

## **A Spectator's Guide to Car Shows**

With summertime comes Mustang show season. Every weekend, all around the country, countless Mustang enthusiasts will gather to show off their prized ponies. Countless others will gather to view these fine specimens of American automotive history.

So how can you make the most of your car show experience? The following are a few tips to help you along. Of course, the most important tip of all is to have a good time and enjoy the sights!

### **Do Your Research**

It pays to be prepared. Do you know when the car show begins and when it ends? Do you know how to get there? If it's an overnight show, are you familiar with hotels in the area? It's also good to know if there's a spectator fee. While most car shows do not charge a fee to view the cars on display, some do. Better to be prepared than out of pocket at the gate! While you're at it, you might want to review the categories of cars on display so can plan out your day. Some events offer up maps giving you the lay of the land. So where to start? Well, we recommend visiting the official website for the car show. If you can't find the site, try a Google for the event. You're likely to find what you're looking for. If all else fails, contact the event organizers by phone.

### **Bring Sunscreen and Water**

Most car shows are outdoors. This, combined with the summer sun, can leave you burnt to a crisp if you don't bring sunscreen. Make sure everyone is protected. It's also good to bring a few bottles of water and some lip balm.

### **Dress Accordingly**

It's a good idea to dress comfortably for the show. You'll likely be doing a lot of walking, and it will probably be sunny and warm. We've found that loose fitting clothing is the best bet, as well as a pair of comfortable walking shoes. We generally wear a t-shirt (preferably one sporting a Mustang logo!) and shorts. If it's an end of summer show, we recommend jeans and a fleece just in case the day starts off on the cool side. As a general rule of thumb, always keep a fleece and jeans in the car even if it's a hot day. You never know when the weather may change. And most importantly, bring a hat and sunglasses! All those polished ponies can leave you blinded by the light, and the hat, well, it will do a good job of keeping you cool and sunburn free. An umbrella is handy just in case it decides to rain.

### **Bring a Camera**

Now this may seem obvious, but you'd be surprised how many folks forget to bring their camera to the show. With so many amazing Mustangs on display, a camera is a must! You'll thank yourself later when you're showing off all the photos of the day to your friends. While you're at it, make sure your camera is charged. It's a waste of space if you bring a camera that doesn't work. It's also a good idea to make sure you have enough room for new photos if you're using a digital camera. If you're using a traditional film model, make sure you have enough to last throughout the day.

### **Organize Your Gear**

Most shows allow backpacks. I've found they can really help when it comes to organizing your gear. A car show backpack usually contains a pair of jeans, a fleece, some water, lip balm, a pen, and a notebook (just in case you see something worthy of writing down.) Backpacks are also useful, as they provide additional storage for things like posters and other car show goodies.

**Look But Don't Touch!**

While it may be tempting to reach inside and open up the hood on that Mustang that just caught your attention that would be, well, extremely inappropriate. Always remember, "Look but don't touch." If the owner of the car is nearby, ask them to help you. Most owners will be more than happy to show you their car. If the owner isn't around, please be respectful.