

FACT SHEET

Event at a glance.

Music City STOL is a two-day short takeoff and landing competition and community event — pilots from across the country compete head-to-head to take off and land in the fewest feet, scored to the foot in front of a live crowd and a national broadcast audience.

Event	Music City STOL 2026 — 4th annual; first year in Lebanon / Wilson County
Series	National STOL Series, 2026 season (one of the final stops before the National Finals in Texas)
Dates	Friday, Oct. 9 — Practice Day and Media Day · Saturday, Oct. 10 — Competition Day Thursday, Oct. 8: competitor arrivals, camping opens · Sunday, Oct. 11: camping closes
Venue	Lebanon Municipal Airport (M54), Wilson County — event entrance 806 Castle Heights Ave., Lebanon, TN 37087 ; 30 minutes east of Nashville via I-40 (airport mailing address: 200 Aviation Way)
Gates / times	Saturday gates open 9:00 a.m.; competition begins 10:00 a.m.; anticipated finish around 3:30 p.m. Friday practice 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Food trucks and vendor booths both days.
Tickets	\$20 general admission — one ticket covers both days. Kids 12 and under free. No early-bird pricing in 2026. Sold through National STOL at boldaviation.org
Watch from home	Saturday's competition is broadcast live and free on the National STOL YouTube channel and nationalstol.com . Live scoring: scoring.nationalstol.com
Producer / host	BOLD Aviation, a Tennessee 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Event proceeds support youth flight-training scholarships.
Host city	City of Lebanon, Tennessee — event sponsor and owner of Lebanon Municipal Airport
Stay	Hotel partner Candlewood Suites Lebanon (event rate) · airfield camping by advance reservation at nationalstol.com
Participate	Pilots: pilot.nationalstol.com (closes Oct. 8) · Volunteers (free admission): volunteer.nationalstol.com

1,300+

FANS AT SATURDAY'S
2025 COMPETITION

~60%

OF 2025 ATTENDEES
FROM OUT OF TOWN

14+

STATES REPRESENTED
IN THE 2025 CROWD

759K+

SERIES LIVE-STREAM
VIEWS PER SEASON

611K+

NATIONAL STOL
SOCIAL FOLLOWING

267M

SERIES IMPRESSIONS,
2025 SEASON



Low and slow over the crowd line, Music City STOL 2024. Photo: Art Rubin

Good to know

- Family-friendly day at the airport; bring lawn chairs (grass seating)
- Small coolers welcome — no alcohol
- Food trucks and local vendor booths both days; Commemorative Air Force warbirds on static display
- No pets inside the airport (leashed dogs in the camping area only)
- Hats, sunblock and rain gear recommended — it's October in Tennessee

EXPLAINER

What is STOL?

STOL stands for **Short Takeoff and Landing**. STOL aircraft are built — or modified — to get in and out of a patch of ground in the shortest distance possible: grass, gravel, sandbars, mountain strips, ranch fields. National STOL turns that backcountry skill into a head-to-head sport, measured in feet.

HOW A ROUND WORKS

1. **Takeoff.** The aircraft starts with its main wheels on a line. The distance from the line to the point the wheels leave the ground is measured.
2. **Landing.** The pilot flies a pattern and lands as close as possible to — but never short of — the landing line. Touchdown distance is measured to the foot by line judges.
3. **Score.** Takeoff distance + landing distance = the combined score. Lowest combined distance wins the class. Landing short of the line is a penalty.
4. **Season.** Pilots earn points at each event toward the National Finals and an annual national title.

THE AIRCRAFT

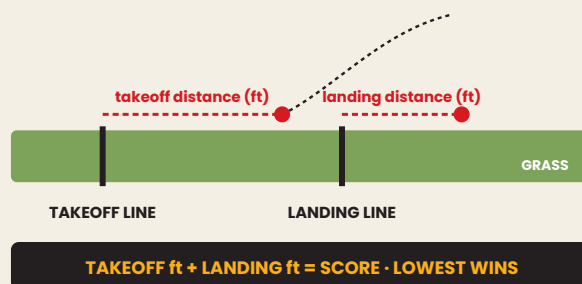
Classes run from vintage Piper Cubs and stock "touring" aircraft (a Cessna 182, a Piper Cherokee) through modified backcountry machines on oversized tundra tires to purpose-built Unlimited-class aircraft that can leave the ground in a few plane-lengths. First-time competitors fly in a rookie class and must complete Friday's practice and safety briefing.

WHY IT MAKES GREAT TV

- Crowd line sits right beside the landing zone — closer to the action than any airshow
- Every landing is measured and announced live; results are decided in inches
- Fifteen-second drama: full power, airborne in under 100 feet, wheels down on a painted line
- Big, colorful bush planes; pilots who are approachable and camera-ready
- Live national broadcast with professional announcers — the "voice of STOL," Ryan Dembroski

HOW A STOL ROUND IS SCORED

Measured to the foot by line judges · landing short of the line is penalized



Touchdown measured against the distance markers, 2025. Photo: Art Rubin

Say it right

"STOL" is an acronym, written in all caps. In conversation, pilots say it as one word (rhymes with "pole"). It's a competition, not an airshow: no aerobatics, no stunt flying — precision flying at low speed, judged and scored.

SCHEDULE

Two days of low-and-slow.

Friday is Practice Day and **Media Day** — pilots and airplanes are on the ramp all day, the field is clear for cameras, and a story that airs Friday evening puts people at Saturday's gate. Saturday is Competition Day and the live broadcast; credentialed media are welcome both days. All times Central and subject to change; the official schedule lives at nationalstol.com/musiccity.

THURSDAY · OCT 8

Arrival day

All day	Competitor arrivals by air
3:00 p.m.	Camping opens
3:00–5:00 p.m.	Competitor check-in

FRIDAY · OCT 9

Practice Day · Media Day

8:00–9:00 a.m.	Competitor and volunteer check-in · media check-in opens at the main gate
9:15 a.m.	Volunteer briefing
9:45 a.m.	New-competitor briefing (mandatory for pilots new to the series)
10:00 a.m.	Practice briefing
11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.	Competitor practice rounds — open to ticket holders; food trucks and vendor booths open

Media Day: pilot interviews, cockpit b-roll, walk-arounds and clean practice landings all day; **media rides** with a competing pilot for credentialed reporters by prior approval (see p.16). No Friday-evening program in 2026.

SATURDAY · OCT 10

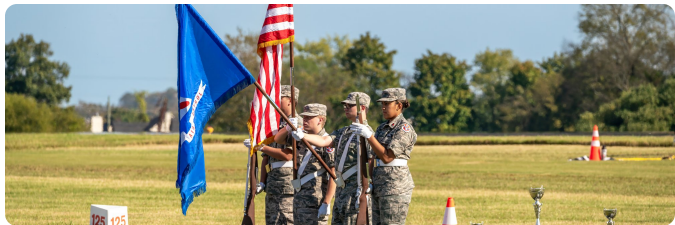
Competition Day

8:30 a.m.	Volunteer briefing
9:00 a.m.	Mandatory competitor safety briefing
9:00 a.m.	Gates open — food trucks, vendors, static displays incl. Commemorative Air Force warbirds
10:00 a.m.	Music City STOL competition begins — live broadcast start
3:30 p.m.	Anticipated finish
6:30 p.m.	Closing dinner and awards ceremony (competitors, volunteers, sponsors)

SUNDAY · OCT 11

Wheels-up

11:00 a.m.	Camping closes; competitors depart
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Presentation of colors at the opening ceremony, 2024. Photo: Rick Murray

Flying in?

Transient parking is available. Pilots monitor UNICOM 122.725 and advise on arrival whether they are a competitor, camping under-wing, parking for the weekend or departing same day. Arrivals and departures should be planned outside competition windows.

Can't make it?

Saturday's competition streams live and free on the National STOL YouTube channel (youtube.com/@NationalSTOL). Live scoring at scoring.nationalstol.com; competitor roster at roster.nationalstol.com.