



Frequently Asked Questions

The Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) highlight topics and specific questions that are often asked of the Illinois State Fair (ISF) Space Rental Office. The information provided is offered to assist our vendors and exhibitors in better understanding ISF regulations, policies, and expectations.

The listing of FAQs is not a substitute for any official information provided on our website (i.e., administrative rules & regulations, Vendor/Exhibitor Information Booklet, Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Requirements for all Vendors, etc.) The listing of FAQs does not cover all of the information a vendor/exhibitor is responsible for reviewing and understanding prior to participating in the ISF.

I am a not-for-profit entity. Can I have a location during the Fair at no cost?

- ✓ Per the Illinois State Fair Rules and Regulations, locations are not given to not-for-profit entities for a discounted rate. Such entities must pay for their location like any other vendor/exhibitor.

Are there any opportunities to become a Mobile Marketer or to bring a mobile tour to the Illinois State Fair?

- ✓ Mobile marketing is allowed at the discretion of the Illinois State Fair Manager.
- ✓ Inquiries and consideration requests can be directed towards Brandon Oxley (Brandon.Oxley@Illinois.gov) at 217.782.6661.

How do I become a Illinois State Fair sponsor?

- ✓ For further information on becoming a sponsor, contact Brandon Oxley (Brandon.Oxley@Illinois.gov) or Joe Khayyat (Joe.Khayyat@Illinois.gov) at 217.782.6661.

What has attendance been like for the past few years?

- ✓ 2023: 707,613
- 2022: 636,700
- 2021: 472,388

When are applications available for new vendors to apply?

- ✓ New applications are available on our website by the first of the year or sooner.

How are new vendors chosen?

- ✓ Vendors are chosen by the following criteria:
 - Completed application
 - Professional appearance as presented by the color photo required to be submitted with the application
 - Uniqueness of product
 - Electrical needs

- Availability of space
- References, referrals and experience with multiple-day events

How much does it cost to participate in the Illinois State Fair?

- ✓ Rates for new vendors vary according to location and front footage. These rates can range from \$900 - \$4,000.
- ✓ Additional costs include:
 - electricity
 - daily admittance
 - parking
 - waste management
 - supply lots (if needed).

Can vendors use generators in their trailers?

- ✓ Vendors are **PROHIBITED** from using generators to supply their trailer's electrical needs unless approved by the Fair Manager.

How much does electricity cost?

- ✓ Exposition Building and Senior Center: \$75
- ✓ Outside locations, including supply lots:
 - 30 AMP - \$150
 - 50 AMP - \$300
 - 100 AMP - \$450

How much does water cost?

- ✓ Water is provided at no cost to the vendor. While the water is free, the vendor must understand that this is a privilege and abuse of this privilege will be handled accordingly.

If I am chosen to participate in the Illinois State Fair, when are my payments due?

- ✓ Outside vendors are placed on a flat-partial contract. The charges for electricity and $\frac{1}{3}$ of the space cost is due by July 1st or directly after a space offer is accepted, with a signed contract. The remaining balance is due the Monday that falls during the Fair or directly after a space offer is accepted, with a signed contract.
- ✓ Vendors/exhibitors in the Exposition Building or Senior Center must pay for their electric and space fees by July 1st or directly after a space offer is accepted, with a signed contract.
- ✓ Select vendors are offered percentage contracts. These vendors must pay for their electricity by July 1st or directly after a space offer is accepted, with a signed contract. The percentage of sales, as stipulated in the contract, must be reported and paid daily to the Space Rental Office.

Do I have to pay admission to get into the Fair?

- ✓ All vendors must pay for admission and parking.
- ✓ Admission booklets are available for \$45 and include 11 tickets - one ticket will provide one person admission into the Fair for one day only.
- ✓ Parking permits cost \$40 for the entire length of the Fair. These permits are not car specific.
- ✓ Vendors are not required to park on the Fairgrounds but will need to find alternative accommodations if they decide to park elsewhere.

Is there free Wi-Fi available on the Fairgrounds?

- ✓ While Wi-Fi is free and generally available across the Fairgrounds, we do not guarantee the availability or consistency and vendors should be prepared, regardless of the situation.

Is camping available on the Fairgrounds?

- ✓ Camping on the Fairgrounds is available, but it is limited.
- ✓ Vendors need to submit camping paperwork at any time once the forms become available for the current year.

Can I sleep in the supply lot if my personal storage unit has the ability?

- ✓ Sleeping in supply lots is not allowed.
- ✓ Vendors who are found to be sleeping in supply lots will be removed and told to find other accommodations immediately. Due to the limited camping space and the influx of people in surrounding hotels/motels, this may be difficult to find.

What are the set-up and tear-down times?

- ✓ For the 2024 ISF, vendors and exhibitors **will not** be allowed to set-up between Thursday, August 1st through Sunday, August 4th, due to another scheduled event.
- ✓ Vendors who set up prior to Thursday, August 1st, will be charged \$25/day for electricity (if needed.)
- ✓ Tear-down can begin after closing on Sunday, August 18th.

Can I rent tents, tables or other decorations from the Fair?

- ✓ The Fair does not offer rental services. Vendors/exhibitors need to supply their own items or contact one of the service providers listed [here](#).

What vehicles are allowed on the grounds during the Fair?

- ✓ Golf cars are the only acceptable means of transportation. **Continuous running vehicles** that start with a key - i.e.: Gators™, Mules, Rhinos, ATV's and other similar vehicles - are **PROHIBITED** unless approved by ISF Management.
- ✓ Golf cars are only allowed in specific areas during the Fair to maintain the safety of all Fairgoers.

Can I expand beyond my contracted footprint?

- ✓ Vendors are required to report their footprint requirements at the time of application.
- ✓ These dimensions should include trailer tongues, tie-downs, awnings and anything else that may take up physical space.
- ✓ Vendors who expand beyond their contracted footprint will immediately be asked to adjust back to their predetermined footprint or pay the difference if that option is available.
- ✓ Failure to remain in the contracted footprint may result in additional charges, relocation or removal from the Fairgrounds.

What happens if I am unhappy with my location?

- ✓ Vendors are welcome to request relocation for the following Fair. The request can be submitted on a "Relocation Request" form or by noting it on the Return Invitation, sent to participating vendors in mid-December. Relocations are not guaranteed but the request will be reviewed.

What do I do with my grey water?

- ✓ Most locations have drains in close proximity. Vendors with locations that do not have drains readily available will be notified and will be responsible for renting their own bladder from our preferred vendor. Vendors who do not wish to rent a bladder will need to choose an alternate location, if one is available.
- ✓ Public Health does not allow vendors to release grey water onto surrounding grassy areas, streets or into sewer drains.

How do I dispose of my used grease?

- ✓ Grease barrels are placed throughout the grounds for vendors to dispose of their grease.

How do I transport supplies from the supply lot to my location?

- ✓ Golf cars and personal vehicles are not allowed on the main streets from 10am – midnight. Vendors will need to bring their own dollies or wagons to restock supplies between those hours.