



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

ANDY GIPSON  
COMMISSIONER

# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 4, 2023**

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**Who:** Andy Gipson, Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce  
**What:** 164<sup>th</sup> Mississippi State Fair Opening Ceremony  
**When:** Thursday, October 5, 2023; 11:00 a.m.  
**Where:** Gate 1 of the Mississippi State Fairgrounds  
(Located at the intersection of Amite and Jefferson Streets)

## **Ribbon Cutting to Mark Grand Opening of the 164th Mississippi State Fair**

**STATE FAIRGROUNDS, Miss.** – Commissioner of Agriculture and Commerce Andy Gipson invites the public to attend the ceremonial ribbon cutting to officially open the gates to the 2023 Mississippi State Fair at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 5, at Gate 1 of the State Fairgrounds, located at the intersection of Amite and Jefferson Streets.

The Brandon High School Marching Band will perform, Brandon High School ROTC Honor Guard will present the colors, and Jazbreaun Spann, student at Brandon High School, will perform a rendition of “The Star-Spangled Banner.” Following the ribbon cutting, Commissioner Gipson and opening ceremony participants will parade down the Midway.

The 164<sup>th</sup> Mississippi State Fair will run through October 15. All food vendors, including the Biscuit Booth, will be serving, beginning at 11:00 a.m., and rides open tomorrow at 2:00 p.m. Fair admission is free every weekday from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., except on Monday, October 9, Columbus Day.

Find the complete schedule of fair events at [www.msstatefair.com](http://www.msstatefair.com). For additional information, follow the Mississippi State Fair on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

### **Scheduled Activities & Events for Thursday, October 5, 2023**

October 5 is Mississippi Heroes Day at the Fair. All police officers, first responders, firefighters, healthcare workers, medical professionals and active military will be given free admission into the Fair with identification.

#### **Ride Specials: \$2 Rides per Person from 2:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.**

- 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. – State Fair Floral Show – Mississippi Farmers Market
- 11:00 a.m. – Gates Open with Ribbon Cutting (Free admission until 1:00 p.m.)
- 11:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Biscuit Booth – Midway
- 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. – Exhibits, Ag Expo & Genuine MS® Store – Mississippi Trade Mart
- 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. – Petting Zoo – Mississippi Frontier Village
- 12:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 8:15 p.m. – Pig Races – Mississippi Frontier Village
- 12:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. – Magic Show – Mississippi Frontier Village
- 1:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. – Zerbini Family Circus – Kid Zone
- 2:00 p.m. – Rides Open
- 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Frontier Village Train Depot – Mississippi Frontier Village
- 6:30 p.m. – Taste of Dixie National – Mississippi Frontier Village
- 7:00 p.m. – Live Performance by Josh Turner with Special Guest Todd Tilghman – Mississippi Coliseum
- 10:00 p.m. – Gates Close

Fair admission is included with a pre-purchased concert ticket to Josh Turner. Concert tickets can be purchased at the Coliseum Box Office or Ticketmaster.

### **Scheduled Activities & Events for Friday, October 6, 2023**

The Mississippi State Fair celebrates Kid Day on Friday, October 6, from 12:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Youth goat livestock shows will begin in Barn 7 at 8:00 a.m.

#### **Ride Specials: Ride-A-Thon for \$25 from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.**

- 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. – State Fair Floral Show – Mississippi Farmers Market
- 8:00 a.m. – Goat Showmanship – Barn 7
  - 15 minutes after Goat Showmanship - 4H/FFA Meat Goat Doe Show – Barn 7
- 8:00 a.m. – Junior Market Goat Show – Barn 7
  - 15 minutes after Market Goat Show – Registered Breeding Boer Doe Showmanship and Show – Barn 7
- 11:00 a.m. – Gates Open (Free admission until 1:00 p.m.)
- 11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. – Exhibits, Ag Expo & Genuine MS® Store – Mississippi Trade Mart
- 11:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m. – Petting Zoo – Mississippi Frontier Village
- 12:00 p.m. – Rides Open
- 12:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m., 8:15 p.m. – Pig Races – Mississippi Frontier Village
- 12:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m. – Magic Show – Mississippi Frontier Village
- 1:00 p.m., 5:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m. – Zerbini Family Circus – Kid Zone
- 2:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. – Frontier Village Train Depot – Mississippi Frontier Village
- 4:00 p.m. – Mississippi State Fair Beauty Pageant – Mississippi Coliseum
- 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. – Biscuit Booth – Midway
- 5:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. – Live Music – Michelob Ultra Tent
- 6:30 p.m. – Taste of Dixie National – Mississippi Frontier Village
- 9:30 p.m. - 11:30 p.m. – The Dukes of Country – Michelob Ultra Tent
- 11:00 p.m. – Gates Close

### **Know Before You Go:**

- The 2023 Mississippi State Fair opens at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 5. The ribbon cutting will be held at Gate 1 at the corner of Jefferson Street and Amite Street. The Biscuit Booth will be open early for those who attend the ribbon cutting.
- Gate admission is \$5.00 per person, and parking is \$5.00 per car. Children ages 5 and under will be admitted free of charge. The public can purchase advance admission tickets at the Coliseum Box Office until 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, October 5.
- All concert tickets purchased in advance include same-day general admission to the fairgrounds. Concert and entertainment tickets can be purchased in advance at [www.ticketmaster.com](http://www.ticketmaster.com) and the Coliseum Box Office.
- Fair admission is free every weekday from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m., except on Monday, October 9, Columbus Day.
- Beginning at 9:00 p.m., any guest under the age of eighteen (18) seeking admission to the Fairgrounds must be accompanied by a legal adult (21 or older). Any guest may be asked to show official proof of age to be admitted after 9:00 p.m. Guests are encouraged to bring identification.
- When entering the Midway, all guests will proceed through one of several entry security points utilizing a metal detector.
- All bags are subject to search. The maximum bag size that will be accepted into the Fair is 12"x12"x6".
- No outside food or beverage allowed.
- No marketing, soliciting, political, or vending items allowed unless and as authorized under Fairground regulations.
- Pursuant to state law, the legal carry of firearms by all lawful adults is recognized on the Mississippi Fairgrounds.
- No animals (other than service animals or as authorized by Fair management for Fair activities), banners, fireworks/explosives, or laser pointers allowed.
- Jefferson Street will be closed between Pearl Street and Amite Street. Greymont Street will be open for Fair traffic only.

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### **For Media Planning Purposes at the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony:**

Following the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, Commissioner Gipson and ceremony participants will parade down the Midway from Gate 1 to the Southern Beverage Michelob Ultra Tent. Media will be given time to position themselves on the Midway in order to obtain photos and video footage. Media partners are invited to the Southern Beverage Tent immediately after the parade where lunch will be provided. Media partners can pick up Fair Media Passes and a Passport to receive complementary samples from various Fair food vendors.

**Media Advisories will be sent out each afternoon during the State Fair with schedules of the two upcoming days.**