BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Rules & Regulations

1. Eligibility & Band Requirements

1. Participating bands must consist of 3–8 members.
2. Bands must be available to perform at the Florida Gateway Fair on Saturday, October 31, 2026, from 2:00 PM–5:00 PM.
3. All music and performances must be appropriate for a family-friendly fair environment. Vulgar, explicit, or inappropriate lyrics are not permitted.

2. Entry Process

1. Bands must complete the official Battle of the Bands entry form and submit a link to a performance video.
2. The submitted video should demonstrate the band's live performance ability.
3. A valid performance video link must be submitted with the entry form. Applications submitted without a performance video will be considered incomplete and will not be eligible for finalist selection.
4. All entries must be submitted by October 22, 2026, at 11:59 PM. Entries received after the deadline will not be considered.
5. Submission of an application does not guarantee selection as a finalist.
6. Bands selected as finalists will be notified with additional information regarding the competition, entry fee, schedule, and performance requirements.

3. Finalist Selection

1. All eligible applications and submitted performance videos will be reviewed by the Battle of the Bands selection team.
2. Four bands will be selected as finalists to compete in the live Battle of the Bands at the Florida Gateway Fair.
3. Selection will be based on the submitted performance video and the band's ability to meet the event's performance requirements.
4. All finalist selection decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

4. Entry Fee

1. There is no entry fee required at the time of application.
2. Each of the four selected finalists will be required to pay a $50 entry fee to participate in the live competition.

3. Selected finalists will be provided with payment instructions and the payment deadline when they are notified of their selection.

5. Performance Requirements

1. Each selected band will have a 30-minute performance time.
2. Each band will have a 15-minute load-in and soundcheck period.
3. Bands are responsible for arriving on time and being prepared for their assigned load-in/soundcheck and performance times.
4. Failure to arrive on time may result in a reduction of setup/soundcheck time or disqualification from the competition.

6. Stage & Equipment

1. A drum kit will be provided/backlined for the competition.
2. Drummers may bring their own cymbals, snare, and drum throne/seat if desired.
3. In-ear monitor systems (IEMs) are not permitted.
4. Each selected band will receive a professional stage plot and input list prior to the event.
5. Bands should review the provided stage plot and input list and communicate any questions or equipment needs prior to the event.

7. Competition & Prize

1. Four finalists will compete in the live Battle of the Bands at the Florida Gateway Fair.
2. The winner will be announced at the conclusion of the competition.
3. The winning band will receive a $1,000 Grand Prize and an invitation to perform at the Spirit of the Suwannee Music Hall.

8. Performance Conduct

1. All performers are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and respectful manner.
2. Performances must remain appropriate for a family-friendly event.
3. Vulgar, obscene, or otherwise inappropriate language, lyrics, gestures, or behavior are prohibited.
4. Failure to comply with these rules may result in removal from the competition and/or disqualification.

9. Organizer's Rights

1. The Florida Gateway Fair reserves the right to interpret and enforce these Rules & Regulations.
2. The Florida Gateway Fair reserves the right to disqualify a band for failure to comply with the rules or for conduct deemed inappropriate for the event.
3. Decisions regarding eligibility, participation, and disqualification are at the discretion of the Florida Gateway Fair.

10. Judging & Final Decision

1. The winner will be determined by the designated Battle of the Bands judging panel.
2. All judging decisions are final and not subject to appeal.

11. Cancellation & Event Changes

1. The Florida Gateway Fair reserves the right to cancel, postpone, or modify the Battle of the Bands due to circumstances beyond its control, including severe weather, unsafe conditions, emergencies, or other unforeseen circumstances.
2. In the event the competition is canceled or postponed, participating bands will be notified as soon as reasonably possible.
3. The Florida Gateway Fair reserves the right to make changes to the event schedule, performance times, or competition format as necessary.
4. Any determination regarding refunds, rescheduling, or other remedies related to entry fees will be made by the Florida Gateway Fair based on the circumstances of the cancellation or postponement.

12. Participant Agreement

By submitting an application, the band representative acknowledges that they have read, understand, and agree to abide by the Battle of the Bands Rules & Regulations. The band representative further understands that submission of an application does not guarantee selection and that failure to comply with these rules may result in disqualification.