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Music City STOL Lands in Lebanon: National Short Takeoff and Landing Competition Comes to Wilson County October 9–10

Fourth annual event moves to Lebanon Municipal Airport with the City of Lebanon and Wilson County CVB as anchor partners; \$20 covers both days, kids 12 and under free, and proceeds fund youth flight-training scholarships

LEBANON, Tenn. — September 14, 2026 — The grass runway at Lebanon Municipal Airport will become a stage this October as Music City STOL, one of the flagship stops on the National STOL (Short Takeoff and Landing) Series, comes to Wilson County for the first time. On Friday, October 9 and Saturday, October 10, competition pilots from across the country will take off and land in the fewest possible feet — scored to the foot in front of a live crowd and a national broadcast audience.

Now in its fourth year, Music City STOL is produced by BOLD Aviation, a Tennessee 501(c)(3) nonprofit, with the City of Lebanon and the Wilson County Convention & Visitors Bureau as anchor partners. After three years in Gallatin, where the 2025 competition drew more than 1,300 spectators from 14 states, the event moves 30 minutes east to a long-term home at Lebanon Municipal Airport (M54).

STOL competition is aviation's fastest-growing sport: pilots start with their wheels on a line, take off in as little distance as possible, then land as close to a second line as they can without touching down short. Takeoff distance plus landing distance is the score, and the lowest combined total wins. Aircraft range from vintage Piper Cubs and stock Cessnas to purpose-built backcountry machines on oversized tundra tires that can leave the ground in a few plane-lengths.

"You don't need to be an expert in aircraft or aviation to love this," said Chad Hall, event director of Music City STOL and chairman of BOLD Aviation. "It's simple: shortest takeoff and shortest landing wins, measured to the foot, and you're sitting close enough to feel the roar of the engine. Bring a chair and the kids — they get in free."

Event schedule

- **Friday, October 9 — Practice Day and Media Day.** Competitor practice rounds 11:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m.; food trucks and vendor booths on the field.
- **Saturday, October 10 — Competition Day.** Gates open at 9:00 a.m.; competition begins at 10:00 a.m. and is expected to conclude around 3:30 p.m. Food trucks, local vendors and static aircraft display all day, including warbirds from the Commemorative Air Force.

Admission: \$20 general admission covers both days; children 12 and under are free. Tickets are sold through the National STOL Series — get them at boldaviation.org. Seating is on the grass — bring lawn chairs. Small coolers are welcome (no alcohol); pets are not permitted inside the airport.

Location: Lebanon Municipal Airport (M54); event entrance at 806 Castle Heights Ave., Lebanon, TN 37087 — about 30 minutes east of downtown Nashville. Fans who can't attend can watch Saturday's competition live and free on the National STOL YouTube channel.

Every ticket supports BOLD Aviation's mission of inspiring the next generation of aviators. Proceeds from Music City STOL fund flight-training scholarships for young people in Tennessee at a time when the aviation industry faces a generational shortage of pilots and technicians.

"Proceeds from Music City STOL go to work by enabling young people to have access to career paths in aviation they may otherwise not have had access to," Hall said. "That's the whole reason BOLD Aviation exists."

Music City STOL 2026 is supported by the City of Lebanon; Runway Sponsor Wilson County Convention & Visitors Bureau; Armband Sponsor Direct Flight Solutions; Adventure Flying, Baker's School of Aeronautics, Nationwide Aviation and Westmoreland Grading; local sponsors Wilson Bank & Trust, Ingram Aviation Insurance, R3 Aviation Services and Frisco Aviation; and in-kind partners Volar Avionics, UBER Displays, Botero Carts and Oak Tree Productions. Candlewood Suites Lebanon is the official hotel partner, and under-wing, RV and tent camping is available on the airfield by advance reservation.

Pilots can register to compete at pilot.nationalstol.com through Thursday, October 8. Volunteers — no aviation experience required — receive free admission and can sign up at volunteer.nationalstol.com. Food trucks and local vendors interested in the two-day midway can apply at boldaviation.org.

For tickets, schedule and event updates, visit boldaviation.org, or follow Music City STOL on Facebook (facebook.com/mcstol). #MusicCitySTOL #NationalSTOL

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About Music City STOL

Music City STOL is a two-day short takeoff and landing (STOL) competition and community event held each October just outside Nashville, Tennessee. Part of the National STOL Series, the event brings competition pilots from across the country to Lebanon Municipal Airport (M54) in Wilson County to take off and land in the fewest possible feet — scored to the foot in front of a live crowd and a national broadcast audience. Founded in 2023, the event is produced by BOLD Aviation, a Tennessee 501(c)(3) nonprofit; proceeds support youth flight-training scholarships. boldaviation.org

About BOLD Aviation

BOLD Aviation is a Tennessee-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to inspiring the next generation of aviators. Through aviation events, education and flight-training scholarships, BOLD Aviation provides young people with pathways to pursue their passion for flight. boldaviation.org

About the National STOL Series

Founded in 2020, National STOL is the country's premier short takeoff and landing competition series, with ten events coast-to-coast in 2026 culminating in the National Finals in Texas. Every major competition is broadcast live; in 2025 the series drew 14,500+ in-person attendees, 759,000+ live-

stream views and 267 million impressions across a social following of more than 611,000.
nationalstol.com

Media contact: Chad Hall, Event Director · chad@boldaviation.org · (615) 400-6148. Friday, October 9 is Media Day: pilot interviews, cockpit access and a limited number of media rides with competing pilots (prior approval required). Credentials, interviews and high-resolution photography available on request.