



San Diego COUNTY FAIR

ONCE UPON A FAIR

2026

JUNE 10–JULY 5 [+ SDFAIR.COM](http://SDFAIR.COM)

EXHIBIT A

ENTERTAINERS HANDBOOK

DEL MAR FAIRGROUNDS • 22nd DISTRICT AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION
2260 Jimmy Durante Blvd. • Del Mar • CA • 92014
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The **San Diego County Fair** theme this year is Once Upon a Fair; open from **June 10 through July 5 (closed every Monday and Tuesday)** at the Del Mar Fairgrounds.

Community Entertainment is a vital component of the Fair, offering an opportunity for local talent to gain exposure by performing to audiences of all sizes.

We are thankful for your interest in performing at the **2026 San Diego County Fair** and are eager to review your application.

Application Guidelines:

- Submission of an application **does not guarantee** any agreement to provide a stage, space, services, or compensation.
- Each band/group must submit individual applications; we will not accept multiple bands/groups under one application.
- Applications **MUST** be filled out completely with a \$25.00 non-refundable processing fee to be accepted.
- The deadline to apply is **Tuesday, March 31st**.

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SUBMITTED USING THE ONLINE APPLICATION.
FAXES, WALK-INS, MAILED OR EMAILED APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED**

All applicants who submit their application by **March 31, 2026**, will be notified by email no later than **April 15, 2026**, selection. If you are not chosen, you will be placed on our waiting list, where you might be selected if we receive cancellations.

Entertainment applications are only for **Community Entertainment** on the following stages: O'Brien Stage, Michelob Ultra Avenue Stage (formally Showcase Stage), Paddock Stage, & Funville Stage.

Selection Criteria:

Due to the volume of applications we receive and limited performance space, not all applicants will be accommodated. Each application is given consideration on the following criteria:

- Timely submission of completed application.
- Uniqueness and stage presence are based on link to previous performances.
- Appropriate performance for our family-friendly Fair audience. All performances must be "G" rated; profanity will not be tolerated.
- Performance date and time availability.

Booking Information:

All applicants will be notified of booking status by **April 15, 2026**. Upon acceptance, further instructions will be provided to each performer/group regarding the remaining steps, and performance day & time. If you are not booked, you will be placed on a waiting list. If we receive cancellations, we will select from the waiting list.

Please note: Booking is subject to availability. Time slots fill up quickly on evenings and weekends. **We try and honor dates/availability in your application but due to programming needs, we are limited.**

Cancellations:

If you need to cancel your performance, you must email entertainment@sdfair.com (3) days prior to your performance date.

Performers who fail to appear without adequate advance notification will not be allowed to perform at future San Diego County Fairs.

Performance Policies:

The San Diego County Fair is a family-friendly event. Please adhere to the following policies:

- Attire and image of all performers, as well as performance content, must be respectful of accepted community standards.
- Performances deemed offensive or conduct by performers that is considered disrespectful of the San Diego County Fair will result in the performance being canceled immediately.
- Fair staff have the right and sole discretion to monitor and manage sound levels.
- Violations of Performance Policies may be a factor when being considered for future participation at the San Diego County Fair.

Stage and Time Allocation Policy:

Upon arrival for your performance, performers must check-in with the Stage Manager at their assigned stage 30 minutes prior to the scheduled load in time. Performers are encouraged to arrive at the Fair 60 minutes prior to the scheduled load in time to allow for potential traffic and parking delays and to locate the assigned stage. We ask that performers be respectful of the performers after them and adhere to the time parameters.

Approved applicants will be assigned to either O'Brien Stage, Funville Stage, Michelob Ultra Avenue Stage, or the Paddock Stage. Stage assignments will be based on performance type, and group size. All stages are subject to availability.

Stage Information:

All our stages will have aux cables. Those performers using a backing track: please use an MP3 player or Smartphone. Please bring a backup just in case. If you are using an iPhone 8 or newer, please provide your own dongle and cord to connect to our system.

All performers in need of microphones must submit a stage plot so that we know exactly how your stage setup is to be configured. If a stage plot is not submitted, and setup negatively affects the setup time, this time will be deducted from the performance time. **All performers are required to bring all their own instruments and amps.**

All standard sound equipment (including sound board) will be provided and monitored by the San Diego County Fair Stage Manager. Bringing your own sound board and sound technician is strictly prohibited.

Please adhere to the scheduled performance time and exit the stage promptly, so that the following performer can begin setup.

Parking:

Performers with heavy equipment will be given limited parking passes for the Green Lot, accessible by entering the Solana Gate. The Green lot is only for performers with equipment that needs to be transported by our cart system. All other performers will be given parking passes for Horsepark parking, located at 14550 El Camino Real, Del Mar CA 92014. Once parked, shuttle buses will transport you to the fairgrounds. Please allow for traffic, parking, and transportation by shuttle buses.

Cart System:

We provide carts for groups who have heavy equipment, large props and items that cannot be carried in. You will need to fill out the appropriate section in the final booking form to request a cart. Please be specific as to what you will be bringing. Cart services are only for equipment.

Prohibited Items and Activities:

The following items and activities by all Entertainers are prohibited; violations may result in performance cancellation and may jeopardize future participation:

- Performances or merchandise that include:
 - Offensive or inappropriate language
 - Depictions of pornographic, lewd, or obscene images
 - Depictions of drugs or drug-related material
 - Harassment or discrimination based upon sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, gender, or religion.
 - Political or controversial statements, slogans, flags, or emblems
- Smoking of any kind; including the use of electronic cigarettes, vaporizers, and oil/wax pens.
- Intoxication, use or possession of any controlled substance.
- Any alcohol on stage, during performance or backstage.
- Impolite or discourteous behavior towards Fair staff or patrons will not be tolerated.
- **Stickers:** A fine of \$500.00 per occurrence will be assessed to any performer or performance group whose stickers are found anywhere on the fairgrounds.
- **Flyers:** A fine of \$500.00 per violation applies to the distribution of flyers, authorized or non-authorized, outside your performance time and stage.
- Unauthorized merchandise sales. The sale of merchandise must be made in advance with written approval of the Entertainment Supervisor.
- Items may NOT be thrown from the stage into the audience.
- Performers may not invite anyone onto the stage, that is NOT part of the act.

Stages & Dressing Rooms:

Stage assignments will be based on performance type, group size, and stage availability.

The San Diego County Fair will provide the following:

- Electrical outlets (on stage only)
- Professional sound technician and lights
- Stage Manager
- 30 x 30 dance floor **only on the Funville Stage** – dance floor is shaded
- Microphones (limited quantity)
- Mic Stands (limited quantity)
- Tables (limited quantity)
- Chairs (limited quantity)

Performers will need to bring:

- Instruments
- All props
- Costumes
- Aux Cables or dongle (for iPhone 8 and newer adapter)
- Dance groups and vocalists singing to track must bring all music on MP3 technology, i.e. iPod, iPad, mobile phone. **No thumb drives or laptops will be accepted**

The dressing room space is limited and **MUST** be shared among performers. Each group will be allowed one dressing room regardless of how many people are in the performance group. If you have a large number of performers, we advise that you have a dressing room schedule when you arrive. Only performers and crew/administrators will be allowed to access this area. The San Diego County Fair Stage Staff will assist in securing dressing room space, but please be aware that no (1) performer or group will be allowed to take over all the dressing room space.

We ask that you vacate the dressing room area as soon as the performance has been completed. When vacating the dressing area, remove all trash and leave the dressing room as tidy as possible.

Note: Performers will not be allowed to leave belongings in the dressing rooms before or after their performance.

Once selected and all forms have been completed, you will have the option to pick up your credential packets at the Fairgrounds during packet pick up (by reservation system) OR mailed to you via FEDEX for an additional fee.

Thank you for reviewing our Entertainer Handbook and for applying for the 2026 San Diego County Fair.