

**NEWS RELEASE** 

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## Oklahoma Students Make Big Impact on OKC Fairgrounds March Events

**Oklahoma City, OK** – The OK State High School Basketball Championships took place at the OKC Fairgrounds March 3 through 12. The basketball tournament took place in the Jim Norick Arena. Eighty-five percent of attendees traveled from out-of-town, while 15 percent were locals. Attendance for the event exceeded 55,000, generating more than \$11.89 million in direct spending into the Oklahoma City economy.

The Oklahoma Youth Expo took place at the OKC Fairgrounds March 8 through 18. Participants and spectators filled the Jim Norick Arena and Barn Row for the livestock show. This year, 212 exhibitors secured slots in the Sale of Champions. Additionally, a record-breaking \$1.5 million was raised through the auction including the Grand Champion steer selling for over \$100,000. Sixty-five percent of attendees traveled from out-of-town, while 35 percent were locals. Attendance for the event exceeded 57,000, generating more than \$10.33 million in direct spending into the Oklahoma City economy.

The OKC Fairgrounds hosted a total of 13 events during the month of March. In addition to the above mentioned, other events included: the OKC Auto Show, Backwoods Hunting & Fishing Expo, Oklahoma Gun Shows, OK County Free Fair & Livestock Show, Jurassic Quest, Repticon Reptile & Exotic Animal Convention, Buchanan's Vintage Flea Market, Claude Hall's Original OKC Gun Show, OKC Home & Outdoor Living Show, Shrine Circus, and R. K. Gun Show. In all, there were 192,122 visitors present during March events held at the OKC Fairgrounds, generating more than \$30.1 million in direct spending into the Oklahoma City economy.

For more information regarding March events, or any upcoming months, please contact the OKC Fairgrounds Office at 405-948-6700. To stay up-to-date on all the OKC Fairgrounds has to offer, visit <u>www.okcfairgrounds.com</u>, like us on <u>Facebook</u> and follow us on <u>Twitter</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.

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