

The Official Shreveport-Bossier

REUNION PLANNING GUIDE



www.ShreveportReunions.com



***This Planning
Guide Belongs To:***

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SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER





**Shreveport-Bossier
Convention and Tourist Bureau**
629 Spring St., Shreveport, LA
318-222-9391 • 1-800-551-8682
www.Shreveport-Bossier.org
www.SBFunGuide.com

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Blog: www.20x49.com

Trip Planning:
www.Shreveport-Bossier.org





Welcome



We know it takes a lot of organization when planning an unforgettable reunion. We want to make planning easy for you so you can focus on spending time with the ones you love.

The Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau offers complimentary pre-planning services for military, class and family reunions. Our assistance includes contacting hotels and recommending caterers, attractions, area parks, and banquet facilities. With affordable hotels, unique venues and a variety of attractions, the sister cities are the perfect location for your next reunion.

Shreveport-Bossier is full of history, art, live entertainment, and plenty of Southern hospitality. The sister cities offer resort-style casinos, craft breweries, art galleries, haunted mansion tours, and more than 65 festivals and annual events each year celebrating everything from jazz music and art to crawfish and beer. From petting sting rays at the Shreveport Aquarium to zip-lining over alligators at Gators and Friends Adventure Park, your group is sure to make memories that will last a lifetime in Shreveport-Bossier.

If you're new to this, no worries. We offer a timeline to make sure you meet all the important reunion planning milestones.

Whether you're looking for a downtown rooftop for 50 people or a picturesque park for 500 people, we've got you covered. Are you looking for local caterers, photographers, event planners, t-shirt printers, and other professional services? We've got a list of those, too. Visit www.ShreveportReunions.com for a list of these and other essential reunion planning services.

Many thanks,

Erica Telsee, *Tourism Sales Manager*
Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau
318-429-0652 • etelsee@sbctb.org



We Want to Help Plan Your Reunion



You've set a date, what should you do next? The Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau offers complimentary pre-planning services for reunions. Our assistance includes contacting hotels, caterers, attractions, area parks, and banquet facilities.



Some of the services the Tourist Bureau provides include:

- ◇ Assistance securing hotel room rates and room availability information
- ◇ List of reunion venues
- ◇ Welcome bags, visitor guides, maps, calendar of events, and festivals and annual events guides
- ◇ Information on attractions, restaurants, caterers, and transportation
- ◇ Welcome letter from our office to your group to help build attendance

For help with your next reunion, contact Erica Telsee, tourism sales manager, at 318-429-0652 or etelsee@sbctb.org, or call 1-800-551-8682.

Reunion Planning Timeline

18-24 MONTHS BEFORE

- Create a list of potential dates, locations and venues
- Create a contact list
- Enlist volunteers to help with planning

12-18 MONTHS BEFORE

- Determine budget and how much you will need to charge attendees
- Solidify date, location, and venue
- Send out a save the date with an RSVP
- Make a Facebook Group and invite attendees

9-12 MONTHS BEFORE

- Reserve a block of hotel rooms
- Assign duties to volunteers
- Set up Eventbrite, PayPal or other service to accept online registration fees

6-9 MONTHS BEFORE

- Create a schedule of activities
- Send out invitations with finalized details including hotel, activities, costs, etc.
- Make catering, photography, and other vendor arrangements

4-6 MONTHS BEFORE

- Order any keepsakes or party favors
- Confirm reservations with vendors
- Decide on décor (Pinterest offers lots of great ideas)

2-4 MONTHS BEFORE

- Send a "get excited" message and ask for outstanding RSVPs
- Finalize menu, program, and schedule
- Create a list and gather any items you will need

1WK - 1 MONTH BEFORE

- Make a list of volunteers and their responsibilities
- Make a checklist and review final details
- Confirm all arrangements
- Prepare welcome packets, name tags, and prizes

The Day Before

- Review final details with committee members
- Set-up decorations



The Day Of - Reunion!

- Set up registration tables, rental equipment, and displays
- Juggle details: volunteers, food, photographer, games, tours, entertainment, talent show, and ceremonies
- Put out short post surveys and pens at tables to get input on your next reunion
- Salute your volunteers and give yourself a pat on the back
- Have a good time!

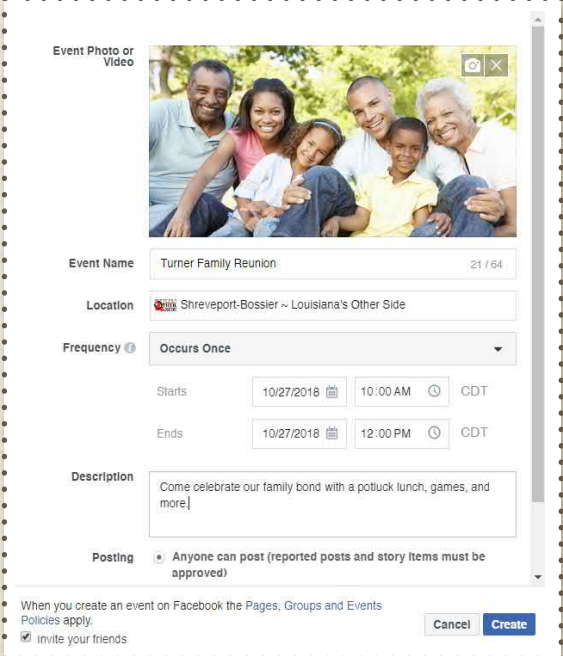


Grow Your Reunion with a Facebook Group Page

Setting up a Facebook group for your reunion is a free and fast way to grow attendance and interest, and connect to your family, friends, colleagues, or classmates. Group pages can be used to update your attendees on dates, important information, create events, and for online ticket sales to your reunion.

To create a Facebook event through your Facebook group:

1. From your news feed, click "events" in the left menu.
2. Click "+ Create Event" on the right side.
3. Fill in the event name, details, ticket link, location, and time.
4. Add a photo.
5. Click "create."



The screenshot shows the Facebook event creation interface. At the top, there is a section for "Event Photo or Video" with a photo of a diverse group of people. Below this, the form fields are: "Event Name" (Turner Family Reunion), "Location" (Shreveport-Bossier ~ Louisiana's Other Side), "Frequency" (Occurs Once), "Starts" (10/27/2018 at 10:00 AM CDT), and "Ends" (10/27/2018 at 12:00 PM CDT). The "Description" field contains the text: "Come celebrate our family bond with a potluck lunch, games, and more!". At the bottom, there is a "Posting" section with a radio button selected for "Anyone can post (reported posts and story items must be approved)". There are also "Cancel" and "Create" buttons at the bottom right.

How to Use a Facebook Group to Grow Your Reunion:

- ◇ Sell tickets and collect RSVPs. There are many great services for selling tickets to your reunion. We recommend using Eventbrite or PayPal.
- ◇ Update attendees on dates and important information.
- ◇ Create committees and keep them updated.
- ◇ Sell t-shirts.
- ◇ Keep attendees engaged and create excitement with fun Facebook polls. Polls can help build connections and break the ice between people before they meet for the first time. For example, if you're hosting a family reunion, ask people if they say "buggy," or "shopping cart." Allow people to add more answers.
- ◇ Ask attendees to post old photos to share memories. Use them in your centerpieces, games, and decorations.
- ◇ If you're hosting a family reunion, ask people to share their family history. There is no better place than a reunion to create a record of your family's genealogy.

Sample Letter

Feel free to use this letter as an example to spread the word about the date, place, cost, and other information about your event.

Date
Name
Address 1
City, State Zip

Dear Reunion Attendee:

The (*insert reunion name*) is scheduled for (*dates of reunion*), in Shreveport-Bossier, Louisiana at the (*insert name of venue*). The reunion committee has worked very hard to make this a memorable occasion for each and every one of you.

Shreveport-Bossier is full of history, art, and live entertainment. The sister cities offer resort-style casinos, aquarium, alligator park, craft breweries, art galleries, and more than 65 festivals and annual events each year celebrating everything from jazz music and art to crawfish and Mardi Gras.

Attached is the schedule of planned events and a contact form. Please fill the contact form out and mailed it back to us with (*insert registration fee amount*). This amount will cover the cost for each attendee. Payments are also available online via the link in our Facebook group called (*insert name of Facebook event*).

We have worked with the Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau to secure a host hotel that has offered some excellent rates. It is the (*insert name of hotel*). The phone number is (*insert phone number*). (*Insert number of rooms*) rooms have been reserved for our reunion. Each attendee is asked to call and make reservations. When calling, just let the desk clerk know that you want to make reservations for the (*insert reunion name*).

We need your completed survey and check by (*insert due date*). Please make check payable to (*insert appropriate name*), and mail your check to Attn: (*insert main contact name and full address*). Or, please pay for your ticket online through our Facebook event called (*insert name of Facebook event*).

To stay up to date and connect with us, please RSVP to our Facebook Event: (*insert name of Facebook event*).

We are looking forward to having you join us! Let me know if you have any questions or need additional information.

Yours Truly,

(*Main organizer name*)



Contact Form Example

Feel free to copy this contact form example to gather information. This is a great opportunity to have your guests update their address, phone number, email, and more, so that your records are up to date.

Please help us keep our records up to date.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

County/Parish _____

New Address? Yes No

Phone _____

Email _____

For family reunions, list additional family members' names and birth dates.

Name _____ DOB _____

Name _____ DOB _____

Name _____ DOB _____

Name _____ DOB _____

Name _____ DOB _____

Name _____ DOB _____



Post Survey Example

Feel free to copy this post survey to gather information. Getting feedback from your reunion attendees is a necessity. Put a survey out with pens at tables during your reunion to get feedback from your guests. Find out what your attendees preferences are for accommodations, activities, and food, so you can find something convenient for the majority of attendees.

We are considering holding another reunion and would like your input!

Would you attend a future reunion?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

What kinds of activities would you like to see?

- Tours
- Attractions
- Other: _____

How long should the reunion be?

- 1 afternoon
- 2 days
- 3 or more days

Would you be willing to help with or serve on a reunion committee?

- Yes
- No

Location ideas

Option 1: _____

Option 2: _____

If yes, in what area?

- Planning
- Food
- Activities
- Set-Up/Take-Down
- Other: _____

Best time of year?

- Spring
- Summer
- Fall
- Winter

Do you have names/addresses/emails of individuals who may be interested in attending?

Will you be traveling from another state?

- Yes
- No

Would you rather:

- Pay for the food in advance?
- Bring your own food and have a potluck?

Top 10 Reasons to Host Your Reunion in Shreveport-Bossier

1. VALUE

We have big city amenities at small city prices and no shortage of southern hospitality. Shreveport-Bossier's average hotel rate is \$77. There are more than a dozen free museums, parks, and more. Great value is what reunion attendees get when meeting up in Shreveport-Bossier.

2. CONVENIENT LOCATION

Shreveport-Bossier is conveniently located in the northwest corner of Louisiana where I-20 and I-49 converge. The Shreveport Regional Airport is serviced by four airlines.

3. GREAT HOTELS & FLEXIBLE VENUES

Whether you're looking for a downtown rooftop for 50 people or a picturesque park for 500 people, we've got you covered. Ford Park, Shreveport Aquarium, museums, community recreation centers, and hotel banquet spaces are just a few venue options.



4. SHOPPING

The Louisiana Boardwalk Outlets is a one-stop shop for clothes, dining, and entertainment. Other great shopping hot spots include The Agora Borealis; Shoppes at Bellemead; Line Avenue Shopping District, a five-mile stretch of boutique shops and restaurants; local malls and more.

5. NIGHTLIFE

Louisiana's reputation for vibrant, musical nightlife is upheld in Shreveport-Bossier, where many bars and nightclubs offer live music. Along the downtown riverfront, six riverboat casinos provide 24/7 gaming action and a variety of nightclubs. Bars and entertainment venues entice visitors with cold drinks, spicy food and the sounds of live jazz, rock, blues, country, folk, hip-hop, soul and R&B. Beyond the downtown nightlife scene, explore Shreveport-Bossier to discover everything from world-class music venues to off-the-beaten-path craft beer breweries.



6. GROUP EXPERIENCES

Groups of 10 or more looking for something fun can choose from six local experiences and tours to immerse themselves in the unique culture of Shreveport-Bossier:

- ◇ Hop on a bus and take a food tour of Shreveport-Bossier during the "Us Up North" Food Tour. **Contact: Hargette Harris, foodtourslouisiana@gmail.com**
- ◇ Show off your creativity during a "Great Create" workshop at The Agora Borealis. Tickets are \$25 per person. **Contact: Katy Larsen, theagoraborealis@gmail.com**
- ◇ Tantalize your taste buds with unique pairings of wines and fine chocolates during "The Perfect Pair" at Jimmy's Seafood & Steak at Margaritaville Resort Casino. Tickets are \$35 per person. **Contact: Barbara McMickle, bmcickle@margaritaville-bc.com**
- ◇ Experience the stories, sights and sounds of black life in Shreveport through the lens of art and culture during the "Art and Soul" tour at Southern University of Shreveport. Tickets are \$15-25 per person. **Contact: Angelique Feaster Evans, afeaster@susla.edu**
- ◇ Hear the stories and walk in the footsteps of music legends like Elvis Presley and Johnny Cash got their start during the "Backstage Music Tour at the Municipal Auditorium" at the Shreveport Municipal Auditorium. Tickets are \$20 per person. **Contact: Teresa Micheels, teresaday_4@hotmail.com**
- ◇ Stroll through the gardens, learn about the care and history of roses and try rose tea during the "All About the Roses" tour at the American Rose Center. Tickets are \$10 per person. **Contact: Carol Spiers, carol@rose.org**

For booking and more information,
 www.Shreveport-Bossier.org/Groups



7. CUISINE

There's no better way to experience the unique blend of cultures found in Shreveport-Bossier than to sit down to a meal at a local restaurant. Traditional Cajun, Creole, soul food, Texas-style barbecue, and international flavors are all on the menu in local eateries. Us Up North Food Tours are a fun way for your group to experience all of Shreveport-Bossier's top restaurants. Contact us and request a list of local caters for your next reunions.

8. AFFORDABLE PUBLIC PARK RENTALS

Shreveport-Bossier's beautiful public parks are the ideal spot to host your reunion. Parks are an affordable venue that offer a diversity of amenities including splash pads for children, indoor facilities for a banquet, golf courses, swimming pools, lakes, rivers, bayous, and more.

9. YEAR-ROUND FESTIVALS

The sister cities love to party! Shreveport-Bossier is home to a year-round calendar of more than 65 festivals and annual events celebrating everything from Mardi Gras and music to hot air balloons and spicy crawfish. Plan a reunion in conjunction with a festival for built-in entertainment.

10. FAMILY-FRIENDLY ATTRACTIONS

Visitors can dive into an underwater world of wonder at the Shreveport Aquarium, hold a baby alligator at Gators and Friends Adventure Park, wander through beautiful museums and art galleries, or stop and smell the roses at American Rose Center.



20 Free Things to Do in Shreveport-Bossier

For a complete list of things to do in Shreveport-Bossier, visit www.ShreveportReunions.com.

1. AMERICAN ROSE CENTER

📍 8877 Jefferson Paige Rd., Shreveport ☎ 318-938-5402

Walk around the nation's largest park dedicated to roses at American Rose Center. The 118 acre park features 20,000 rosebushes and a variety of companion plants, sculptures and fountains.

Group tours are available. Tickets are \$10 per person. Stroll through the gardens with a tour guide, learn about the care and history of roses and try rose tea during the "All About the Roses" tour at the American Rose Center. Contact: Carol Spiers, carol@rose.org



2. ARTSPACE

📍 710 Texas St., Shreveport ☎ 318-673-6535

Visit Artspace's rotating contemporary art exhibitions, shop for locally made products and enjoy a meal at Parish Taceaux.

3. BOSSIER ARTS COUNCIL

📍 630 Barksdale Blvd., Bossier City ☎ 318-741-8310

Located in the East Bank District, this art gallery features regional artists and a gift shop with locally made crafts.

4. BARKSDALE GLOBAL POWER MUSEUM

📍 88 Shreveport Rd., Barksdale AFB ☎ 318-752-0055

See vintage aircraft and U.S. Air Force memorabilia at this museum located on Barksdale Air Force Base.

5. THE DUCK POND

📍 1200 East Kings Hwy., Shreveport ☎ 318-673-7727

The East Kings Highway Park is a local favorite known as "the duck pond." It offers a pond inhabited by ducks, picnic area, playground, and restrooms.

6. J. BENNETT JOHNSTON WATERWAY REGIONAL VISITOR CENTER

📍 700 Clyde Fant Pkwy., Shreveport ☎ 318-677-2673

Learn the story of how the Corps of Engineers worked to tame the Red River for navigation and recreation. See the free 12-minute movie about the mighty Red River.

7. KARPELES MANUSCRIPT LIBRARY MUSEUM

📍 3201 Centenary Blvd., Shreveport ☎ 318-861-7615

Explore the world's largest private holding of original documents and manuscripts in this library and museum.



8. LOUISIANA STATE EXHIBIT MUSEUM

📍 3015 Greenwood Rd., Shreveport ☎ 318-632-2020

Open since 1939, this museum displays Native American artifacts, a monumental fresco painting, Caddo dugout canoe, rotating exhibits, and more.

9. LOUISIANA STATE OIL AND GAS MUSEUM

📍 200 S. Land Ave., Oil City ☎ 318-995-6845

Learn how the discovery of oil shaped the history of Caddo Parish through photographs, films, and life-sized dioramas.

10. MEADOWS MUSEUM OF ART

📍 2911 Centenary Blvd., Shreveport ☎ 318-869-5169
Browse contemporary exhibitions at this museum located on the campus of Centenary College of Louisiana.



11. ONCE IN A MILLENNIUM MOON MEGA MURAL

📍 Cotton Street at Marshall St., Shreveport ☎ 318-673-6500
This 25,000-square-foot mural is one of the nation's largest public murals. It captures the people of Shreveport's treasures, tragedies, and triumphs.

12. RED RIVER NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE VISITOR CENTER

📍 150 Eagle Bend Point, Bossier City ☎ 318-742-1219
The center features five miles of trails, fishing, an exhibition, wildlife viewing, and environmental education.

13. RIVERVIEW PARK

📍 601 Clyde Fant Pkwy., Shreveport ☎ 318-673-7727
Watch the Red River roll by at Riverview Park. The riverfront park features lighted roses high above the beautiful Red River.

14. R.W. NORTON ART GALLERY

📍 4747 Creswell Ave., Shreveport ☎ 318-865-4201

Explore a beautiful 40-acre garden and thousands of American and European paintings, sculptures and artifacts at Shreveport's largest museum.



15. SHREVEPORT RAILROAD MUSEUM

📍 142 N. Common St., Shreveport ☎ 318-221-3388
Located inside the Shreveport Water Works Museum, railroad enthusiasts will enjoy this showcase of the history of railroads in and around Shreveport since 1860.

16. SHREVEPORT WATER WORKS MUSEUM

📍 142 N. Common St., Shreveport ☎ 318-221-3388
Shreveport Water Works Museum is a rare, intact steam-powered water works and is a National Historic Landmark.

17. SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY MUSEUM OF ART

📍 610 Texas St., Shreveport ☎ 318-670-9631
This museum offers visitors a chance to experience the beauty and diversity of the more than 300 exquisite pieces of African and African American art and artifacts.

Group experience tours are available. Tickets are \$15-\$25 per person. Experience the stories, sights and sounds of black life in Shreveport through the lens of art and culture during the "Art and Soul" tour at Southern University of Shreveport.
Contact: Angelique Feaster Evans, afeaster@susla.edu



18. SPRING STREET HISTORICAL MUSEUM

📍 525 Spring St., Shreveport ☎ 318-424-0964
Learn about the history of Shreveport's infamous Red Light District, Civil War history, and more than 2,200 relics that tell the story of Shreveport's history.

19. VIVIAN RAILROAD STATION MUSEUM

📍 100 North Front St., Vivian ☎ 318-375-5300
Walk around exhibits showcasing artifacts, photographs and more to learn about North Caddo Parish's railroad history.

20. WALTER B. JACOBS MEMORIAL NATURE PARK

📍 8012 Blanchard Furrh Rd., Shreveport ☎ 318-929-2806
This 160-acre park features a visitor center with hands-on exhibits, a children's play area, five miles of accessible hiking trails, and live animal rehabilitation exhibits.

5 Perfect Ways to Spend the Day in Shreveport-Bossier

1. Shreveport-Bossier's six riverboat casinos and horse racing track are a gateway to adventures ranging from Vegas-style gaming and nightlife to decadent dining and posh accommodations. Whether rolling the dice or lounging poolside, guests are treated to award-winning hospitality, amenities and player perks. www.Shreveport-Bossier.org/Casinos



2. What is Louisiana without Mardi Gras?

The Shreveport-Bossier Convention and Tourist Bureau hosts an annual exclusive party and front row experience to the Krewe of Centaur parade - one of the largest Mardi Gras parades in Louisiana. The climate-controlled party tent is located along the riverfront, and tickets to the bash include live entertainment, savory Cajun and Creole food, king cake, a commemorative Mardi Gras bead and t-shirt, and more. Once the parade starts, groups can see brightly colored floats, marching bands, outrageous Mardi Gras personalities, and, of course, catch some beads. www.ShreveportMardiGras.com

3. With 20 Free Attractions, you'll be having fun from sun up to sun down and saving money. Explore the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum to learn about northwest Louisiana's history and heritage. See local art at Artspace and Bossier Arts Council. Tour Barksdale Global Power Museum, located on Barksdale Air Force Base. www.Shreveport-Bossier.org/Things-To-Do/Attractions/Free



4. Do you love outdoor adventure? Cruise the Red River aboard the hour-long Spirit of the Red River Cruise. Zip-line over alligators and other wild animals at Gators and Friends Adventure Park. Cast a line and see what's biting or hike the trails at Cypress Black Bayou Park. Or take the group to cool off at Splash Kingdom Water Park. www.ShreveportOutdoors.com

5. For an off-the-beaten-path experience, explore the Boom or Bust Byway, just 15 minutes north of downtown Shreveport. Travel along the sunflower trail in June, tour old homes and churches in September, explore antique stores and museums, indulge in southern eateries, and attend unique festivals throughout the rural towns of Caddo and Bossier Parishes. www.BoomorBustByway.com



Annual Events

For a complete calendar of festivals, annual events, and things to do in Shreveport-Bossier, visit www.SBFunGuide.com

January - March



MARDI GRAS

www.ShreveportMardiGras.com

KREWE OF CENTAUR PARADE

One of the largest parades in Louisiana, the Krewe of Centaur rolls 10 days before Fat Tuesday, featuring marching bands, brightly colored floats and more.

KREWE OF GEMINI PARADE

Masked revelers on floats and marchers respond to the age old cry "Throw me something, Mister!" by tossing beads, toys and trinkets.

KREWE OF HIGHLAND PARADE

Shreveport's most eccentric krewe is famous for throwing hot dogs, packs of ramen noodles, and moon pies.

KREWE OF SOBEK PARADE

A fun-filled afternoon features floats, bands, marching groups, drill teams, queens, kings, youth sports teams, homecoming courts, and more.

KREWE OF HARAMBEE PARADE

Martin Luther King Jr. Day This huge parade rolls through downtown Shreveport each year celebrating the legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. It features marching bands, stilt-walkers, dozens of floats, and more.

KREWE OF BARKUS AND MEOUX PET PARADE

The Mardi Paw Pet Parade is a chance for festive pets to celebrate Mardi Gras. The parade features pets paraded in costumes, children's activities, food, and a presentation of the royal court of pets.

March



318 RESTAURANT WEEK

318 Restaurant Week features fixed price lunches for \$10 and dinner specials for \$20 at local eateries as well as unique, one-night-only dining experiences.

April

ARK-LA-TEX AMBASSADORS BBQ COOK-OFF

Food lovers can come sample ribs, brisket, sausage, and more as top barbeque teams from across the South come together to compete in a cook-off.



SPRING BLOOM

Welcome spring and stroll through lush rose gardens at the American Rose Center.

ASEANA SPRING FESTIVAL

Celebrate a variety of Asian cultures with food, art, dance, martial arts, and more.

May

BE A FAN OF SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER

Enjoy 31 days of discounts at local attractions, events, and giveaways throughout May.



MUDBUG MADNESS FESTIVAL

This Memorial Day weekend festival celebrates Louisiana's Cajun heritage with crawfish, gumbo, jambalaya, and more.



RED RIVER HOT AIR BALLOON RALLY

Bring family and friends to experience hot air balloon rides, music, fireworks, and more.

September



HIGHLAND JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

Enjoy live music from local and national jazz and blues artists, great food and local artwork.

PIONEER HERITAGE FESTIVAL

Celebrate the enduring spirit of the pioneers who first settled in Greenwood.



LET THE GOOD TIMES ROLL FESTIVAL

This music festival is a weekend-long celebration of African American culture featuring special performances by top names in soul, gospel, hip-hop, and R&B.



RED RIVER REVEL ARTS FESTIVAL

This annual art festival features more than 100 visual artists, live music, local food, and a kid's area.

July

KTBS-3 INDEPENDENCE DAY FESTIVAL

The annual Fourth of July festival features fireworks over the Red River in honor of the United States military.

October

PRIZE FEST

The Prize Fest weekend features Louisiana Film Prize, Louisiana Music Prize, and Louisiana Food Prize.

MOORINGSPORT CYPRESS FESTIVAL

Celebrate fall with a parade, music, food eating contests, children's activities, art vendors, and more.



CHRISTMAS IN ROSELAND

This winter wonderland features thousands of twinkling lights, train rides, live music, photos with Santa, and more.

December



THE STATE FAIR OF LOUISIANA

The official State Fair of Louisiana features circus shows, live music, livestock shows, carnival midway, and some of the most unique fair food in the nation.



CHRISTMAS ON CADDO FIREWORKS FESTIVAL

Enjoy live music, concessions, clowns, family fun, Santa, and fireworks over Caddo Lake.

November

ROCKETS OVER THE RED FIREWORKS FESTIVAL

Ring in the holiday season with music, food, photos with Santa, and fireworks over the Red River.



COUNTRY CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL

Celebrate Christmas in the country with a parade, food booths, arts and crafts, and more.

Venues

For a complete list of venues to host a reunion in Shreveport-Bossier, visit www.ShreveportReunions.com.

ARTSPACE

📍 710 Texas St., Shreveport ☎ 318-673-6535

Visit Artspace's rotating contemporary art exhibitions, shop for locally made products and enjoy a meal at Parish Taceaux. The downtown Shreveport art gallery has a maximum capacity of 500 people.



KLIMA ROSE HALL AT AMERICAN ROSE CENTER

📍 8877 Jefferson Paige Rd., Shreveport ☎ 318-938-5402

The 4,000-square-foot Klima Rose Hall is a unique venue at the American Rose Center and is available for special events, meetings, weddings, receptions, and parties and can accommodate 200 guests.



CONSORTIUM VENUE

📍 1925 N. Market St., Shreveport ☎ 318-424-5383

The 4,000-square-foot Consortium Venue can host 125 people. It specializes in creating the perfect atmosphere venue for receptions, weddings, banquets, business meetings and private parties.

ELEVEN EVENTS

📍 1529 Texas Ave., Shreveport ☎ 318-703-2886

The Eleven Events event center is richly elegant with a modern twist. The Eleven Building offers a venue that can accommodate an indoor and outdoor function with reception space as large as 4,000-square-feet.

FESTIVAL PLAZA

📍 101 Crockett St., Shreveport ☎ 318-673-5100

Festival Plaza is the premier location for festivals and events in Shreveport-Bossier. It offers more than 400,000-square-feet of outdoor venue space. Festival Plaza is in an excellent location within walking distance of riverfront and downtown activities including casinos, Shreveport Aquarium, Red River District, and The Spirit of the Red River Cruise. The venue includes parking, a main gateway, pedestrian walkways, permanent bathrooms, stages, and concession stands.

LOS PALOMA SPORTING RANGE AND EVENT CENTER

📍 900 Seven Pines Rd., Benton ☎ 318-465-7507

The rustic 9,000-square-foot, air-conditioned, multi-purpose event center at the Los Paloma complex boasts a large indoor kitchen with two large commercial refrigerator/freezer units and a commercial icemaker.



LOUISIANA STATE EXHIBIT MUSEUM

📍 3015 Greenwood Rd., Shreveport ☎ 318-632-2020

Unique in both its massive circular layout and its world-renowned dioramas, and acclaimed for its huge fresco and Native American artifacts, the Louisiana State Exhibit Museum houses many dynamic collections and rotating exhibits that offer insight into the history and culture of Louisiana and beyond. The iconic museum rotunda and grounds can host more than 800 people.



LOUISIANA STATE FAIRGROUNDS AGRICULTURAL BUILDING

📍 3701 Hudson St., Shreveport ☎ 318-635-1361

Located on the official State Fair of Louisiana fairgrounds, the Louisiana State Fair of Louisiana Agriculture Building features 25,192-square feet of reception space and has a capacity of 900 people.



LOUISIANA STATE OIL AND GAS MUSEUM

📍 200 S Land Ave., Oil City ☎ 318-995-6485

Learn how the discovery of oil shaped the history of Caddo Parish through photographs, films and life-size dioramas at the official Louisiana State Oil & Gas Museum. The space can host a maximum capacity of 100.



MARLENE YU MUSEUM

📍 710 Travis St., Shreveport ☎ 318-717-9111

Enjoy contemporary art exhibitions and mural-sized, nature-inspired paintings by artist and gallery namesake Marlene Tseng Yu. The paintings in the 3,350-square-foot main exhibit hall are the perfect backdrop for reunions.



MULTICULTURAL CENTER OF THE SOUTH

📍 520 Spring St., Shreveport ☎ 318-424-1380

Take a journey to distant lands to learn about the practices and traditions transported to America by past and present day immigrants. The Multicultural Center's event space can host up to 75 guests.



RANDLE T. MOORE CENTER

📍 3101 Fairfield Ave., Shreveport ☎ 318-673-7817

This stately home, constructed in 1920 with the use of Swiss craftsmen, offers 20,193-square-feet of reception space for up to 86 people.

RED RIVER BREWING CO.

📍 1200 Marshall St., Shreveport ☎ 318-317-4110

Red River Brewing Co. is a small craft brewery and tasting room located in downtown Shreveport. Red River produces three flagship beers as well as a variety of small-batch releases and seasonal offerings. Their brewery and tasting room is a large, accommodating space that can host 275 guests. The space includes a merchandise shop, ping pong tables, a covered patio with a view of downtown Shreveport, and more.



SAVVY SISTERS EVENT PLANNERS & VENUE

📍 14905 Oak St., Hosston ☎ 318-464-8551

This former Hosston Elementary school has been transformed into a unique event venue. Events can be planned in the school's original auditorium, gymnasium, cafeteria, outdoors, and more.

SAINTE TERRE

📍 190 Nickel Ln., Benton ☎ 318-936-9544

From intimate ceremonies to events of up to 200 guests, Sainte Terre offers a sophisticated rustic setting for an unforgettable wedding, reunion and more.

ROBINSON FILM CENTER

📍 617 Texas St., Shreveport ☎ 318-459-4122

The Robinson Film Center's features a 2326-square-foot multipurpose space for events. The movie theater exhibits independent, international and classic cinema. Upstairs is Abby Singer's Bistro, a full-service restaurant with a balcony, which serves seafood gumbo, chicken and waffles, craft cocktails, and more.



SHREVEPORT AQUARIUM

📍 601 Clyde Fant Pkwy., Shreveport ☎ 318-383-0601

Dine with stingrays, dance under the historic arboretum dome or enjoy open air dining on the only riverfront patio in town. The aquarium offers multiple venue options and has a maximum capacity is 300 guests. Aquarium tours can be added to all event packages.

R. W. NORTON ART GALLERY

📍 4747 Creswell Dr., Shreveport ☎ 318-865-4201

R.W. Norton Art Gallery is a nonprofit museum built in 1966, which houses incomparable collections of American and European paintings, sculptures and decorative arts spanning four centuries. In addition, the Norton is set amidst 40 beautifully landscaped acres with more than 15,000 plants, ponds, sculptures, and azalea gardens that bloom every spring.



**SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY
MUSEUM OF ART**

📍 610 Texas St., Shreveport 📞 318-670-9631

This museum offers visitors a chance to experience the beauty and diversity of the more than 300 exquisite pieces of African and African American art and artifacts. The museum features more than 3,000-square-feet of event space in the upper and lower galleries and can seat up to 100 guests.



THE STRAND THEATRE

📍 619 Louisiana Ave., Shreveport 📞 318-226-1481

This restored historic theatre continues to be the home of the highest-quality entertainment throughout the decades including top touring Broadway productions, concerts, and comedy shows.



**WILD PETUNIA
SPECIAL EVENTS
VENUE**

📍 408 Caddo St., Belcher
📞 318-518-6588

The Wild Petunia offers full-service event planning for indoor and outdoor events in a vintage 1930s rustic building. The venue can accommodate up to 100 people.



WOMAN'S DEPARTMENT CLUB

📍 802 Margaret Pl., Shreveport 📞 318-222-4186

The historic Women's Department Club is a grand, elegant manor that is listed on the National Archives Historical List. It can host a maximum capacity of 300 guests in the parlor, dining room and gallery space. The space also features an upstairs 440-seat auditorium.

**ADVENTURE
AWAITS**

Dive in at:
www.Shreveport-Bossier.org

Request a free copy of the *Official Visitors' Guide* by calling 1-800-551-8682.

**EAT LIKE
A Local.**

Learn how by downloading *Eat Here: A Food Lover's Guide to Shreveport-Bossier, Louisiana.*

www.Shreveport-Bossier.org/brochures

20X49

THE OFFICIAL BLOG OF SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER

RESTAURANT REVIEWS
FESTIVAL AND EVENT NEWS
LOCAL PERSPECTIVES
GIVEAWAYS

WWW.20X49.COM

Casinos with Reception Space

Shreveport-Bossier's resort-style casinos offer a one-stop shop for reception space, posh accommodations, spas, and nightly entertainment. For more information, visit www.ShreveportReunions.com.

BOOMTOWN CASINO & HOTEL

📍 300 Riverside Dr., Bossier City ☎ 318-746-0711

At Boomtown, gamers can experience more than 30,000 square feet of gaming space on three levels, with more than 1,100 slot machines and more than 16 table games. This Wild West themed casino can accommodate up to 100 people for a banquet.



DIAMOND JACKS CASINO AND HOTEL

📍 711 DiamondJacks Blvd., Bossier City ☎ 318-678-7777

DiamondJacks Casino has more than 30,000 square feet of action-packed gaming space with slots, video poker and table games. The casino can accommodate up to 700 people for a banquet, meetings, and private parties.



ELDORADO RESORT CASINO SHREVEPORT

📍 451 Clyde Fant Pkwy., Shreveport ☎ 318-220-0711

Eldorado offers the ultimate in gaming excitement with a 30,000-square-foot gaming floor with more than 50 table games and more than 1,500 of the newest slots and video poker machines. The venue can accommodate up to 200 people for a banquet.

HARRAH'S LOUISIANA DOWNS

📍 8000 E. Texas St., Bossier City ☎ 318-742-5555

Harrah's Louisiana Downs is home of the Super Derby, one of the premiere races for 3-year-olds in North America. Enjoy thoroughbred racing May through September, quarter horse racing January through March, and year-round live simulcast. The casino can accommodate up to 600 people for a banquet.



HORSESHOE CASINO & HOTEL RIVERDOME

📍 711 Horseshoe Blvd., Shreveport ☎ 318-742-0711

Risk is its own reward at Horseshoe, home of the best odds, the highest table limits, and the famous World Series of Poker Room. Horseshoe can accommodate up to 840 people for a banquet.

MARGARITAVILLE RESORT CASINO

📍 777 Margaritaville Way, Bossier City ☎ 318-698-3920

Situated next to Louisiana Boardwalk Outlets, the single-level casino offers more than 1,200 slot machines and 54 table games including craps, blackjack, roulette and many more of your favorite games in spacious and comfortable surroundings. The casino can accommodate up to 350 people for a banquet.



SAM'S TOWN HOTEL & CASINO

📍 315 Clyde Fant Pkwy. ☎ 318-424-7777

Sam's Town Hotel and Casino provides an enjoyable experience with live performances, a signature spa, and wide array of dining options and three floors of gaming. The casino can accommodate up to 800 people for a banquet.

Park Rentals

For rental information and questions, please contact each individual community center. For a complete list of parks and recreation centers, visit www.ShreveportReunions.com.



A.C. STEERE PARK

📍 4009 Youree Dr., Shreveport ☎ 318-673-7727

- ◇ 1 picnic area
- ◇ 1 playground with spray park

BETTY VIRGINIA PARK

📍 3901 Fairfield Ave., Shreveport ☎ 318-673-7727

- ◇ 1 multipurpose building ◇ 1 playground
- ◇ 3 picnic areas

A.B. PALMER COMMUNITY CENTER

📍 547 E. 79th St., Shreveport 318-673-5336

- ◇ 1 multipurpose room ◇ 2 picnic pavilions
- ◇ 1 kitchen ◇ 1 playground



ANDREW CURRIE COMMUNITY CENTER

📍 1600 Norma St., Shreveport ☎ 318-673-7805

- ◇ 1 multipurpose room ◇ 1 playground
- ◇ 1 picnic pavilion

BILL COCKRELL METRO PARK & COMMUNITY CENTER

📍 4109 Pines Rd., Shreveport ☎ 318-629-4185

- ◇ 1 multipurpose room ◇ 1 picnic pavilion
- ◇ 1 kitchen ◇ 1 playground

BILLBERRY PARK COMMUNITY CENTER

📍 1902 Alabama Ave., Shreveport ☎ 318-673-5345

- ◇ 1 picnic pavilion
- ◇ 1 playground

CHRIS HAYS COMMUNITY CENTER

📍 4300 Illinois St., Shreveport ☎ 318-673-7814

- ◇ 1 multipurpose room ◇ 1 playground
- ◇ 1 picnic pavilion

DAVID RAINES COMMUNITY CENTER

📍 2920 Round Grove Ln., Shreveport ☎ 318-673-5342

- ◇ 1 multipurpose room ◇ 1 playground
- ◇ 1 picnic pavilion

HATTIE PERRY COMMUNITY CENTER

📍 4300 Ledbetter St., Shreveport ☎ 318-673-5342

- ◇ 1 multipurpose room ◇ 3 playgrounds
- ◇ 2 picnic pavilions



**HOOTER NEIGHBORHOOD
COMMUNITY PARK**

📍 100 Hooter Dr., Bossier City ☎ 318-741-8357

- ◇ 1 multipurpose room
- ◇ 1 playground with spray park

**LAKESIDE PARK
& COMMUNITY CENTER**

📍 2200 Milam St., Shreveport ☎ 318-673-7812

- ◇ 1 multipurpose room
- ◇ 1 playground

**MIKE WOOD
MEMORIAL PARK**

📍 2200 Dennis St., Bossier City ☎ 318-741-8389

- ◇ 3 picnic pavilions
- ◇ 2 playgrounds



**MITCHELL
NEIGHBORHOOD PARK**

📍 1518 Cox St., Bossier City ☎ 318-741-8356

- ◇ 1 playground with spray park



www.ShreveportReunions.com

Reunion Fast Facts

- ◇ Reunions are becoming the focal point of family vacations and often last three to five days.
- ◇ Organizers are having reunions catered instead of the traditional potluck or backyard barbecue.
- ◇ Organizers are attending reunion workshops one to two years before their event in order to maximize their knowledge of reunion planning.
- ◇ Traditional reunions have moved from small venues to hotels and resorts.
- ◇ Organizers are having each age group plan their own activities.
- ◇ Families are investing in future generations through fund-raising efforts to award scholarships and savings bonds at reunion celebrations.
- ◇ Organizers are utilizing online payment services like www.EventBrite.com to sell tickets, and Facebook groups to get the word out to their invitees.



**Shreveport-Bossier
Convention and Tourist Bureau**
629 Spring St., Shreveport, LA
318-222-9391 · 1-800-551-8682
www.Shreveport-Bossier.org
www.SBFunGuide.com

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- 📺 /ShreveportBossier
- Blog:** www.20x49.com
- Trip Planning:**
www.Shreveport-Bossier.org

Shopping

Explore Shreveport-Bossier's wide variety of shops - ranging from retail giants to local boutiques - and discover treasures at every turn. For more information, visit www.Shreveport-Bossier.org/Things-To-Do/Shopping.

LOUISIANA BOARDWALK OUTLETS

What You'll Find: National retailers, a movie theater, carousel, and plenty of dining options to keep you busy. The outdoor shopping center features more than 60 retail and outlet stores, including GAP, Bass Pro Shops, Osh Kosh, Build-A-Bear, Banana Republic and Nike Factory Store. Restaurants include the famous Copeland's Cheesecake Bistro, as well as local favorites such as The Chocolate Crocodile. If you enjoy gaming, take a chance at Margaritaville Resort Casino or the other nearby casinos: Horseshoe Casino and Hotel, DiamondJacks Casino and Resort and Boomtown Casino and Hotel on the Bossier City side of the Red River. Or check out Sam's Town Hotel and Casino and Eldorado Resort Casino on the Shreveport riverfront.



LINE AVENUE SHOPPING DISTRICT

What You'll Find: A five-mile treasure trove of unique gifts and some of the best in boutique shopping with more than 75 boutiques, antique stores, specialty shops, shoe stores, and more spread throughout neighborhood shopping centers such as Town Oak Square and Uptown Shopping Center. Dine at Superior's Steakhouse, Wine Country Bistro, or Bistro Byronz located along Line Avenue.

SHOPPES AT BELLEMEAD

What You'll Find: A premier shopping destination with 19 top retailers including Talbots, White House/Black Market, Jos. A. Bank, Loft, Charming Charlie and more. Plus, while you're there you can grab a bite to eat at Cantina Laredo, We Olive and Wine Bar or Buttercups Cupcakes.





YOUREE DRIVE

What You'll Find: The area south of the intersection of Youree Drive and E. Kings Highway in Shreveport is one of Shreveport-Bossier's busiest shopping districts. Ranging from big box stores like Lowes, Target and Barnes & Noble to independent boutiques shops like Learning Express Toys, this area is a hot spot for shoppers.

STIRLING BOSSIER SHOPPING CENTER

What You'll Find: Nearly 30 favorite national stores with enough variety to fulfill everyone's wish list. The shopping center includes Old Navy, Target, Belk, Best Buy, Bed, Bath and Beyond and specialty stores like Maurice's, Ulta Beauty, and more.



MALL ST. VINCENT

What You'll Find: Fine upscale shopping that features more than 50 stores like Dillard's, Francesca's, H&M, and New York & Company.

PIERRE BOSSIER MALL

What You'll Find: The area's largest shopping mall is home to department stores Dillard's and JCPenney, 70 retail stores, and a food court with eateries such as Subway and Raising Cane's.



SHREVEPORT-BOSSIER is like a big pot of gumbo. Its flavors are layered with a little of this and a little of that to create a big, bold, spicy dish. The destination is filled with many special experiences: crawfish festival, Mardi Gras pet parade, and more. Plus, no other destination can claim the spot where Elvis had his first professional career performance, a zip-line over hungry gators, and a riverfront entertainment scene where the party doesn't stop until 6 a.m.

Reunions love the 24-hour excitement that the casinos bring and the cultural diversity that the festivals, museums and art galleries offer. Food lovers will enjoy exploring Shreveport-Bossier's thriving local restaurant scene and food tour. It's all here. So come, meet, taste and see all that Shreveport-Bossier has to offer.

www.ShreveportReunions.com



**SEE IT. BET IT.
TASTE IT.**