

Orleans County Cornell Cooperative Extension

Fairgoer Code of Conduct- FREE SPEECH ACTIVITIES

It is the policy of the Fair to allow free speech activities whenever said activity is not inconsistent with the normal operations or activities and open hours occurring on the Fairgrounds. However, in keeping with the Fair's strong interest in: (1) ensuring the orderly movement of visitors, (2) access of its visitors to the events, programs, exhibits, and attractions held at the Fairgrounds; and (3) providing a safe and secure venue, it is necessary to balance the interests of those engaged in free speech activities with concerns regarding the safety of visitors by avoiding confrontation, congestion, or accidents which could lead to injury. Therefore, free speech activities, to include demonstrations, protests, proselytizing, sign carrying, and/or similar activities are permitted only in designated free speech areas as shown on Map 1.

To facilitate the Fair's ability to provide ample space where individuals or groups can communicate with Fairgoers, individuals or groups intending to engage in free speech activities, to include demonstrations, protests, proselytizing, sign carrying, and/or other similar activities are asked to apply with the fair before engaging in free speech activities. To apply for a Public Assembly Permit, please contact the Fair Administration at rpb23@cornell.edu. Among other things, in your application, you will be asked to provide the following information: (1) the date of the planned activity; (2) the anticipated start and finish time; (3) the nature of the planned activity; (4) the expected number of participants with an estimate of the estimated maximum and minimum number of participants; and (5) a designated contact person, who will be on-site, including a contact number for said person. If the proposed activity complies with the Rules of Conduct, the Fair Administration a suitable location for the activity will be provided, per the discretion of the Fair OCCCE Executive Director or his/her designee, at one of the free speech areas illustrated on our Map.

Free speech activities occurring within the free speech areas must not impede the free flow or movement of other Fairgoers and/or obstruct, interrupt, obscure, or otherwise interfere with events, programs, exhibits and attractions held at the Fairgrounds. If such activities are found to impede the free flow or movement of other visitors and/or obstruct, interrupt, obscure, or otherwise interfere with such events, programs, exhibits and attractions, and, following notice, the conduct is not promptly addressed and the problems eliminated, then the authorized use of the free speech area will be revoked and the participants will be ordered to disperse.

While engaging in free speech activities occurring within the free speech areas, individuals or groups may not hang signs, banners, or similar items from or on any buildings, fences, signs, trees, shrubs, etc., owned and controlled by the Fair. Any signs, banners, or similar items held or carried while engaged in free speech activities must not be so large and unwieldy as to impede the free flow or movement of other Fairgoers and/or obstruct, interrupt, obscure, or otherwise interfere with events, programs, exhibits and attractions held at the Fairgrounds.

While engaging in free speech activities occurring within the free speech areas, individuals or groups may not use a sound device, including but not limited to a bullhorn or other sound amplifying device, electronic or otherwise. Such individuals or groups shall not engage in loud, rude, or unreasonable behavior; make threatening comments, actions, or gestures toward others; commit any act that is a violation of a criminal law; or participate in any behavior or activity that, in the opinion of the OCCCE Executive Director or his/her designee, may affect the safety or well-being of any other person.

Should the violator(s) of the Rules of Conduct refuse to cease their activities, violator(s) will be directed to leave the Fairgrounds, or in the case of free speech activities, if the activity can be reasonably accommodated, to move to the designated free speech areas (See Map); and will escort the individual(s) to the nearest gate. If the activity is occurring outside the Gates and/or in the free speech areas, the individuals should be directed to disperse. Failure to disperse as directed may result in arrest for Disorderly Conduct, Trespass, or Criminal Trespass as appropriate.

- Map 1 - Locations for Free Speech Activities

