Kentucky Venues manages and operates the Kentucky Exposition Center and the Kentucky International Convention Center. Each month we plan to provide you with details about the events that are at our properties.

Kentucky Venues Overall May 2026 Forecast

Number of Events	Est. Attendance	Est. Economic Impact
22	127,200	$38,059,669

Kentucky Exposition Center Forecast

(detailed information page 2)

Number of Events	Est. Attendance	Est. Economic Impact
14	112,700	$34,498,416

Kentucky International Convention Center Forecast

(detailed information page 8)

Number of Events	Est. Attendance	Est. Economic Impact
8	14,500	$3,561,253

Please Note: Events that are booked as a public event and ones booked by the Kentucky Venues staff may not have an estimated economic impact. Estimated attendance is provided by the show organizer and estimated economic impact is calculated by Louisville Tourism. Louisville Tourism utilizes the Destinations International Event Impact Calculator (EIC) which is the official industry standard for measuring the Estimated Economic Impact (EEI) of an event. Once event specific data is entered into the system (dates, attendance, room nights, number of exhibits, etc.), the calculator uses eight different sources of industry data (including city-specific data such as average room rate) to compile a complete event impact analysis. Some events may use different study models with varying numbers for total "Economic Impact."

EVENTS ADVISORY

May 2026

Kentucky Exposition Center

EVENTS	DATES
Kentucky Derby Week Parking	April 30-May 2
National Archery in the Schools Tournament	May 7-9
Indoor Genesis World Championship	May 7-9
2026 Bellarmine University Graduation	May 9
Hammer's Lou Adopts! Presented by the Kentucky Humane Society with Metro Animal Services	May 9
The Classic	May 15-17
Louisville Horror Con	May 16-17
Bluegrass Pugfest	May 16-17
KY Flea Market Memorial Day Spectacular	May 22-25
Pull Up or Shut Up Bully Show 2026	May 23
Bullitt County High School Graduations	May 30
Junior League Louisville Touch-A-Truck® presented by Kentucky Kingdom	May 30
NAGA Louisville	May 30
The Players Championship	May 30-June 1

*Event is closed to the general public.
Events confirmed as of April 15, 2026
All dates and times are subject to change

www.kyexpo.org | Facebook | Twitter | Instagram

KENTUCKY DERBY WEEK PARKING

Est. Attendance	TBD
Est. Economic Impact	Included in city-wide EEI
Location	Parking Lots
Dates & Times	April 30-May 2, 2026
Details	**Kentucky Exposition Center** will have free parking with free shuttles going to and from Churchill Downs on Opening Day, Sunday Funday, 502'sDay, Winsday, and Thurby. Please enter through Gates 1 or 2. On the Kentucky Oaks and Kentucky Derby days, if you do not already have onsite parking, but have reserved seating with frontside access, there is parking at the Kentucky Exposition Center which is included with your ticket upon entry. This includes **FREE** shuttle service to and from Churchill Downs with drop-off and pick-up in the Black Lot outside of the Paddock Gate.
Website	https://www.kentuckyderby.com/come-to-the-derby/visiting-information/travel-parking/

NATIONAL ARCHERY IN THE SCHOOLS US EASTERN NATIONALS TOURNAMENT

Est. Attendance	30,000
Est. Economic Impact	$19,581,384
Location	East Hall, North Wing, South Wing
Dates & Times	May 7-9, 2026
Admission	Advanced Ticket: $11.00
Details	The NASP US Eastern Nationals Tournament brings together student archers from across the country to compete in both bullseye and 3D archery formats. Participants in grades 4–12 who qualified at state-level tournaments compete for individual and team honors, with top archers advancing to the NASP Championship Tournament in Daytona Beach, FL.
Website	https://www.naspschools.org/

2026 IBO GENESIS INDOOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

Est. Attendance	10,000
Est. Economic Impact	$3,101,282
Location	West Wing
Dates & Times	May 7-9, 2026
Details	The IBO Genesis Indoor World Championship brings together bowhunters to compete across multiple divisions on 3D targets using IBO scoring.
Website	https://iboarchery.com/

2026 BELLARMINE UNIVERSITY COMMENCEMENT

Est. Attendance	7,000
Est. Economic Impact	$73,529
Location	Freedom Hall
Dates & Times	May 9, 2026
Details	Bellarmine University's Spring 2026 Commencement ceremonies celebrate the accomplishments of graduating students. The ceremonies honor graduate, doctoral, and undergraduate students completing their degrees.
Website	https://www.bellarmine.edu/

HAMMER'S LOU ADOPTS PRESENTED BY KY HUMANE SOCIETY WITH METRO ANIMAL SERVICES

Est. Attendance	1,500
Est. Economic Impact	$13,889
Location	Pavilion & Lot M
Dates & Times	May 9, 2026 | Noon – 4:00 PM
Admission	Free
Details	Hammer's Lou Adopts is a mega adoption event hosted by the KY Humane Society and Louisville Metro Animal Services, bringing together local shelters to find loving homes for hundreds of adoptable dogs and puppies.
Website	https://www.kyhumane.org/louadopts/

THE CLASSIC

Est. Attendance	22,000
Est. Economic Impact	$7,406,539
Location	South Wing
Dates & Times	May 15-17, 2026
Details	The Classic is an NCAA-certified youth girls basketball tournament organized by 3 Step Sports/Ohio Basketball; girls travel basketball teams in grades 6th–12th. The event draws 600+ competitive teams and 330+ college coaches from across the nation for high-level play at the Kentucky Exposition Center.
Website	https://www.ohiobasketball.com/site/?slug=the-classic

LOUISVILLE HORROR CON

Est. Attendance	2,500
Est. Economic Impact	$81,659
Location	East Hall

Dates & Times	May 16-17, 2026 10 AM – 5 PM
Admission	Online tickets: $24.91
Details	Louisville Horror Con is a fan convention celebrating all things horror, featuring celebrity guests, panels, vendors, and immersive experiences for horror enthusiasts of all ages.
Website	https://www.evansvillehorror.com/louisvillehorror

BLUEGRASS PUGFEST

Est. Attendance	2,000
Est. Economic Impact	$212,264
Location	West Hall
Dates & Times	May 16: 9 AM – 5 PM | May 17: 9 AM – 4 PM
Admission	Adults: $8 | Children 2-12: Free
Details	The 5th Annual Bluegrass Pugfest is a celebration of the Pug breed and a community social event for dog lovers of all kinds. This all-volunteer 501(c)(3) charity event features vendors, pug rescue organizations from across the country, a costume contest, and more. All proceeds benefit participating Pug rescue organizations.
Website	https://bluegrasspugfest.org

KY FLEA MARKET MEMORIAL DAY SPECTACULAR

Est. Attendance	15,000
Est. Economic Impact	$525,206
Location	South Wing C
Dates & Times	May 22-25, 2026 | Fri-Sat 10 AM–6 PM | Sun 11 AM–5 PM | Mon 10 AM–5 PM
Admission	Free Admission | Half Off Parking
Details	One of the nation's finest flea markets, the Kentucky Flea Market Memorial Day Spectacular features over 600 booths including 150+ antique and collectible dealers. Dealers from across the nation bring antiques, collectibles, bath and body products, jewelry, crafts, candles, clothing, and more.
Website	http://www.stewartpromotions.com/louisville.asp

PUSU BULLY SHOW 2026

Est. Attendance	1,000
Est. Economic Impact	$15,698
Location	West Hall B
Dates & Times	May 23, 2026 | 10 AM

Admission	See organizer for details
Details	The PUSU Bully Show is an American Bully dog show bringing together breeders, owners, and enthusiasts to showcase American Bully dogs.

BULLITT COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Est. Attendance	8,000
Est. Economic Impact	$84,110
Location	Broadbent Arena
Dates & Times	May 30, 2026
Details	Bullitt County High School celebrates the accomplishments of graduating students at Broadbent Arena at the Kentucky Exposition Center.
Website	https://www.bullittschools.org/page/board-of-education

JUNIOR LEAGUE LOUISVILLE TOUCH-A-TRUCK® PRESENTED BY KENTUCKY KINGDOM

Est. Attendance	500
Est. Economic Impact	$4,108
Location	Lot R
Dates & Times	May 30, 2026 | 9 AM – 1 PM
Admission	$10
Details	Junior League Louisville Touch-A-Truck, presented by Kentucky Kingdom and hosted by the Junior League of Louisville, is a family-friendly community event where children can explore and interact with large vehicles of all kinds, including fire trucks, construction equipment, and emergency vehicles.
Website	https://louisville.jl.org/events/register-touch-a-trucka-presented-by-kentucky-kingdom/

NAGA LOUISVILLE GRAPPLING & BJJ CHAMPIONSHIP

Est. Attendance	1,200
Est. Economic Impact	$74,191
Location	West Hall
Dates & Times	May 30, 2026 | 8 AM – 5 PM
Admission	Spectator passes are $20. Children 12 and under are $10. Infants are free.
Details	The North American Grappling Association (NAGA) is the world's largest mixed grappling tournament organization, with over 700,000 competitors worldwide. The Louisville event offers both no-gi and gi (BJJ) divisions for competitors of all ages and skill levels.

Website	https://www.nagafighter.com/event/louisville-grappling-bjj-championship-louisville-ky/

THE PLAYERS CHAMPIONSHIP	
Est. Attendance	12,000
Est. Economic Impact	$3,324,557
Location	South Wing, SWC VIP Suite
Dates & Times	May 30 – June 1, 2026
Details	The Players Championship is an NCAA-certified youth basketball tournament organized by 3 Step Sports, drawing competitive travel basketball teams from across the region for high-level competition at the Kentucky Exposition Center.
Website	https://www.topcourtevents.com/site/?slug=players-championship

EVENTS ADVISORY

May 2026

Kentucky International Convention Center

EVENTS	DATES
Hortense B. Perry Foundation Derby Brunch	**May 2**
Applause Talent	**May 8-10**
University of Louisville School of Medicine Commencement	**May 9**
JCTC Commencement 2026	**May 12**
Business Women First 2026	**May 12**
*Closed Shows	
Health Connect Partners Spring Conferences*	**May 18-20**
Kentucky Hospital Association 97th Annual Convention*	**May 18-20**
Woodcraft 2026 National Sales Conference & Vendor Trade Show*	**May 20-21**

*Event is closed to the general public.
Events confirmed as of April 15, 2026
All dates and times are subject to change

www.kyconvention.org | Facebook | Twitter | Instagram

HORTENSE B. PERRY FOUNDATION DERBY BRUNCH	
Est. Attendance	1,000

Est. Economic Impact	$143,503
Location	Ballroom C-E, Boardrooms A-C
Dates & Times	May 2, 2026 | 10 AM – 2 PM
Admission	See website for ticket details
Details	The Hortense B. Perry Foundation in partnership with Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated Eta Omega Chapter Derby Brunch is an annual Kentucky Derby Week celebration honoring the 2026 Scholars. Enjoy a silent auction, fashion show, bourbon pull, vendors, mimosa bar, and live entertainment.
Website	https://www.hortensebperry.com/event-list

APPLAUSE TALENT

Est. Attendance	2,000
Est. Economic Impact	$242,402
Location	North Hall C & E, South Hall A
Dates & Times	May 8-10, 2026
Details	Applause Talent is a national touring dance competition with over 30 years of experience, visiting more than 30 U.S. cities each year. The Louisville event features performers across three competitive levels with professional judges and a high-energy, family-friendly atmosphere.
Website	https://applausetalent.com/

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISVILLE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE COMMENCEMENT

Est. Attendance	2,000
Est. Economic Impact	$155,601
Location	Ballroom C-E, Boardrooms B-C
Dates & Times	May 9, 2026
Details	The University of Louisville School of Medicine Commencement ceremony celebrates graduating medical students as they complete their degrees and prepare to begin their careers in medicine. Family members and guests gather to honor the next generation of healthcare professionals.
Website	https://louisville.edu/medicine/studentaffairs/student-services/commencement

JCTC COMMENCEMENT 2026

Est. Attendance	6,000
Est. Economic Impact	$125,585
Location	South Hall A-B, South Overlook Suite, South Prefunction

Dates & Times	May 12, 2026
Details	Jefferson Community & Technical College's commencement ceremony honors graduates completing associate degrees and technical certificates. The event gathers students, families, faculty, and staff to celebrate academic achievement and the start of graduates' professional journeys.
Website	https://jefferson.kctcs.edu/current-students/academic-resources/graduation/

BUSINESS WOMEN FIRST 2026

Est. Attendance	1,500
Est. Economic Impact	$19,808
Location	Ballrooms A-E
Dates & Times	May 12, 2026 | 11 AM – 1:30 PM
Admission	See website for ticket details
Details	Business Women First, hosted by Louisville Business First, is an annual event honoring and celebrating outstanding women in business across the Louisville region. The event recognizes professional achievements and fosters networking among the area's top female business leaders.
Website	https://www.bizjournals.com/louisville/business-women-first

HEALTH CONNECT PARTNERS SPRING CONFERENCES*

Est. Attendance	900
Est. Economic Impact	$2,374,635
Location	North Hall D-E
Dates & Times	May 18-20, 2026
Admission	This event is closed to the public.
Details	Health Connect Partners Spring Conferences bring together hospital and healthcare facility executives with suppliers and manufacturers for industry-specific education and networking. The Spring 2026 event includes the Hospital Pharmacy Conference at the Kentucky International Convention Center.
Website	https://www.hlthcp.com/conferences

KENTUCKY HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION 97TH ANNUAL CONVENTION*

Est. Attendance	500
Est. Economic Impact	$161,714
Location	Ballrooms C-E, Boardrooms A-C
Dates & Times	May 18-20, 2026
Admission	This event is closed to the public.

Details	The Kentucky Hospital Association's 97th Annual Convention brings together hospital leaders, healthcare professionals, and industry partners from across the Commonwealth to address key issues facing Kentucky's healthcare system. The convention features educational sessions, networking opportunities, and discussions on policy and best practices.
Website	https://www.kyha.com/education-hub/97th-annual-convention/

WOODCRAFT 2026 NATIONAL SALES CONFERENCE & VENDOR TRADE SHOW*

Est. Attendance	600
Est. Economic Impact	$338,006
Location	Ballroom A, South Hall B
Dates & Times	May 20-21, 2026
Admission	This event is closed to the public.
Details	The Woodcraft National Sales Conference & Vendor Trade Show is an annual gathering for Woodcraft franchise owners, staff, and vendor partners. Attendees connect with product suppliers, explore new merchandise, and align on sales strategies and business goals for the year ahead.
Website	https://www.woodcraft.com/pages/woodcraftnscvts