



**STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COMMERCE**

ANDY GIPSON
COMMISSIONER

Calling All Mississippi Marching Bands:

On behalf of the State of Mississippi, it is my honor to extend an invitation to the marching bands of all our Mississippi high schools, colleges, and universities to perform at the Mississippi Great American State Fair.

The State Fair will be held October 2-13 in the capital city, Jackson, at the Mississippi State Fairgrounds. In proud partnership with the White House's America250 initiative, the entire fair will be a patriotic, family-friendly celebration honoring our nation's founding, its history, and the service of those who have defended its freedom over the past 250 years.

As we wrap this year's fair in Red, White, and Blue, we are asking marching bands from all four corners of our great state to further elevate the patriotic spirit of this celebration by participating in the first-ever Most Patriotic Band Competition and/or the Great American Parade.

Bands can compete by performing a patriotic concert in our designated 'Liberty Landing' area on the fairgrounds any day throughout the 12-day State Fair, which runs October 2-13, 2025. Any band wishing to perform at Liberty Landing must register with Mississippi State Fairgrounds Deputy Director Justin Nipper. Contact Deputy Director Nipper at justin@mdac.ms.gov.

The school winning the Most Patriotic Band Competition will be announced on the final day of the State Fair, on Monday, October 13th. See further details in the handouts attached.

In addition to this competition, we are also inviting all marching bands to participate in the Great American Parade on Monday, October 13, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Bands participating in the parade alone will not be eligible to win the Most Patriotic Band Competition; however, they will be eligible to win First, Second, or Third Place among parade participants. Any band interested in joining the Great American Parade as part of the procession must register with MDAC Communications Director Hannah East at hannahe@mdac.ms.gov.

I encourage band directors and faculty to join in our America250 celebrations and participate in both the Most Patriotic Band Competition and the Great American Parade. Thank you for your consideration of this once-in-a-lifetime event and continued service to the students and future leaders of Mississippi.

We would be honored to welcome your schools and talented band students to the Mississippi Great American State Fair this year. Let the competitions begin!

Sincerely,

Andy Gipson, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce

2025 MISSISSIPPI GREAT AMERICAN STATE FAIR



MOST PATRIOTIC BAND COMPETITION



The Mississippi State Fairgrounds is inviting marching bands from schools around the state to take part in the first-ever Most Patriotic Band Competition!

Any school band may enter the competition by performing a concert at our designated 'Liberty Landing' area on the fairgrounds any day throughout the 12-day-long Mississippi Great American State Fair, which runs October 2-13, 2025.

PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES:

- Any band wishing to perform at Liberty Landing, MUST register with Fairgrounds Deputy Director Justin Nipper. Contact Justin now at justin@mdac.ms.gov.
- The performance MUST feature at least 2 patriotic songs and band MUST stay on the designated green space.
- The performance MUST last between 15-30 minutes.
- Bands can schedule their performance ANY DAY between October 2-13 at an appointed time designated by Deputy Director Justin Nipper.
- All performances will be livestreamed on the Mississippi State Fair's Facebook page. The band receiving the MOST likes on their live performance at the end of the State Fair will win bragging rights and a custom-made, all-American trophy!

On the final day of the State Fair – Monday, October 13th – the school winning the Most Patriotic Band Competition will be announced!

2025 MISSISSIPPI GREAT AMERICAN STATE FAIR

★ LIBERTY LANDING CONCERT AREA ★



Contact Mississippi State Fairgrounds Deputy Director Justin Nipper at justin@mdac.ms.gov to participate in the Most Patriotic Band Competition today!

Mississippi marching bands are also invited to participate in the **Great American Parade on Monday, October 13, beginning at 9:30 a.m. Bands participating in the parade only are NOT eligible to win the Most Patriotic Band Competition, but will be eligible for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place Awards for Most Patriotic Parade Participant!!

Register for the parade by contacting MDAC's Hannah East at hannahe@mdac.ms.gov.