

# The Official String Band Festival of the State of Georgia

## The Gordon County Fiddlers' Convention

### 2026 Competition

### March 28, 2026

**Harris Arts Center, 212 South Wall Street, Calhoun, GA 30701**

## Competition Rules

- Registration begins at noon, 2nd floor, Ratner Theater foyer. Competition begins at 1PM, in the theater. Competitors must be 15 years of age or older.
- Each entrant or band representative must register beginning at noon. Registration may continue throughout the day for individual competitions, but no registration is allowed after numbers for competition are drawn.
- Drawing for order of contestants will take place in the Ratner Theater before the first contest and after the completion of each following contest. Contestants must be present when number is called to compete or forfeit their status in that particular contest. Contestants are responsible for following progress of contest and being ready when called.
- **Tunes, dancing, and songs should be “Old Time” (pre-WWII) style.** No electric instruments.
- Playoffs will be decided by 1PM tune per contestant or band.

## Winnings

**Singing** \$75/\$50/\$25

One singer, who may either sing cappella, or sing with no more than two instrumental accompanists, or sing and accompany self with no more than one other instrumental accompanist. Should have 1 song for preliminary; final if judges request.

**Buck Dance** \$75/\$50/\$25

If metal is worn on shoe soles, dancer must own board. One dance plus final, if judges request. Band will be provided. Dance tunes will be decided by dancer and band.

**Banjo** \$100/\$75/\$50

Metal finger-picks are allowed but may deduct from favor by judges. May play solo or have 1 accompanist. Preliminary round, 2 tunes of choice; 2nd round at judges' discretion.

**String Band** \$550/\$350/\$200

Band must consist of at least 3 instruments. No exceptions. First round, 2 tunes/songs of choice, 1 required to include vocals; 2nd round at judges' discretion.

**Fiddle** \$200/\$100/\$75

Be prepared to play 2 tunes of choice; judges' may limit contestants to 1 tune each; 2nd round at judges' discretion. May play solo or with 1 accompanist.

**All Judges' decisions will be final.**