



Thomas Carnival, Inc. P.O. Box 92469 Austin, TX 78709-2469 512-282-4442 FAX 877-356-4704

September 17, 2026

Rapides Fair Association, Inc.

Greetings from the Thomas Carnival staff. We look forward to seeing you in Alexandria in just over a month. Listed below are the promotional plans for the 2026 Rapides Parish Fair, Wednesday through Sunday, October 14-18, 2026.

Fairgrounds The 2026 event is the 12th year the fair will be held at its new, location at 8149 Highway 71 South just past LSU-A, and just 15 minutes from the former grounds. Acres of free lighted parking available, with 1,320 additional parking spaces added.

Gate and perimeter fence brings increased security The admission fee is just \$2 for ages 6 and up. No charge for ages 5 and under. The fees will promote a safer fair-going experience, with the goal of maintaining a family-friendly atmosphere at all hours of the fair – from morning to late into the night.

New for 2026! Advance Sale Carnival Tickets: Advance sale wristbands and ride credits are available online for the first time!

- Purchase an advance sale wristband for \$27 (plus 10% processing fee). Advance sale wristbands are valid during any one wristband session, available Friday, Saturday, and Sunday.
- Purchase ride credits in advance - 120 credits for \$30 (plus 10% processing fee).

To redeem your advance sale ride credit purchase, proceed to the sales kiosk on the midway, scan the code you received by email, and your card will be dispensed – loaded and ready to ride.

To redeem your advance sale wristband purchase, proceed directly to the wristband redemption station, located next to the sales kiosk. An attendant will scan the code (sent to the customer via email) and apply a wristband. Wristbands are good for one person, for one session only.

Ride Credit prices: Credits are loaded on a reusable, reloadable cards. Credits are valid every day of the fair, and they never expire. Rides require 7-20 credits each.

Single Credit - \$.50

40 Credits - \$20

60 Credits - \$28

110 Credits - \$48

162 Credits - \$68

245 Credits - \$98

2026 Carnival Hours (Closing times are approximate):

Wednesday, October 14: 4 - 10 p.m.

Thursday, October 15: Noon - 11 p.m.

Friday, October 16: Noon - 11:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 17: 11 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 18: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Special carnival promotions:

Wednesday: Family Night: \$22 Wristband 4-10 p.m.

Thursday: Date Night – Reduced admission to all rides (4-10 credits each).

Friday: \$32 Ride Armbands, Noon - 10 p.m. (on sale until 8 p.m.)
Early Bird Special Purchase before 3 pm and ride all night for just \$27.

Saturday: \$32 Ride Armbands, 11 a.m. - 10 p.m. (on sale until 8 p.m.)

Sunday: \$32 Ride Armbands, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m. (on sale until 5 p.m.)

Sincerely,

Thomas Carnival, Inc.
Katherine Petree

Rapides Parish Fair Introduces New Digital Ride Ticketing

Visiting the midway at the fair just got a whole lot easier! This year, we are proud to introduce **FunTagg's digital ride ticketing system**, replacing traditional paper tickets with a modern, fast, and contactless experience.

Whether you prefer a physical card, a wristband, or just using your phone, getting onto your favorite rides is now as simple as **tap and go!**

Your Midway, Your Way: 3 Ways to Ride

Choose the option that best fits your group. Here is how sharing and unlimited riding work under the new system:

- **The Reloadable Ride Card (Shareable!):** Great for families! Multiple riders can share and use the same card. Cards pre-loaded with 120 credits will be available for advance sale for the special price of \$30.
⚠ Note: The physical card must be physically present at the entrance of the ride for each person to scan in and board.
- **The Wristband (Individual):** Perfect for unlimited rides during your selected session. **Wristbands are strictly individual and cannot be shared.**
 If you purchase a wristband at a self-service kiosk, it will print a voucher/receipt. Simply take this voucher to the Wristband Redemption station to get your physical fabric band applied.
- **The FunTagg App (Shareable or Individual):** Download the free app to manage your midway experience. You can load credits to share with the family, just use your phone at the ride entrance.

Get Rolling with the App in 3 Easy Steps

Using the app is the fastest way to get on the rides. Skip the ticket booth entirely with these steps:

1. **Download & Register:** Search for **FunTagg** on the App Store or Google Play and set up your account.
2. **Buy Credits:** Purchase your ride credits
3. **Tap to Ride:** Head straight to the midway! Simply open your digital card in the app and tap your phone to the ride reader.

 **No Signal? No Problem!** Once your credits are loaded, the FunTagg app and physical cards work **completely offline via NFC**. You don't need active cell service or Wi-Fi to tap and board your favorite rides.

Buying & Reloading at the Fair

If you prefer not to use the app, we've got you covered. You can buy and reload physical Ride Cards at any self-service kiosk or staffed ticket booth.

- **Accepted Payments:** Cash, credit/debit cards, Apple Pay, and Google Pay. *(Our smart kiosks even dispense cash change if you pay with larger bills!)*
- **Checking Balances:** Easily check your remaining credits or add more at any kiosk, ticket booth, or directly inside the app.

Plan Your Visit: For ride pricing, session hours, and more details, visit the official Rapides Parish Fair website.

Advance Sale

Advance sale ride cards and advance sale wristbands will be available online for the first time in 2026. Be sure to make your advance sale purchases before noon on Thursday, October 15.

- Purchase 120 Ride Credits for \$30 (rides require 7-20 credits each).
- Purchase a wristband, valid for one session on one of the following days: Friday, Saturday, or Sunday for \$27.
- Purchase gate admission: \$2 for ages 6 and up.
- Once your purchase is complete, you will receive a QR code by email. There's no need to print; the code will be scanned from your mobile device.
 - To redeem a QR code for gate admission, present the code to gate agents.
 - To redeem a QR code for ride credits, proceed to the self-service kiosk, tap "Scan Code", and hold the code up to the reader. A loaded card will be dispensed.
 - To redeem a QR code for a wristband, proceed to the wristband redemption station next to the sales kiosk. The code will be validated, and a wristband provided. The wearer of the wristband must be present to receive their band.
- All online sales incur a 10% processing fee.

Visit the Rapides Parish Fair website for the link to purchase online.