BADGER MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

Survival Guide

Chase your dreams, not your canopies.

Festival Environment

A Brief History of Hartsel

Badger Music and Arts Festival is held in Hartsel, Colorado in the South Park Valley. Hartsel sits in the geographic center of Colorado and is rich in both geological and anthropological history.

This land was frequented by native peoples, particularly the Ute, with evidence of the Arapaho, Comanche, Kiowa, and Cheyenne tribes also having a presence. It is not uncommon to find pieces of worked stone on the festival grounds. Please leave artifacts where you find them so others can appreciate them in the future, or bring them to a staff member to be included in our future museum installation.

This land has history and is a gift. Please help us to treat it well.

Weather and Conditions

Badger sits under some of the darkest skies in Colorado, so be sure to spend some time away from the lights to catch the stars. It will be very dark at night. Bring headlamps, flashlights, and fun lights to illuminate your person.

The weather in Hartsel can swing from extremes. At ~9,000ft in elevation, the sun is intense and burns quickly. The weather can change from hot to cold seemingly on a dime, and the wind can rise up from nowhere to destroy tents and canopies. Properly staking down tents and canopies is a must. Bringing layers appropriate for hot weather, cold nights, and rain is essential for your comfort and enjoyment of the event.

Packing Lists

Bought a bunch of new gear? Please unbox everything and throw packaging away at home. The wind will quickly rip packaging materials from your hands and deposit them on a grumpy neighbor's property.

Do not bring large items with the intention of abandoning them on site.

Essentials

- [ ] **Water.** 1 gallon per person per day for drinking. More if cooking. Plan for 3 days for a standard arrival, 4 days if you have early arrival.
- [ ] Water bottle / camelback
- [ ] **Sunscreen.** Nobody likes lobster mode
- [ ] Tent / shelter
- [ ] Stakes for tents and canopies
- [ ] 20°F sleeping bag or lots of blankets
- [ ] **Sleeping pad / mattress.** Regular household air mattresses have no insulation — bring extra blankets/pads to put between you and the mattress
- [ ] **Food.** The stress of weather and dancing burns energy fast. Bring good sources of protein, fat, and salty snacks
- [ ] Electrolyte powders
- [ ] Cookware
- [ ] Trash bags
- [ ] **Safety and lighting.** Bring fairy lights or other illumination for guylines and trip hazards
- [ ] Headlamp or flashlight (red filters preferred to preserve dark vision)

Clothing

Avoid cotton — it absorbs moisture and doesn't let go. Prioritize wool and synthetic fabrics.

- [ ] Base layers
- [ ] Medium weight jacket / hoodie
- [ ] Heavy weight jacket
- [ ] Warm hat & sun hat
- [ ] Sunglasses
- [ ] Gloves
- [ ] Thin socks (day), thick socks (night)
- [ ] Rain layers or emergency poncho
- [ ] Comfortable walking footwear, warm boots for night
- [ ] Mask / bandana for dust

Also Bring

- [ ] Personal hygiene items and medication
- [ ] Roll of TP (we restock the portos, but play it safe)
- [ ] Basic first aid kit
- [ ] Good attitude

Non-Essentials (but encouraged)

- [ ] Fun outfits — let's get weird
- [ ] Flow toys, props, art
- [ ] Gifts (please not items that become trash)
- [ ] Decorations — make your campsite home
- [ ] Small bluetooth speakers (no larger than a JBL Xtreme 4, exceptions for approved sound camps)
- [ ] Umbrella for sun and rain
- [ ] Camping chairs
- [ ] Blankets for sitting
- [ ] Phone charger / portable battery
- [ ] Cash for vendors
- [ ] Fun lights **for your person** so you can be seen at night

Arrival & Directions

Gate Times

2027 dates and gate times TBA. Exact festival dates, daily gate hours, early-arrival windows, and the Sunday close time will be posted here and announced on Discord when they are set.

A typical year is early arrival Thursday, main arrival Friday, and load-out Sunday.

Directions

1. Navigate to "Badger Music and Arts Festival" — confirm the pin directs you to the intersection of County Road 53 and Apache Trail near Hartsel, CO.
2. Turn west off of County Road 53 onto Apache Trail.
3. Continue on Apache Trail for 3 miles until the road comes to a T.
4. Turn left (south) at the T onto County Road 111.

5. Continue south on County Road 111. Gate is straight ahead!
6. Festival staff/volunteers will direct you into the grounds and camping.

The speed limit is 5 mph within festival grounds.

After turning onto Apache Trail, do not stop until you reach the festival gate. Surrounding land is all private property.

Take a bathroom break in Hartsel before finishing the drive. Please consider stopping in Hartsel to purchase gas, snacks, and ice to support the local economy.

Check-in Process

- **Vehicle Search:** Searches will be conducted at check-in for prohibited items. Confiscation, entry denial, or law enforcement contact may result from violations.
- **Wristband Required:** Valid wristbands are required at all times. Unauthorized presence will result in removal.
- **No Cash Ticket Sales:** Tickets can be purchased at the gate via web checkout on the site or at will call.

Travel Tips

Before You Leave:

- Download offline maps to your phone
- Fill up your gas tank
- Bring extra water for the drive
- Check your spare tire pressure and confirm you have a car jack

On the Road:

- Drive carefully on dirt roads
- Watch for cattle and wildlife
- Respect private property
- Follow posted speed limits

Pack-up & Exit

Leave No Trace

Badger is a leave-no-trace event. Everything you packed in must be packed out. After packing up your campsite, do a thorough sweep of the ground for MOOP (Matter Out Of Place). If it's not dirt, rocks, or plants — pick that shit up!

The festival grounds are used for open-range cattle grazing the rest of the year. Trash (especially plastics) can injure cows if ingested. Be cool: pick up your garbage.

Do not dispose of garbage at the Badger Basin gas station or other Hartsel businesses on your route home.

Exit

Sunday close time is TBA with the 2027 dates. Everyone except staff, artists, and clean-up volunteers is expected to be leaving by the posted close time.

Rules & Regulations

No Fighting / Violence / Theft

Any fighting, violence, or theft is grounds for immediate removal. Security will be on site. Sheriff deputies will be in the surrounding area if altercations escalate.

No Ember-Producing Fires

No campfires, bonfires, fire pits, charcoal grills, or any other ember-producing fire is permitted. Small camp stoves (propane/butane) are allowed for cooking. The fire marshal has granted special permission for fire spinning performances (dependent upon wind and fire danger). Please help us maintain this privilege by strictly adhering to this policy.

No Trespassing

- Follow posted directions and adhere to gate opening & closing times.
- Do not attempt to enter through neighboring properties — ranchers are protective of their land.
- Stay within designated festival grounds (boundaries clearly marked).
- Exit only through designated paths.
- Plan arrival within gate times. If unable, delay to the next day. Exceptions via Badger Discord (tag @Admin Team, at least 2 hours before gate closure).

No Re-Entry, No Moving Your Vehicle

- Re-entry is not allowed.
- Once parked, do not move your vehicle unless leaving the festival. Put your keys somewhere safe.
- Plan to leave by the posted Sunday close time (TBA with 2027 dates).
- If unable to drive safely on close day, notify staff — you'll be expected to assist with cleanup.
- If your vehicle becomes disabled, notify staff immediately. Tow trucks cannot access the grounds directly.

Prohibited Items

Weapons & Dangerous Items

- Guns or any other firearms
- Explosives, fireworks, or flammable materials
- Sharp objects, including glass bottles or containers

Pets & Animals

- No pets except service animals with proper documentation (presented at gate)
- Service animals must be leashed and under owner's control at all times

Drugs & Controlled Substances

- Illegal drugs and narcotics are not allowed

Flammable Materials

- Gasoline or any other flammable chemicals
- Generators (unless enclosed in an RV)
- Full size grills
- Anything that runs on 20lb propane (white bottles)
- Exception: 1lb propane bottles (green) and camp stoves are allowed

Other Prohibited Items

- Laser pointers or similar devices
- Bikes & E-Bikes (unnecessary due to compact grounds)
- Hoverboards, scooters, or motorized personal vehicles
- Balloons (livestock may consume them, causing serious internal injuries)
- Any chemicals or hazardous materials

Alcohol Restrictions

Alcohol is not sold at the festival. No glass bottles allowed.

Personal Allowances:

- Up to 30 × 12oz beers
- Up to 3L (1 box) of wine (other non-glass containers allowed)
- Up to 750mL of liquor

Anything beyond these allowances will be confiscated and enjoyed by our clean-up crew. Alcohol hits hard and fast at high elevation — please drink responsibly.

Camping Guidelines

- Camping is included with your ticket
- Set up camp in designated areas only
- Keep campsites clean and organized
- Respect your neighbors' space and sleep schedules — keep late-night music at a low volume (multiple requests to decrease volume will result in speaker confiscation)
- Secure all loose items — it can get windy
- Use proper tent stakes for hard ground
- Pack out all belongings and trash

Resources

Join the Badger Discord — connect with other attendees, ask questions, and stay informed.

Setting Up a Canopy in High Winds

- Tie guylines directly to the frame of the canopy rather than the sewn loops on the cover
- Replace stock stakes with longer, heavy duty stakes (Harbor Freight tent stakes are inexpensive and effective)
- Put your stakes in the ground before raising the canopy to full height
- Ask for help! Have 2–4 people hold the canopy while tying off guylines
- Learn the trucker's hitch or taut line hitch to tension guylines
- **Always lower your canopy to half-height and re-tension guylines before leaving camp for the day**
