



Bessemer, Alabama: Barbecue and Blues are a great combination so start planning for the 14th Annual Bob Sykes BBQ & BLUES Festival presented by Coca Cola United is set for Saturday, April 26, 2025 from 12-6pm. Gates open at 11am. The event will combine the best of blues music and legendary Bob Sykes Bar B Q. Be sure to bring your chair or blanket and set-up your spot for the day to enjoy talented blues musicians.

Since 2010, the event has been a local favorite for festival goers. Attendees of the festival range from youth to adults. 2nd generation owner and pit master of Bob Sykes Bar B Q Van Sykes says "Each year the festival grows and we couldn't do it without our sponsors and the support of the community." City of Bessemer Mayor Kenneth Gulley says "The Bob Sykes BBQ and BLUES Festival has been a great event for the City of Bessemer. We're looking forward to many more great years of barbecue and blues music in downtown Bessemer."

The festival has been chosen for numerous years as one of the top food festivals in Alabama by al.com. There are activities for the entire family including a large kids corner. Children eight and under are free with a ticketed adult. Besides great music and bbq the festival offers a variety of booths including arts and crafts, outdoor exhibits, and a diverse selection of vendors selling tempting offers.

The 2025 musical performances will soon be announced. Tickets are \$10 and day of the festival, the tickets are \$15. Tickets can be purchased at www.BobSykesBlues.com or visit Bob Sykes Bar B Q Restaurant.

Since the 2010, the festival has provided funding for Alabama local charities including Ady's Army, The Bessemer Education Enhancement Foundation, Bessemer Service League, Caring Men and Caring Women, Children's of Alabama Hospital, Clay House, Hands on Birmingham, Latch and Live Foundation and Red Mountain Grace. The 2025 charity beneficiary will soon be announced.

Bob Sykes BBQ & BLUES Festival Event Information:

14th Annual Bob Sykes BBQ & BLUES Festival

Saturday, April 26, 2025

12-6pm. Gates open at 11am.

DeBardeleben Park at 1623 2nd Avenue North

Bessemer, Alabama

Call for more details at 205-426-1400

VENDOR APPLICATION

14th Annual Bob Sykes BBQ & BLUES Festival

Food and merchandise vendors are accepted on a limited basis. Vendors are selected based on merchandise, product variety, product appropriateness, and space availability. Duplicate vendors will be separated as much as possible, but no one will be relocated if this does not occur. Vendors must send an itemized list of all items in application. Food vendors are expected to comply with all Health Department regulations.

- A 10x10 site at the festival for promotional displays and merchandising opportunities, including the right to giveaway premium items, coupons, or product samples. Festival will provide standard electricity. Generators are not allowed unless discussed first with event organizer. Vendor will provide a 10x10 tent, signage, table, chairs and extension cords.
- Proof of Vendor license must be provided before festival. All vendors selling merchandise or food within the City of Bessemer must have a valid business license or obtain a special business license for the duration of the event. Any vendor selling food must provide documentation from the health department before a license will be issued.
- 10% sales tax will be collected at the conclusion of the festival by a representative of the City of Bessemer. Please take appropriate measure to price your items accordingly.

Food, Merchandise, Arts & Crafts Vendor FEES:

● **\$200 By March 21, 2025**

● **\$250 After March 21, 2025**

Electricity is available on a limited basis for additional \$50

Vendor Application Form

Company Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

Website Address: _____

City: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

Product and Service Description: Briefly describe all products to be sold in your vendor space. For any food-related items, include approximate pricing. All food items must be listed for Health Department approval.

Electricity Needed? Yes or No

Booth Space Needed: Please circle which kind of Vendor:

Food, Merchandise or Arts & Crafts

Vendor Fee is \$200 by March 21, 2025. After March 21, 2025 is \$250

By signing below, you are agreeing to the Terms and Conditions and would like to participate as a vendor at Bob Sykes BBQ and BLUES Festival. Vendor Commitment Forms must be received by March 10th to have vendor name included in festival program.

Please send this form and make checks payable (Credit Cards also accepted) to the following and mail to:

V&J Enterprises

1724 9th Avenue North

Bessemer, Alabama 35020

Signed: _____

Vendor Guidelines

Bob Sykes BBQ cordially invites you or your organization to participate in the 14th Annual Bob Sykes BBQ & BLUES Festival. We expect a great day of blues music, delicious food, arts and crafts, children's activities, and thousands of attendees — and we want you to be a part of the festivities.

Please read the following guidelines carefully. Booth space is limited. If after reading the guidelines you have additional questions, you can contact elaine.lyda@gmail.com

1. Vendor Selection

Applications are due by March 21st, 2025. Applications postmarked/received after this date will be charged a late fee (see below for fees). Vendors are selected based on merchandise, product variety, product appropriateness, and space availability. Prospective vendors must send an itemized list of merchandise along with the application. **Our Vendor Coordinator will contact vendors directly when their application has been approved for the event.**

2. Food Vendors

Accepted on a limited basis. Food Vendor booths are approximately 10'x10'. Applications are selected based on previous attendance with acknowledgement to guidelines, and type of product sold. A limit is placed on duplicate items sold by multiple vendors. The Bob Sykes BBQ & BLUES Festival reserves the right to grant exclusive rights based on agreement. Duplicate vendors will be separated as much as possible, but no one will be relocated if this does not occur.

Food Vendors must send an itemized list of ALL food items along with the application. Food items NOT listed on application at check-in will be prohibited. Food vendors are expected to comply with all Health Department regulations. Generators are not accepted inside the park. 120 Volts is the most power offered inside the park for vendors and sponsors. BEVERAGES: Only beverages from our official beverage sponsor can be sold at the Bob Sykes BBQ & BLUES Festival. Failure to sell these products, including water, can lead to ejection from the festival without a refund. Ice will be sold at a reasonable price on site by the bag.

3. Application Fees

Fees are due no later than March 21st, 2025. Applications postmarked/ received after this date will receive a late fee. Must pay with cash, certified check, cashier's check, or credit card. A \$35 fee will apply for checks returned due to insufficient funds. There will be no refunds once an application is approved. Payment cannot be received online — you must mail in your payment with the vendor application form.

4. Business License

ALL VENDORS are required to obtain a City of Bessemer Business License. If you do not have a current license, a special event business license will be available through the city. You will receive more information on this once you are accepted. The City of Bessemer Application is found below.

5. Sales Tax

Applicant is responsible for paying all applicable sales tax. A city representative will contact you after your application is accepted.

6. Arts & Informational Vendor Space

Vendor spaces are approximately 10'x10'. Vendors must furnish their own free-standing tents, tables and displays. **Note:** Vendor space may be assigned on concrete sidewalk or grass, which may or may not be level. At all times, vendors must keep their space clean and orderly. Vendors are responsible for removing trash from their space and disposing it in an approved dumpster upon check-out.

7. Subletting Vendor Space

The subletting of space is not allowed without written prior consent from the Bob Sykes BBQ & BLUES Festival

8. Check-in/Set-up/Check-out

Vendor space assignments will be available onsite from the Vendor Coordinator, Friday afternoon day before festival. Electricity is provided Saturday only day of festival. Vendors may only check in and set up Friday April 25th, 1 – 4pm, and Saturday April 26th, between 8 – 10:00a.m.

All vehicles must be out of the vendor area no later than 10:30am. on Saturday. ANY VENDOR NOT CHECKED IN BY 8AM MAY BE TURNED AWAY WITHOUT REFUND. For security reasons, entrance to the park at other times will be prohibited to incoming and outgoing traffic. The park is closely monitored by police beginning at 5PM Friday evening. If you have ANY questions or concerns, contact our Vendor Coordinators at elaine.lyda@gmail.com

9. Parking

Vendors will be given one parking pass per application.

10. Electricity/Water

Electricity is available on a limited basis for additional \$50. It is assigned on a priority basis determined by the Bob Sykes BBQ and BLUES Festival. Vendors must provide their own extension cords. Electricity is provided Saturday only. Water is not provided and is not available onsite.

11. Hazards

All vendors who use electricity, wood, charcoal, gas or propane will be required to have a working fire extinguisher in their space.

12. Trademarks/Logos

The Bob Sykes BBQ & BLUES Festival and/or artwork, name, or that of any artist performing at the festival may not be used without written authorization from the Bob Sykes Bbq & Blues Festival. No merchandise of musical artists performing at Bob Sykes Bbq & Blues Festival can be sold without authorization from Bob Sykes Bbq and the artist.

13. Firearms/Firearm Replicas

Not allowed at Bob Sykes Bbq & Blues Festival

14. Soliciting/Distributing

Soliciting/distribution of materials or products outside of allotted vendor space is not allowed. Vendors are not allowed to move their vendor space. Information and giveaways will only be allowed with written permission from the Bob Sykes Bbq & Blues Festival.

15. Raffles/Give-away

No vendor may sell raffle tickets or chances for any organizations without written permission from the Bob Sykes Bbq & Blues Festival. Any item that is to be given away for promotion must be pre approved in writing from Bob Sykes Bbq. Food and/or beverages may not be given away without written permission from Bob Sykes Bbq.

16. Security

24 hour security is provided 6 p.m., Friday through 10 p.m., Saturday. Security is contracted with the City of Bessemer Police Department.

17. Rain or Shine

Bob Sykes BBQ & BLUES Festival is a rain or shine event. **No refunds will be given**



City of Bessemer, Alabama Business License Application

The City of Bessemer does not Impose the Business License Tax in the Police Jurisdiction

(CONFIDENTIAL)

COMPLETE AND MAIL/FAX TO:
CITY OF BESSEMER
REVENUE DEPARTMENT
1700 Third Ave. North
Bessemer, AL 35020
Phone (205) 424-4060
Fax (205) 425-2820

Applicant complete This Box
FEIN _____
ST of AL TAX _____
FORM OF OWNERSHIP (CHECK ONE)
Sole Prop. _____ Partnership _____
Corp. _____ Prof Assoc _____
LLC _____ OTHER _____

Application Type: New _____ Owner Change _____ Name Change _____ Location Change _____

Legal Business Name: _____

Trade Name or dba: _____

What type of business activities will you be engaged in? _____

Physical Address: _____
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Mailing Address: _____
(street) (city) (state) (zip)

Telephone _____
(business) (fax) (home phone)

Name & Phone # for Contact Person _____ ()

E-mail Address for Contact: _____

List the Following for Owner(s), Partners, or Officers. (Attach a separate sheet if needed.)

Name	Address	Title

Date Business Activity Initiated or Proposed in Bessemer _____ # of Employees in Bessemer _____

This application has been examined by me and is to the best of my knowledge, a true and complete representation of the above named entity, and person(s) listed.

Date _____ Signature _____ Title _____

This Area For Municipal Use Only

ACCOUNT ID NUMBER _____ REVIEWED BY _____

PHYSICAL LOCATION () CITY () OUTSIDE CITY LIMITS () POLICE JURISDICTION

ZONING: _____ BUILDING APPROVAL: __yes__no__n/a FIRE DEPT APPROVAL: __yes__no

TAX TYPES: () occupational tax () rental tax () lodging tax () alcohol tax () business lic.

CODE USED FOR LICENSE _____