

# California Strawberry Festival

## THE 2018 CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRY FESTIVALS 35th ANNUAL CELEBRATION FACT SHEET

### EVENT:

The 35th Annual [CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL](#) is May 19 & 20, 2018 at [Strawberry Meadows of College Park](#) in Oxnard. Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. both days. The two-day festival attracts almost 60,000 visitors of every age who can sample all things strawberry, enjoy live concerts, browse the arts & crafts showcase, visit Strawberryland (with kids rides and activities) and participate in contests and cooking demonstrations. What's more, since its inception, the festival has contributed over \$4.65 million to more than 30 charitable organizations and funded scholarships to children of migrant farm workers.

### FEATURES:

**Strawberries, strawberries, strawberries** -- from chocolate dipped, deep fried, shortcake to atop pizza and nachos, berries abound as desserts, main courses and even as thirst quenching delights like strawberry beer, margaritas and smoothies. There is a tasty strawberry delight for everyone just waiting to be consumed.

Proceeds from non-profit food booths benefit southland charities.

**Live Concerts** are on two stages and included in the admission price. The medley of music offers something for every musical taste.

**Arts & Crafts Showcase** highlights the talents of 200 artists who specialize in paintings, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, specialty foods, furniture, children's toys, photography and more. Artists are on hand to visit with festival guests and often personalize gifts.

**Strawberryland For Kids** offers tons of childhood fun with puppet and magic shows, live animal acts, rides, bounce houses and climbing walls.

**Strawberry Promenade** is a huge tented area packed with cooking demonstrations, the Sweet Berry Blast Off Recipe Contest Championship (Saturday), the Savory Berry Blast Off Recipe Contest (Sunday), and a Strawberry Smackdown with dueling chefs.

**Contests** get everyone into the act. Festivalgoers can sign up for the Strawberry Pie Eating Contest, gooey Tart Toss and the timed Strawberry Relay Race (teams attempt to go through a series of obstacles to assemble and eat a strawberry creation in the fastest time). The Berry Best Hat Contest takes place in the Strawberry Promenade while the Berry Best Dressed Baby Contest is in Strawberryland at the Strawberryland Kids Theatre. Winners all receive prizes.

**Community Connections Booth** is where visitors can learn about all the wonderful ways the festival engages the community and impact lives. Patrons can spin the booth's wheel to win prizes.

**DATE/LOCATION:**

Saturday and Sunday, May 19 and 20, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. – 6:30 p.m., both days  
Strawberry Meadows of College Park, 3250 South Rose Avenue, Oxnard ([Directions](#))

**GETTING THERE:** Flanked by Rose Avenue, PCH and Channel Islands Blvd., the site is adjacent to Oxnard College. Oxnard is located 60 miles north of Los Angeles and 30 miles south of Santa Barbara. Signs mark the correct exits off the 101 Freeway and PCH. **Parking:** Limited onsite parking is \$10.

**FREE SHUTTLE:** [FREE Strawberry Express](#) shuttle service offers multiple convenient Park 'N Ride locations off the 101 Fwy: Camarillo Premium Outlets adjacent, the Topa Financial Towers, Channel Islands Harbor, Santa Clara High School and the Oxnard Transportation Center ([Amtrak](#) offers rider discounts. Free shuttles meet trains).

**WHERE TO STAY:** The [Holiday Inn Express Port Hueneme](#) is the festival's official hotel. In addition, there is an array of lodging choices with something to fit every budget. After an exciting day at the festival, plan to check out the other activities and sights in and around Oxnard and Ventura County. For more info, visit <https://visitoxnard.com/>.

**ADMISSION:**

Adults: \$12; seniors 62+, active military and dependents with ID card: \$8; Youths (5-12): \$5, Free for kids 4 and under.

**BACKGROUND:** The festival pays tribute to California's billion dollar strawberry industry. Oxnard, with its unique coastal environment of ocean exposure and year-round moderate temperatures, is ideal for the luscious fruit. Strawberries are Ventura County's largest crop generating over \$615 million in value in 2015. In the 1980s, then Oxnard Mayor, Dr. Tsujio Kato, gathered with City of Oxnard officials and a handful of local strawberry growers to explore ways to celebrate the strawberry industry. The festival premiered in 1984 at Channel Islands Harbor. After eight years, the increasingly popular event outgrew its original site, moving in 1992 to Strawberry Meadows of College Park, where it remains today. An estimated 1.5 million strawberries will be consumed during the two-day festival.

**POSITIVE IMPACT:** The nonprofit California Strawberry Festival is known as one of the nation's finest. The International Festival & Events Association and the Library of Congress have recognized the California Strawberry Festival for its extensive community programs benefiting education, arts and youths. The Association's research estimates the festival's economic impact to the community hovers at approximately \$7.5 million for the two-day event.

**EVENT CONTACT:**

Info line: 888-288-9242  
Visit us: <http://www.castrawberryfestival.org>  
Like us: <http://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaStrawberryFestival>  
Follow us: <http://twitter.com/CAStrawFestival>  
See us: <http://instagram.com/castrawberryfest>  
Handle & Hashtag: @castrawfestival #CAStrawberryFestival

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