

GALA 2025



Camelids Rock

# Join Us For the 2025 GALA Educational Conference

## Oct. 31-Nov. 2

The Wyndham Hotel  
6200 Quarry Lane Independence, Ohio

Yes, **Camelids Rock**, and so will all attendees at this year's annual Educational Conference! We will be gathering in a new location that also rocks: **Cleveland, Ohio!** The city offers direct flights with ten airlines and is easily accessible by car if you're in Ohio, Michigan, or Indiana. It's also a city with a wealth of things to do, see, and visit, including the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Interested in seeing the Rock Hall? We've arranged for **discounted tickets for GALA members**. The discount kicks in when 15 attendees purchase tickets on the registration form.

Our hotel is the **Wyndham Hotel in Independence**, about fourteen miles from the airport. Offering **an excellent rate of \$139/night**, it includes breakfast. **Please make reservations by calling the hotel directly at 216-447-1300 and asking for the GALA Conference**. The hotel layout allows us to have dining, auction tables, and even vendors all in one room!

Our conference will once again feature educational classes and exceptional speakers covering topics such as training your animals for the show ring and performance classes, as well as expert camelid veterinarians. **Dr. Andy Niehaus** will be a Keynote Speaker on Friday and will also offer classes and presentations. Additionally, **Dr. Robert VanSaun**, a camelid nutrition specialist, will be joined by **Dr. Lisa Fox, DVM**, and **Dr. Char Arendas**, who will present several new topics and classes to help you set up

your farm, keep your camelids healthy, and offer new methods and techniques.

We have another exceptional **Keynote Speaker** on Saturday, **Kendall Wild**, a 14-year-old who shares her specially developed method for training her blind/deaf alpaca to navigate obstacles. She will speak later in the conference about her in-home method of measuring microns.

**The Fiber Arts Room**, under the supervision of conference committee member Cindy Millard, provides a variety of new classes and teachers, as well as some perennial favorites. 'Fiber Fantastico' Laura Harrawood will share several of her many talents, including spinning with beads and a spectacular "make and take" felted offering. There will be spinning, ice dyeing, batik demonstrations, triangle weaving, and more. There will, of course, be a special felted piece for attendees to work on during the weekend, which will be part of the Saturday evening auction excitement.

**Other fun things to do in Cleveland:**  
**The Cleveland Museum of Art:** One of Cleveland's crown jewels is the Cleveland Museum of Art, internationally renowned for its extensive collection spanning 6,000 years of history. Free. The museum is located at 11150 East St.

**Cuyahoga Valley National Park:** I'll bet you didn't know Northern Ohio had a national park. It does! The park is a refuge for native plants and wildlife, and provides routes of discovery for visitors. Free. The park is located at

*More on the next page!*

15610 Vaughn Road, in Brecksville.

**The Greater Cleveland Aquarium** offers an educational and interactive experience with exhibits featuring marine life from around the world. Highlights include a walk-through shark tunnel and hands-on touch tanks. Hours: Monday – Sunday from 10am – 5pm. The aquarium is located at 2000 Sycamore St.

**Cleveland Metroparks Zoo:** The zoo is part of the Cleveland Metropolitan Park District. The zoo is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. beginning Nov. 1. Tickets are \$21.50 for adults aged 12-61, \$19.50 for seniors 62 and older, \$17.50 for children 2-11. The zoo is located at 3900 Wildlife Way.



**Lake Erie:** Finally, no visit to Cleveland is complete without spending time on Lake Erie. Whether it's a leisurely boat ride, a fishing excursion, or simply relaxing by the water, the lake offers endless opportunities for recreation and relaxation.

Are you excited yet? We sure are! Click on the links below to get registered! When registering, please consider becoming a **Sponsor**: our conferences are always better with the support of our members.

You can also expect another fun, Carol Reigh-designed Icebreaker, followed by the annual **Cornhole Tournament**, on Thursday night. Be looking for your best camelid photos for this year's Photo Contest, which is "new and improved". You email your pictures to Meghan Cormier, and she will have them printed and matted for you! At the end of the conference, you get to take them home!

For Friday night's entertainment, we have pulled some strings and will welcome Elvis "back into the building!" Bring your grooviest '60s outfits and we'll twist and shout the evening away!

On Saturday afternoon, we will again invite the public to join us for a meet-and-greet, learn about camelids and fiber, have their photos taken, and, of course, enjoy the Llama Parade. Saturday evening is our **Banquet and Auction**: our reason for the weekend. The money raised is allocated to our Camelid Research and Government Relations Funds to continue supporting

these essential needs.

The activities mentioned above can only happen with the Volunteer help of members. You will receive an email detailing the various activities that need volunteers. Please find some time to ensure the conference runs smoothly.

Come see us at Conference and see why Cleveland (and Camelids) Rock!

Any questions, contact Barb Baker at: [bebaker@earthlink.net](mailto:bebaker@earthlink.net) or Deb Gaskill at [dgaskill@woh.rr.com](mailto:dgaskill@woh.rr.com)

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