



Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is the mission of the Fiesta Oyster Bake?

To produce a quality, volunteer-driven, Fiesta® San Antonio approved music festival to raise funds for student scholarships to St. Mary's University, and to support the University and the Alumni Association.

When did the Fiesta Oyster Bake begin?

The first Oyster Bake was held in 1916 on the banks of the San Antonio River in conjunction with St. Mary University's downtown campus when a small group of alumni gathered for their annual meeting and election of officers.

Until the early 1940s, the only people in attendance were dues paying members of the then all-male ex-students association of the university.

When did the Fiesta Oyster Bake become an official Fiesta San Antonio event?

In 1974, the Oyster Bake became an official Fiesta San Antonio event.

Who coordinates the Fiesta Oyster Bake?

The Fiesta Oyster Bake is produced by San Antonio Special Events, LLC., held on the campus of St. Mary's University and coordinated by a couple of staff members, an all-volunteer Executive Committee, a few hundred key volunteers and managers and 7,000 volunteers who contribute about 50,000 volunteer hours.

I don't like oysters, what other types of food and beverages do you offer at the Fiesta Oyster Bake?

Yes, we do have oysters, but if you do not like the delectable shellfish, we offer more than 50 food and beverage items. Our orders include the following (est. totals):

- 100,000 Oysters (baked and raw)
- 32,000 Chicken on a Stick (Fried Chicken Breasts w/jalapeno)
- 8,500 Steak on a Stick
- 7,000 Egg Rolls
- 6,000 Fried Cheesecakes
- 5,000 Turkey Legs
- 5,000 Hamburgers
- 4,000 Ears of Corn
- 4,000 Slices of Pizza
- 3,500 lbs. Sausage
- 3,000 lbs. Beef and Chicken Fajitas
- 2,000 Chocolate Covered Strawberries
- 22,000 gal. Beverages (beer, soda, water, lemonade, etc.)
- 375,000 Napkins
- 10,000 lbs of recycled Oyster Shells
- 10,000 lbs of recycled material (aluminum, plastic, cardboard, paper, etc.)
- 35 Bands / Entertainers

How do I buy the food and beverage items?

All food and beverage items must be purchased with special Fiesta Oyster Bake coupons. We have seven coupon booths available on Friday and nine coupon booths on Saturday.

Our food and beverage prices are very affordable so that all of our patrons can enjoy all that the Fiesta Oyster Bake has to offer.

Do you accept credit cards?

Yes, all major credit cards will be accepted at each gate and coupon booth. There will be a \$20 minimum purchase for all credit card transactions.

Do you accept checks?

No.

Are ATM's available on the grounds?

ATMs are on the grounds near each entrance gate and at the Pecan Grove.

Do you sell souvenirs?

Yes, our 2017 souvenirs include the following:

Medals:	\$10
Polo Shirts:	\$15
T-Shirts:	\$15
Ladies Tank Top Shirts:	\$15
Ladies Bling T-Shirts:	\$20
Caps:	\$15
Multi-Colored Halos:	\$5
Button:	\$1
Mardi Gras Beads:	\$1

All souvenir sales are cash or coupons.

All Fiesta Oyster Bake volunteers receive a \$2 discount on T-Shirts (excluding tank top and bling shirts) and caps.

Who operates the food, beverage and money booths?

Except for our carnival area, the majority of our booths are organized and operated by volunteers who cook and serve food, serve beverages, count money, or sell coupons and souvenirs.

We also have 40 St. Mary's University student groups and Alumni Association Chapters who sell food and beverage items and make a percentage of the profits for their own organizations.

How many people attend the Fiesta Oyster Bake?

Approximately 70,000 patrons and volunteers attend the one-and-a-half-day celebration.

Are families encouraged to attend the Fiesta Oyster Bake?

Definitely! We especially encourage families to attend the Friday Night event because on that evening we offer entertainment geared towards families and a fireworks spectacular at the end of the event.

On both days, kids and kids at heart can visit our carnival area known as Shuckie Street, named for our Fiesta Oyster Bake mascot. We offer rides and games for children of all ages. Also, children, 12 years old and younger, receive FREE admission to the Bake on both Friday and Saturday.

What should I wear to Fiesta Oyster Bake?

The weather in April can be warm, so we recommend that you wear something comfortable, especially wear comfortable shoes.

Crowds tend to walk the 70+ acres of the event as they go from section to section listening to the various types of music, and sampling the food and beverage selections. We also recommend that you wear sunscreen and drink plenty of water to avoid any heat related illnesses. Be prepared for any type of weather.

Can I leave the event and come back later?

No, you cannot leave and come back. We only offer in/out access to St. Mary's University resident students and Oyster Bake Volunteers, and we do not give refunds for admission tickets or food and beverage coupons.

Can I bring my pet?

No pets or animals are allowed onto the Fiesta Oyster Bake grounds, except those animals used to aid physically-challenged patrons.

What accommodations are available for patrons with disabilities?

ADA approved ramps and port-a-johns are available on the grounds, and are clearly designated on grounds maps available at the various coupon booths.

Is the Fiesta Oyster Bake safe and secure?

Regarding security, hours of planning are expended each year, and numerous law enforcement personnel are hired to maintain Fiesta Oyster Bake's history of a safe and enjoyable event.

An express goal is to make each attendee, either patron or volunteer, comfortable and relaxed in the enjoyment of all Fiesta Oyster Bake has to offer. Also on site at the event, we have multiple First Aid Stations, members of the San Antonio Fire Department, members of the San Antonio Health Department, and trained paramedics with fully-equipped ambulances.

Many hours are spent developing and implementing our safety and security plan, which has been recognized as one of the best in the country for festivals and events.

Fiesta Oyster Bake Security Disclaimers

What restrictions exist when attending the Fiesta Oyster Bake?

- All Fiesta Oyster Bake patrons and their belongings are subject to search!
- Confiscated items will NOT be returned!
- No Professional Recording Equipment, Professional Video Cameras or Laser Pointers allowed into the Fiesta Oyster Bake grounds! Items are subject to confiscation!
- No Video or Audio Taping Fiesta Oyster Bake entertainers allowed! Violators of this policy are subject to removal from the Fiesta Oyster Bake grounds!
- All entertainment is subject to change without notification!
- No Refunds on Admission Tickets and Food and Beverage Coupons!
- No Weapons (including Oyster Knives) allowed into the Fiesta Oyster Bake grounds! Items are subject to confiscation!
- No Food or Beverages allowed into the Fiesta Oyster Bake grounds! Items are subject to confiscation!
- No Pets allowed into the Fiesta Oyster Bake grounds! Only animals that aid our physically challenged patrons are allowed into the Fiesta Oyster Bake grounds!
- ADA approved ramps and port a johns are available on the Fiesta Oyster Bake grounds!
- Purchase admission tickets only at approved pre-sale locations or at the Fiesta Oyster Bake entrance gates – Fiesta Oyster Bake volunteer wristbands are NOT for sale!
- You may be photographed / videotaped and your picture or likeness may be used for Fiesta Oyster Bake publicity and promotions!
- Patrons wearing Steel-Toed Boots will NOT be admitted to the event!

Is there a Lost and Found area at the Bake?

Yes, it is located in our carnival area. If you have more serious concerns such as a lost family member, contact one of the many police officers on site.

Where do I park at the event?

We appreciate the patience of our neighbors each year as we conduct the Fiesta Oyster Bake. Because we are located in a residential area, parking is somewhat congested around the event.

We offer limited on-campus parking for \$15, but we encourage everyone to take the VIA Park and Ride bus shuttles to the Bake. VIA charges each rider a small fee and they operate the Park-and-Ride shuttles from various San Antonio locations.

As an incentive to take VIA to the Bake, patrons who use this service receive a coupon for one FREE bottle of soda or bottled water at the Fiesta Oyster Bake. The coupon may be redeemed at any of our four soda booth locations. The coupon is not valid at the carnival area.

[[Parking Map](#)]

Who is the Fiesta Oyster Bake mascot?

We actually have two mascots, but the most recognizable one is Shuckie the Oyster. He is the one that appears on our letterhead and in the annual Fiesta Oyster Bake poster design.

We have a costume of Shuckie that we take to various promotions including school parties and university events. A couple of years ago, a second mascot, Pearl, was created to give Shuckie some companionship.

In 2016, Shuckie and Pearl were “married” in a ceremony at the Alumni Pavilion in historic Pecan Grove.

So the next time you see a couple of "oysters" roaming the streets, don't worry, it's just Shuckie and Pearl celebrating their “marriage” and promoting the Fiesta Oyster Bake.

Do you accept corporate sponsorships?

Yes, we do! Much of the financial success of the Fiesta Oyster Bake has been due to the generous support of many local and national companies.

Official sponsors, like Bud Light, are offered the opportunity of partnering with the Fiesta Oyster Bake and may receive many marketing and philanthropic benefits.

If you or your company would like to become a sponsor of the Fiesta Oyster Bake, please call the St. Mary's University Alumni Relations Office at (210) 436-3324.

What types of entertainment do you offer at the Fiesta Oyster Bake?

On Friday evening, we offer five stage of continuous music featuring Classic Rock, Country/Americana, Tejano/Latin, R&B/Hip Hop and Children's entertainment.

Our Fireworks Spectacular closes out Friday's entertainment.

On Saturday, we offer five stages of continuous music featuring Rock, Country, Tejano/Latin, Variety Pop and Children's entertainment.

Recent previous entertainers include:

Rock

Chevelle, Theory of a Deadman; 10 Years, Alter Bridge, Buckcherry, Sevendust, P.O.D., In This Moment, Girl in a Coma

Classic Rock

Dennis DeYoung – The Music of Styx, Night Ranger, Loverboy, Tonic, Lit, Eddie Money, Smash Mouth, Gin Blossoms

Country

Kevin Fowler, Wade Bowen, Frankie Ballard, Granger Smith feat. Earl Dibbles Jr., Jerrod Niemann, Kevin Fowler, Love and Theft, Casey Donahew, Roger Creager, Jana Kramer, Bri Bagwell

Tejano/Latin

Bobby Pulido, Massore, Elida Reyna Y Avante, Ram Herrera, Los DesperadoZ, Stefani Montiel

Variety Pop

Cash Cash, R. City, Jump Smokers, Hot Chelle Rae, MKTO, Sean Kingston, Chris Wallace, Havana Brown

R&B / Hip Hop

Chamilionaire, Naughty By Nature, Tone Loc, Rob Base, Young MC, Mindless Behavior, Marques Houston, Drop City Yacht Club

In addition to the local, regional and national musical entertainment, we have a carnival area featuring rides, games and other attractions on Friday and Saturday.

With more than 30 musical acts to see during the event for one low price, the Fiesta Oyster Bake is regarded as one of the best entertainment values in the area.

My band wants to play at the Fiesta Oyster Bake, what do I need to do?

If your band is interested in playing at the Bake, please send a promotional kit of your band and include a bio, tape or CD, picture, references, a list of performance dates and fee range.

We begin contracting with bands in the Fall. If the committee is interested in your band, we will contact you. We receive many promo kits, but we only have space for about 30 bands.

What are the times of the event?

- Gates open at 5 p.m. on Friday
- Gates open at 11 a.m. Saturday
- Gates close at 10:30 p.m. both nights
- Fireworks Show begins at 10:30 p.m. Friday only
- Entertainment ends at 10:30 p.m. both nights
- Alcohol Beverage sales end at 10:30 p.m. both nights
- Non-Alcohol Beverage sales end at 11 p.m. both nights
- Food sales end at 11 p.m. both nights

How much are the admission tickets?

Our ticket prices are the following:

- One-day, Pre-sale: \$20 * (Available March 1 to March 31, 2017, on-line, at all participating HEB Stores and the Fiesta San Antonio Commission Office)
- One-day, Pre-sale: \$25 * (Available April 1 to April 22, 2017, on-line, at all participating HEB Stores and the Fiesta San Antonio Commission Office)
- Two-day, Pre-sale: \$35 ^ (Available March 1 to April 22, 2017, on-line and at all participating HEB Stores . . . Present your two-day pre-sale ticket at an entrance gate on Friday to receive your two-day admission wristband)
- Friday at the Gate: \$25
- Saturday at the Gate: \$25
- Children 12 and under: FREE
- Pre-sale tickets go on sale on March 1, 2017, on-line, at all participating Texas HEB stores and the Fiesta San Antonio Commission Office.

PLEASE NOTE:

**There will be a \$2.50 service charge for each ticket purchased on-line*

^There will be a \$3.00 service charge for each ticket purchased on-line

Where Does the Money Go?

Economic impact to St. Mary's University and the San Antonio Community

The Fiesta Oyster Bake Committee and the St. Mary's University Alumni Association thank the 7,000 volunteers for their 50,000+ volunteer hours, our numerous corporate sponsors, especially Bud Light, and the 60,000+ patrons who help make the Fiesta Oyster Bake a great success every year!

Although Fiesta Oyster Bake is a great party during San Antonio's Fiesta Week, our mission is to be successful in raising funds for St. Mary's University student scholarships and university and alumni programs.

The following information is a highlight as to where the money goes from this event. As you can see, the Fiesta Oyster Bake provides a great economic boost to St. Mary's University and the San Antonio community.

\$7 Million Scholarship Endowment Fund

This fund provided full or partial scholarships to more than 70+ **St. Mary's University** students this year.

St. Mary's University Schools

Based on the success of the Fiesta Oyster Bake, the Alumni Association gives each St. Mary's University school – Greehey School of Business, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, School of Law and School of Science, Engineering and Technology - funds to be used for special Homecoming Weekend Reunion programs, faculty conferences, equipment upgrades, etc.

\$3.1 Million Gift to the Alumni Athletics and Convocation Center

Because of the success of the Fiesta Oyster Bake, the Alumni Association made the lead gift in this fundraising campaign. This state of the art facility features workout facilities, an indoor swimming pool, racquetball courts, multiple basketball courts, 3,500 seat arena, etc.

It also gives the university the opportunity to offer concerts, plays, speakers, etc., for the St. Mary's University students and alumni, as well as the San Antonio community.

Alumni Association Operating Budget

To maintain the mission of providing programs to our alumni, of which there are more than 14,000 in the San Antonio area, this money is used for some of the following activities:

- Coordinate Homecoming Weekend activities
- Implement a professional networking program
- Develop student and alumni programs
- Host receptions for our alumni and potential St. Mary's students and their parents in areas outside of San Antonio, including Austin, Dallas/Fort Worth, El Paso, Houston, Laredo, McAllen, St. Louis, Washington, D.C., and Chicago/Great Lakes area
- Sponsor and Produce the Distinguished Alumni Awards Dinner, Faculty Appreciation and Awards Dinner, Oysters and Pearls Scholarship Gala, Alumni Golf Tournament

Alumni Chapter and Affiliate Groups

Our alumni chapters from cities outside of San Antonio and Texas as well as our affiliate groups, Rattler Nation and Law Alumni Association, operate booths at the event. They receive a portion of the proceeds from their respective booths so they can develop and implement programs for St. Mary's alumni and students from their areas.

St. Mary's University Student Organizations

Besides the alumni booths, we give as many as 35 St. Mary's University student groups the opportunity to operate various booths at the event. Each group is required to submit a proposal for the opportunity to operate a booth. This provides them a "real world" example of how to develop a complete business plan.

Each group receives a portion of the proceeds from their respective booths, and they use the money to help fund speakers, send students to conferences or give back to a special community service cause. Over the last 15 years, the Fiesta Oyster Bake has helped St. Mary's student groups and other participating groups raise more than \$750,000.

Supplemental Income (Physical Plant, Students, Security)

The Fiesta Oyster Bake provides supplemental income for St. Mary's University students, in addition to employees of the Physical Plant Department and Campus Police Department. This supplemental income enables students and staff to better support themselves and their families.

Capital Improvements

Each year, the St. Mary's Alumni Association gives back to the university in the form of capital improvements to **various campus facilities**, including the Alumni Pavilion in the historic Pecan Grove.

Reserve

To be fiscally responsible, it is important for the Alumni Association to keep some money in reserve so that in case of a rain out, we have the funds needed to conduct the annual operations of the Alumni Association.

VIP Packages (Community Involvement)

The Fiesta Oyster Bake is committed to the various programs in and around the San Antonio community. We donate hundreds of dollars each year in the form of VIP ticket and merchandise packages to many charitable organizations.

www.stmarytx.edu

<http://visitsanantonio.com/>

www.fiesta-sa.org