2026 COASTAL CAROLINA FAIR FIDDLE COMPETITION

We invite you to attend and participate in the COASTAL CAROLINA FAIR'S 7th annual fiddle competition at the 2026 Coastal Carolina Fair, Ladson, South Carolina. Fiddlers of all ages will compete for cash prizes in the following groups: Youth, High School, and Adult.

The competition will take place at 1:00 pm on Sunday November 8th, 2026 at the 300-seat Parkway Stage. Registration will be limited, first come, first in, through the online portal located at www.coastalcarolinafair.org/fiddle. Online registration closes on Friday, October 30th and on-site registration closes 30 minutes before the start of the contest.

The competition is open format. The goal is to promote and showcase fiddlers, foster interest in fiddling, and provide a positive atmosphere for all. Contestants will be judged on Timing, Tone, Execution, Expression/Feel, and Overall Impression.

General Information:

- The competition will begin at 1:00 pm SHARP on Sunday, November 8th, 2026 at the Parkway Stage. Youth fiddlers will go first followed by High School then Adult.

- Who may participate: Open to any **fiddle** players in their respective division.

- All registered contestants plus ***one*** member of their party (either an accompanist or a guest) will receive free admission. All children under 6 get in free. Additional Fair tickets are available online and/or at the gate. Gates open at noon on Sunday, November 8th. We recommend arriving an hour prior to the start of the competition because of traffic and to save seats for your friends and family.

- Parking is free for all contestants and guests.

- The online registration fee is $10 and can be paid at the portal found at www.coastalcarolinafair.org/fiddle. Contestants may enter only one category. The registration fee is refundable after the contestant has completed his or her two songs.

Contest Rules:

- Contestants will perform two tunes of choice. Each tune cannot be more three minutes.
- Contestants going over the three-minute song limit will be penalized
- Contestants missing their turn can be penalized
- Cross-tuning is allowed
- If a string breaks, contestant can stop, leave the stage to repair the string; they will be re-entered and called again at random to start over where they stopped
- A tie may be broken by an elimination round, so come prepared accordingly
- Contact microphones and amplified instruments will not be allowed
- No trick fiddling (Orange Blossom Shuffle is considered trick fiddling)
- No sheet music
- Any contestant winning a prize must be present to appear on stage and accept the prize or the prize is forfeited
- Format, divisions and number of songs may be eliminated, combined, or changed by the judges as attendance requires
- Winners shall be announced by the Judges following the final division
- Winners will be asked to sign a photo and recording release to the Coastal Carolina Fair
- All decisions of the Judges and of the Contest Chairman are final
- No more than **one** accompanist per contestant
- No twin fiddling
- The Adult winner from the previous year will not be eligible to compete for **one** year