



**UNITED WAY**  
Southwest  
Louisiana

# 2025 EVENT SCHEDULE

At United Way Southwest Louisiana, we are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for our community through collaboration, advocacy, and impactful Initiatives. We are excited to invite local companies and organizations to participate in our upcoming events, which offer fantastic opportunities for networking, community engagement, and support for vital causes. From lively competitions and charity runs to culinary festivals and summits focused on advocacy, there is something for everyone to enjoy while contributing to the betterment of our region.

Join us in making a difference and fostering connections within our community!

## ANNUAL MEETING

**February 26 | Doors open at 11:30 am**

This event brings together members and stakeholders to discuss the organization's progress, set future goals, and foster connections. Held at L'Auberge Lake Charles, it is a platform for sharing achievements and recognizing contributions.

## CAMPAIGN KICKOFF BREAKFAST

**Thursday, August 28 | 7:30 am**

The Lake Charles Event Center hosts this motivational gathering to launch a new United Way Southwest Louisiana campaign for community improvement and fundraising efforts. Attendees can expect networking opportunities and a call to action to inspire community involvement.

## BATTLE FOR THE PADDLE

**Thursday, March 13 | Cooking at 9 am  
Concert and tasting at 5 pm**

This lively competition, which takes place at the Lake Charles Event Center, features jambalaya and pastalaya cooking teams. The day ends with live music and an awards ceremony. It's a fun-filled day of teamwork, community spirit, and excitement.

## LA FOOD & WINE FESTIVAL

**September 18-21**

This exhilarating festival takes place on the grounds of the Lake Charles Event Center and showcases the best of Louisiana's culinary talent and fine wines. Guests can indulge in tastings, cooking demonstrations, and seminars by renowned chefs and winemakers.

## ALICE SUMMIT

**Wednesday, March 26 | 8 am**

Hosted at L'Auberge Lake Charles, this summit addresses the challenges faced by ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) individuals, focusing on advocacy, resources, and community support. Attendees can expect insightful discussions, strategies for improvement and networking.

## REELIN' FOR WARRIORS

**Saturday, October 4 | Safe Light - 2 pm**

Held at Prien Lake Park, this event combines fishing and charity, inviting participants to fish for a cause. The event promotes awareness and support for veterans while offering a day full of outdoor fun and community bonding.

## RUM REVIVAL

**Saturday, April 5 | 5 pm - 9 pm**

The Golden Nugget sets the stage for this spirited celebration of all things rum. Guests can sample a variety of rums from different regions and enjoy live music, creating an unforgettable tropical experience.

## SMOKE & BARREL

**Saturday, November 22 | 1 pm - 5 pm**

The Calcasieu Parish Courthouse grounds are transformed into a festival atmosphere where barbecue and bourbon lovers come together. The event celebrates the art of grilling and smoking meats, featuring competitions, bourbon and whiskey tastings, and live music, creating a lively community gathering.

## DOLLY RUN

**Saturday, April 26 | 8 am - noon**

This charity run organized by United Way Southwest Louisiana encourages community involvement while raising funds for its Dolly Parton Imagination Library Initiative. Participants can choose from different race lengths and participate in a costume contest, making it accessible to all.

[unitedwayswla.org/events](https://unitedwayswla.org/events)

**Join us!**

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