



The Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Association was formed in 1967 due to overwhelming support from two local fiddling contests, thus establishing the **Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention**. With a stated goal of reviving the tradition of old time music, the annual event held on the historic campus of Athens State University is known as the “Granddaddy of Midsouth Fiddlers Conventions.”

In 2014, legislation was passed in the State of Alabama recognizing the Tennessee Valley Old Time Fiddlers Convention as the official home of 14 state champions, including the Alabama State Fiddle Champion. Each year, hundreds of contestants come to Athens to compete for these coveted titles, joining thousands of fans who come to enjoy the music, along with “shade-tree players” who bring their own instruments to perform in impromptu jam sessions.

In addition to the competitions, which begin Friday afternoon at 3 PM, the 2026 Convention will include top-notch entertainment by The Larry Sparks Show, Mike Compton & Andy Todd, Dale Ann Bradley, The Isaacs, and The Del McCoury Band. The Fiddlers experience is further enhanced by dozens of food vendors and over 150 area craftsmen displaying their arts and crafts, offering unique and custom-made souvenirs. Proceeds support student scholarships and various University projects.

ADMISSION PRICES

WEDNESDAY	FREE
THURSDAY	\$20.00
FRIDAY	\$20.00
SATURDAY	\$20.00
3-DAY PASS	\$30.00

CHILDREN UNDER 12 FREE WITH PAID ADULT.
GROUP DISCOUNTS (20 OR MORE) AVAILABLE!

Purchase your tickets online!
AthensFiddlers.org

BE SURE TO VISIT:

CRAFT VENDOR AREA

Sponsored by Bank Independent, TOC, and Trustmark Bank

Over 150 craft vendors offering unique and custom-made souvenirs

Pepsi & Capshaw RV Park
FOOD COURT

Over a dozen food vendors offering a wide variety of delicious food

JERRY McGLOCKLIN
MUSIC STORE

Sponsored by Martin & Cobey

(Sandridge Ballroom) Vendors selling instruments and accessories

STRINGS WORKSHOPS

All ages and abilities welcome!

Kares Library | FREE (no ticket required)

Thursday, October 1:

- Noon - Celtic Fiddle & Tunes (Jamie Ferguson)
- 1 pm - Old-Time Fiddle & Tunes (Aerin deRussy)
- 1 pm - Old-Time Banjo & Tunes (Carter Laney)
- 2 pm - Old-Time Guitar (Jim & Joyce Cauthen)
- 2 pm - Upright Bass (Ryan Brown)
- 3 pm - Tunes JAM (Bailey Hill)

Friday, October 2:

- 10 am - Contest Fiddle (Ed Carnes)
- 10 am - Contest Guitar Accomp. (Terry Barnett)
- 11 am - Bluegrass Fiddle (Tyler Andall)
- 11 am - Bluegrass Guitar (Dillon Hodges)
- 12 pm - Bluegrass Banjo (Scooter Muse)
- 12 pm - Mandolin (Tony Robertson)
- 1 pm - Bluegrass JAM (Russ Holder)

Delmore Brothers Exhibit

Located in the Nazaretian Alumni Welcome Center

Support provided by the Alabama Department of Tourism



This project is made possible in part by a grant from the Muscle Shoals National Heritage Area.

THANK YOU
to our sponsors!



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CASH GIVEAWAY SPONSOR
BRYANT BANK

BRYANT BANK CASH GIVEAWAY
\$2,500

\$500 Thursday | \$1,000 Friday | \$1,000 Saturday

Celebrating 100 YEARS of
THE DELMORE BROTHERS

“A Century of Strings, Stories, & Songs,” a tribute to The Delmore Brothers album release October 1, 2026.

CD: \$20
Vinyl: \$30
USB: \$20



59TH ANNUAL



Wednesday, September 30, 2026
THROUGH
Saturday, October 3, 2026

HELD ON THE CAMPUS OF



PRESENTED BY



Goodwyn Mills Cawood

\$47,350 in CASH PRIZES

Top category winners named
ALABAMA STATE CHAMPIONS

AthensFiddlers.org

Find us on

CONCERTS

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30 — 7:30 PM



SPECIAL **GOSPEL** CONCERT —
FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

THE
LARRY SPARKS SHOW

MAIN STAGE,
FOUNDERS HALL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1 — 7:00 PM

7:00 PM:
MIKE COMPTON & ANDY TODD

8:00 PM:
DALE ANN BRADLEY

MAIN STAGE,
FOUNDERS HALL



FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2 — 6:00 PM



THE
ISAACS

MAIN STAGE,
FOUNDERS HALL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3 — 7:30 PM

THE
DEL McCOURY BAND

MAIN STAGE,
FOUNDERS HALL



More Information: AthensFiddlers.org

OUTDOOR STAGES - Bring lawn chairs
NO PETS allowed inside the gates
FREE CAMPING - No hookups available
UNIQUE ARTS & CRAFTS BOOTHS
DOZENS OF FOOD VENDORS
SMOKE/VAPE FREE CAMPUS

ADMISSION TICKET WILL PAY THE ENTRY FEE FOR ONE CATEGORY OF
COMPETITION — ADDITIONAL ENTRIES ARE \$5 EACH (BANDS \$10)

COMPETITIONS

LISTING OF EVENTS AND PRIZES

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2

Pre-register at AthensFiddlers.org; Registration ends 30 minutes before each competition.
(Competitions are continuous with no scheduled breaks; exact start times are unknown.)

BEGINNING AT 3:00 PM		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Founders Hall	Harmonica (Finals).....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
Founders Hall	Dulcimer (Finals).....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
BEGINNING AT 8:00 PM (both locations)		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Founders Hall	Mandolin (Finals).....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
Founders Hall	Bluegrass Banjo (Finals).....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
Founders Hall	Dobro (Finals).....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
McCandless Hall	Old Time Singing (Finals).....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3

Pre-register at AthensFiddlers.org; Registration ends 30 minutes before each competition.
(Competitions are continuous with no scheduled breaks; exact start times are unknown.)

BEGINNING AT 8:30 AM - BROWN HALL		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Brown Hall	Beginner Guitar (Finals) (Age 12 & Under).....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
Brown Hall	Beginner Mandolin (Finals) (Age 12 & Under).....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
Brown Hall	Beginner Banjo (Finals) (Age 12 & Under).....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
Brown Hall	Beginner Fiddle (Finals) (Age 10 & Under).....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
Brown Hall	Apprentice Fiddle (Finals) (Ages 11-15).....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
Brown Hall	Senior Fiddle (Finals) (Ages 55+).....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
Brown Hall	Classic Old Time Fiddle (Finals).....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
Brown Hall	Appalachian Buck Dancing (Prelim).....	This is a Preliminary round. Prize money is awarded in the Finals round.							
Brown Hall	Guitar Fingerpicking (Finals).....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
Brown Hall	Guitar Flatpicking (Finals).....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
BEGINNING AT 8:30 AM - FOUNDERS HALL		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Founders Hall	Old Time Banjo (Finals).....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
Founders Hall	Old Time String Band (Prelim).....	This is a Preliminary round. Prize money is awarded in the Finals round.							
Founders Hall	Bluegrass Band (Prelim).....	This is a Preliminary round. Prize money is awarded in the Finals round.							
Founders Hall	Tennessee Valley Fiddle Champion (Prelim)	This is a Preliminary round. Prize money is awarded in the Finals round.							

SATURDAY AFTERNOON FINALS

Preliminary round winners only. Winners in all other categories will be selected from first round competition with no finals.
(Finals follow the end of the Fiddle Champion Preliminary round and are continuous with no breaks; exact start times are unknown.)

		1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th
Founders Hall	Appalachian Buck Dancing.....	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$125	\$100	\$75	\$50
Founders Hall	Old Time String Band.....	\$1,500	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$750	\$500	\$400	\$300	\$200
Founders Hall	Bluegrass Band.....	\$1,500	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$750	\$500	\$400	\$300	\$200
Founders Hall	Tennessee Valley Fiddle Champion.....	\$2,000	\$1,750	\$1,500	\$1,250	\$1,000	\$750	\$500	\$250