

# 29th Annual Cotton Ginning Days



**October 7 – 9, 2016**  
**Sponsorship Opportunities Catalog**  
**Great Entertainment, Great Crowd**

# Welcome to the 29th Annual Cotton Ginning Days Festival October 7-9, 2016

Over 28 years ago the first Cotton Ginning Days Festival was held – look at how it has grown and changed. The Gaston County Parks & Recreation Department and the Gaston Agricultural, Mechanical, and Textile Restoration Association are excited to present the 28th Annual Cotton Ginning Days Festival. We invite you to be a part of this celebration of our community and a showcase of regional and local performers on two stages over three days! The mission of Cotton Ginning Days is to preserve the heritage of blue-collar workers in the South and provide patrons an experience of life as it was lived in the late 1800's and early 1900's around Gaston County through a fun and entertaining family event. The focal point of this annual 3-day festival is a restored operational cotton gin on permanent exhibit in the Gaston County Park in Dallas. This event attracts an average of **40,000** people each year to see more than 300 exhibits of antique agricultural and textile machinery from all over the Southeast.



Exhibitors from all over the southeast will convene in Dallas, North Carolina on October 7-9, 2016 for the annual 'crank-up' of antique steam and gasoline engines and tractors. One of the highlights of the engine show is the operational 1900 single-stand, Continental Cotton Gin and we will be ginning cotton all weekend long during the festival until we are all ginned out! In addition to the engine show, many activities are planned including a Kids County Fair, Heritage Arts Area, Handmade Craft Vendors and Music. So mark your calendars and plan to join GAMTRA and Gaston County Parks & Recreation Department as we present the 29th Annual Cotton Ginning Days.



## What's Unique About the Cotton Ginning Days?

### ★ It's Free!

Cotton Ginning Days does **not charge admission**, making it an affordable outing for just about everyone. We offer an antique engine show featuring a 1900 single-stand, hand-fed Continental Cotton Gin, creative hands-on art activities for kids, two stages of entertainment, and two spectacular tractor parades...**all free!** We even offer a complimentary shuttle bus service to help people get to and from the festival area.

### ★ Vibrant Musical Entertainment

The Cotton Ginning Days offers a wonderful selection of bluegrass and gospel bluegrass music. Our headline acts attract between **1,000 and 2,000** people and have featured favorites such as the Carolina Chocolate Drops, the Cockman Family, and the Flowers Family band.



### ★ An Event That Helps Others

Many of Gaston's community and cultural organizations participate in the Festival, using the event as an effective annual fundraiser to support local worthwhile causes. This event is Gaston Agricultural, Mechanical, and Textile Restoration Association's largest fundraiser and helps them preserve the agricultural, mechanical, and textile heritage of Gaston County North Carolina.

### ★ Why Should You Become a Sponsor?

The Cotton Ginning Days Festival offers an ideal opportunity for your company to participate in a proven, time-tested event that draws a highly identifiable group of people. Individual sponsorships will allow you to target your audience to an even more specific degree. Your sponsorship will help illustrate and preserve the agricultural, mechanical, and textile heritage of Gaston County North Carolina.

## Take a moment, read on, and choose the opportunity that best fits your needs...

We hope to make our 29th year the best celebration yet! There are a variety of opportunities to select from, providing significant benefit to your business or organization. Choose an event or activity that appeals to you, and let's make the Cotton Ginning Days Festival an event we can all be proud of! If you don't see the exact fit you're looking for, call us. We'll work with you to build a custom package that is dynamic!



## \$3000 Title Sponsor

Have the exclusive rights to the highest level sponsorship. One company will receive a premier level of exposure. Title sponsor benefits will be customized for the company. The Title sponsor can have their company logo placed on all of the festivals promotional items – pending time of commitment.

## \$1500 Platinum Sponsor

All sponsorships at this level include the following plus one of the starred items below:

- Booth space at the festival all 3 days
- Company logo on sponsor thank you banners
- Inclusion of your logo on festival website, brochure, and flyers pending time of commitment

### ★ County Home Stage Sponsor

High degree of visibility at the County Home Stage. Logo on festival main stage banner and MC announcements of sponsorship

### ★ County Home Stage Entertainment

Sponsor name associated with specific performers. High degree of visibility at the County Home Stage through your logo on the stage banners during selected performance.





## \$1000 Gold Sponsor

All sponsorships at this level include the following plus one of the starred items below:

- Booth space 2 days of the festival
- Company logo on sponsor thank you banners
- Inclusion of your logo on festival website, brochure, and flyers pending time of commitment

### ★ Craft Stage Sponsor

High degree of visibility at the craft stage. Logo on festival craft stage banner and MC announcements of sponsorship

### ★ Kids Country Fair Sponsor

Logo on banner at entrance to kids area and signs posted inside kids area.  
Opportunity to distribute tickets and ride bracelets



## \$500 Silver Sponsor

All sponsorships at this level include the following plus one of the starred items below:

- Booth space 1 day of the festival
- Company name on sponsor thank you banners
- Company name on festival website, brochure, and flyers pending time of commitment

### ★ Kids area Ride Sponsorship

Logo on sign near your selected kids ride in the Kids Country Fair.

### ★ Historic Village Sponsorship

Logo on banner at entrance to the Historic Village



## \$250 Bronze Sponsor

All sponsorships at this level include the following plus one of the starred items below:

- Company name on sponsor thank you banners
- Company name on festival website, brochure, and flyers pending time of commitment

### ★ Recycling Centers

“Go Green” and have your logo and customized message placed on signs at the multiple recycling center throughout the festival site.

### ★ Tram stops/shuttle bus stops

Logo and signs at designating tram and shuttle bus stops



## \$25-\$99 Friend of the Festival

- Company name on festival website, brochure, and flyers pending time of commitment

Monetary contributions listed in each sponsorship represent cash monies. Through negotiation, a blend of in-kind donation of items that would otherwise be purchased by the festival may be combined with cash monies to achieve the various sponsorship levels. If you don't see the exact fit you're looking for, call us. We'll work with you to build a custom package that is exciting!





# Thank you!

For more information on sponsoring the  
29th Annual Cotton Ginning Days Festival  
please contact:  
Josh Henderson  
(704) 922-2164  
[Joshua.Henderson@gastongov.com](mailto:Joshua.Henderson@gastongov.com)

**2016 Cotton Ginning Days Festival  
SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENT**

**Business:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**We agree to be \_\_\_\_\_-level sponsor in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the following area(s) of the 2016 Cotton Ginning Days Festival:**

\_\_\_\_\_

In doing so, we agree to pay the total amount of the sponsorship fee, payable to Gaston County. **Send sponsorship payment along with this agreement form to Gaston County P&R Dept., P.O. Box 1578, Gastonia, NC 28053, Attention Josh Henderson.** This fee will be utilized to support the 2016 Cotton Ginning Days Festival. As an outdoor festival, the operation of any event is subject to prevailing weather conditions. Any cancellation due to inclement weather does not relieve the sponsor of its financial obligation.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Authorized Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**

Sponsors, please email a copy of your company logo to [Joshua.Henderson@gastongov.com](mailto:Joshua.Henderson@gastongov.com)  
Make all checks payable to Gaston County Parks and Recreation.

Return checks and this form to:  
Gaston County Parks and Recreation  
Attn Josh Henderson  
P.O. Box 1578  
Gastonia, NC 28053