



Kentucky Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet Kentucky Exposition Center

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kentucky Derby Festival Excitement Grows – and Glows

Balloon glow, bed races and parade floats.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (April 25, 2017) — As the Kentucky Derby Festival approaches the homestretch of this year's events, the Kentucky Exposition Center plays host to three crowd favorites.

U.S. Bank Great Balloon Glow: Friday, April 28

6 p.m. Gates open

9 p.m. Glow begins

Spectators watch as pilots fill hot-air balloons that glow against the evening sky, set to a special musical score. Visitors are invited to meet the pilots and ask questions. The balloons are parked in Lots C and D.

Thorntons Great Bed Races: Monday, May 1

4 p.m. Official tailgate party

6 p.m. Parade of the beds

7 p.m. Races begin

Crowds cheer as teams dressed in costumes push decorated beds in a 600-yard dash to the finish line. Awards are presented for fastest course times, best decorated, most entertaining and more. The races take place in Broadbent Arena.

Republic Bank Pegasus Parade Preview Party: Tuesday, May 2

5–9 p.m. Open to the public

Visitors get a sneak peek at inflatables and floats, complete with dancing costumed characters. Children can also get an autograph or photo of the Derby Festival Queen and Royal Court. The preview party is held in South Wing C.

Admission to all events is free with a 2017 Kentucky Derby Festival Pegasus Pin. Parking at the Kentucky Exposition Center is \$8 per vehicle and \$20 per bus.

For more information about the Kentucky Derby Festival, visit www.kdf.org.

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One of the 10 largest facilities of its kind in the U.S., the [Kentucky Exposition Center](http://www.kyexpo.org) (KEC) features 1.2 million square feet of contiguous exhibit space, including Freedom Hall, an indoor arena that seats 13,500 people. The facility's class "A" exhibit space totals 677,000 square feet and accommodates a wide range of events year round. KEC is the permanent home of the Kentucky State Fair, National Farm Machinery Show and North American International Livestock Exposition. For more information, go to www.kyexpo.org.

Conveniently located adjacent to the Louisville International Airport and near the junction of three major interstates, KEC is easily accessible and just seven minutes south of downtown Louisville. Entrances to the facility are located off Phillips Lane, Crittenden Drive and Preston Highway. Parking is \$8 per vehicle and \$20 per bus.