

The N.C. Mountain State Fair returns to the Western N.C. Ag Center Sept. 6-15, offering a fun mix of free family entertainment, educational exhibits, exhilarating rides and delicious foods. The fair celebrates the people, agriculture, arts and cultural traditions of the region.

“Final preparations are under way for the big event,” said Agriculture Commissioner Steve Troxler. “Visitors can expect to see mountain crafters demonstrating their craft, hear bluegrass and gospel music, see champion livestock in the show ring and, of course, take in the all the sights and sounds of the carnival midway. It’s a good time for everyone.”

A number of special promotional days are offered during the fair, making it an affordable outing for the family. Following is a list:

- Sept. 6, there will be free gate admission for students grades K-12 until 6 p.m. Plus, from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m., pay \$28 for unlimited rides for the Friday Night Frenzy.
- Sept. 9 and 12, the fair offers unlimited rides from 4-11 p.m. for \$20, plus gate admission.
- Sept. 10 is WLOS Family Day where kids 12 and under get unlimited rides from 4-11 p.m. for \$20, plus gate admission.
- Sept. 11 is Ingles Day where gate admission is free with five cans of Laura Lynn brand foods from Ingles supermarket.
- Sept. 13 is Senior Citizens Day where seniors 65 and older get in free. In addition, the Friday Night Frenzy with unlimited rides and admission for \$28 runs from 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
- Sept. 14 is the N.C. Education Lotter Day where fairgoers get a free scratch and win promotional ticket for each adult ticket sold. Must be 18 to play.

In addition to the special discount days, the Mountain State Fair offers an Elementary School Tour Day on Sept. 12 with gates open for schools groups only from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Gates normally open at 3 p.m. on weekdays. Students will get to see livestock displays, competitive exhibits, the Mobil Dairy Classroom, Farmer Bill’s Ag-Ventures Tent and special entertainment performance.

Schools should RSVP by Aug. 30 to reserve a tour and tour guide. To find out more, contact John Hunsucker at john.hunsucker@ncagr.gov.

Tickets to the fair are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the gate for adults, \$4 in advance or \$6 at the gate for seniors 65 and up or kids 6-12 years old. Children 5 and under get in for free. For the first time, tickets can be purchased in advance online at <http://www.wncagcenter.org/p/mountainstatefair>.

Make your plans now to attend the Mountain State Fair Sept. 6-15.