLETS AS PAID EXHIBITORS.

- The media outlet must abide by the terms and obligations in State Fair's standard exhibitor's contract. State Fair's PR Dept. should be notified if live broadcasts are planned.

CATEGORY 7: MEDIA OUTLETS AS PROMOTIONAL EXHIBITORS.

- If unsold exhibit space is available, and if the value of the media outlet's media coverage or promotional exhibit (as an attraction for fairgoers) is viewed as a significant benefit to the State Fair, then effort will be directed toward finding a place for the media outlet's 24-day promotional exhibit. A "no charge" standard State Fair Exhibits Contract must be executed, and the media outlet will be required to abide by the terms and conditions therein unless specific exceptions

are approved in writing jointly by State Fair's Exhibits and/or PR Depts.

- Under no circumstances will a media outlet's "no charge" promotional exhibit be permitted to visually obstruct or otherwise interfere with the business operations of nearby exhibitors who have paid for commercial exhibit space (this also applies to noise interference and/or crowd-related problems).
- Any construction or signage must be approved in writing by State Fair's Maintenance/Operations Dept. (outdoor exhibit space) or Exhibits Dept. (indoor exhibit space). All costs other than the exhibit space are the responsibility of the media outlet. Requests for parking passes should be directed to the PR Dept.

CATEGORY 8: MEDIA OUTLETS AS ONE-DAY PARTICIPANTS.

- Requests from media outlets desiring to broadcast live or host a promotional event on a specific day or days can be accommodated only if appropriate space is available.
- State Fair's PR Dept. is responsible for assigning temporary space and providing the necessary credentials unless the media outlet will be operating from a stage location, in which case credentials will be handled by the stage manager. The media outlet is responsible for the physical set-up and dress-out at its broadcast location, which MUST be approved in advance by State Fair's PR and Maintenance/Operations Depts. The appearance of the broadcast location is important. External signage at the broadcast location will be restricted to the media outlet's identification/logo.
- All set-up must be completed before 9:00 A.M. on the day specified, and removal of equipment cannot begin until after 10:00 P.M. of the same day unless otherwise approved by State Fair's PR Dept.

The State Fair's PR Dept. reserves the right to amend these guidelines, as needed and without notice, to ensure a safe, healthy, and family-friendly environment.

For any questions or to discuss items not addressed in these guidelines, please contact the PR Dept. at (214) 421-8715 or tpulfer@bigtex.com.

SPECIAL NOTICE

The State Fair of Texas is the owner of certain registered trademarks and service marks that include STATE FAIR OF TEXAS®, BIG TEX®, BIG TEX® (figure), BIG TEX® (head), TEXAS STATE FAIR®, SFT® (logo), PAN AMERICAN LIVESTOCK EXPOSITION®, HERITAGE HALL OF HONOR®, TEXAS SKYWAY®, COTTON BOWL®, TEXAS AUTO SHOW® and THE MOST TEXAN PLACE ON EARTH®. Please use the registered trademark designation when appropriate. Thank you.