

# Florida Folk Festival Participant Guidelines

## Mission

The mission of the Florida Folk Festival is to provide a Florida heritage-based celebration while conserving and interpreting the state's diverse folk cultures and traditions.

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## Purpose

The Florida Folk Festival showcases folk songs, music, dance, stories, crafts, foodways, and other forms of traditional expression that represent the folklife of Florida. Its primary purpose is to present Florida folk artists and tradition bearers to the public through family-friendly performances and demonstrations.

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## Participant Selection

Festival content is organized by park staff through professional and community recommendations as well as a formal application process and review panel.

## Selection Criteria

- Priority is given to folk artists and groups who preserve Florida folklife as defined by law.
- Preference is given to current and former Florida residents. Applications that do not clearly identify Florida residency or association will not be reviewed.
- Preference is given to participants available for all three days of the festival.
- Other considerations include participant history, quality, and uniqueness.
- Accomplished interpreters or collectors of folk expression who enhance the understanding of traditions may also be invited.

## Definition of Florida Folklife

Florida law defines folklife as:

“The traditional expressive culture shared within the various groups in Florida: familial, ethnic, occupational, religious and regional. Expressive culture includes a wide range of creative and symbolic forms such as custom, belief, technical skill, language, literature, art, architecture, music, play, dance, drama, ritual, pageantry, and handicrafts. These forms are generally learned orally, by imitation, or in performance, and are maintained without formal instruction or institutional direction.”

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## Organization of the Festival

The Florida Folk Festival is held at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park and features a variety of interpretive areas:

- **Performance Areas** – Permanent and temporary stages for large audiences. Presentations include music, dance, and demonstrations designed for entertainment and education.
- **Workshops** – Informal, hands-on sessions led by individuals or groups. These encourage public participation and discussion. (Note: Workshops are not performance venues.)

- **Folklife Areas** – Presentations centered around a shared theme (ethnic, occupational, or regional). Each year, the Florida Department of State announces a new folklife theme. Demonstrators are selected through research by Florida Folklife Programs in coordination with the Festival Coordinator.
- **Traditional Arts Demonstrations** – Individual artists demonstrate traditional skills that reflect Florida’s cultural heritage.
- **Craft Square** – Artists demonstrate traditional crafts year-round at Stephen Foster State Park. To participate, artists must have volunteered at least 12 days in the past year or be recipients of the Florida Folk Heritage Award.
- **Festival Marketplace** – Vendors sell fine arts, crafts, publications, recordings, and other approved items.
- **Food Vendors** – Both community groups and professional concessionaires sell traditional Florida foods. Vendors must comply with all state and local health regulations.
- **Environmental & Cultural Awareness Exhibitors** – Educational exhibits highlight environmental protection and cultural conservation.
- **Florida Fine Arts** – An area dedicated to painters, sculptors, and fine artists who depict Florida’s environment, history, culture, and the “spirit” of Floridians.

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### Participant Categories & Remuneration

All official participants receive complimentary entrance passes. Volunteers are covered by state liability protection and worker’s compensation per Chapter 110, Florida Statutes. Additional benefits such as honoraria, travel reimbursement, and reduced camping fees depend on festival budget, space limitations and regional pricing.

Participants are invited under six categories:

#### 1. Performing Artist/Interpreter

- Skilled artists or groups invited to perform without pay.
- Expected to present 2–3 stage performances, workshops, or narrative sessions.
- Preference given to those available all three days.
- **Honorarium:** Based on Honorarium Policy
- **Travel:** None

### Honorarium Policy for Performing Artists

- Benefits include:
  1. Up to 4 nights of camping for each group member plus a guest and dependent children.

2. A weekend festival pass for each group member plus a guest and dependent children.
3. Option to purchase additional campground access for guests.
- Additional honorarium eligibility:
  - Must perform at least 2 days.
  - Must live more than 50 miles from White Springs (calculated via Google Maps).
  - Mileage reimbursement at the current State of Florida rate (0.445/mile round trip).
  - Maximum distance: 1,104 miles (White Springs to Key West).
  - Honorarium vouchers emailed February 1, due back by March 1. Checks mailed after the festival.

## 2. **Special Guest Performing Artist/Interpreter**

- Recognized artists invited for key performances.
- **Honorarium:** Negotiated, based on budget
- **Travel:** None

## 3. **Consulting Specialist**

- Experts in folklife traditions, invited with pay for demonstrations (often all three days).
- **Honorarium:** Minimum \$100/day
- **Travel:** None

## 4. **Site Volunteer**

- Must work a minimum of 12 hours during the festival.
- Preference given to those available all three days and before/after the festival.
- Maximum of 150 volunteers selected (subject to change by coordinators).
- **Honorarium:** None
- **Travel:** None

## 5. **Vendors/Exhibitors**

- Includes craft vendors, food vendors, marketplace sellers, demonstrators, and exhibitors.
  - Expected to work all three days and pay applicable vendor fees.
  - **Honorarium:** None
  - **Travel:** None
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## Application & Acceptance

### Application Process

- Applications must be submitted **electronically** within the application period.
- Required support materials must be **mailed** to Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center.
- Applications outside of the window or incomplete (e.g., “information on file”) will not be reviewed.
- A new application is required each year.
- Participants may only be selected in **one category** per year.

### Acceptance Terms

- Invitations are issued by the Festival Coordinator.
- Due to limited space, not all applicants can be accepted.
- A waiting list is maintained for qualified applicants.
- Invitations may be withdrawn for:
  - Failure to follow guidelines or deadlines
  - Significant changes to application information
  - Availability issues
  - Excessive demands on festival staff

### Special Performer Notes

- Festival prefers direct correspondence with performers.
- Booking agent submissions must include an authorization letter.
- All applicants must submit a new recording of their current group configuration each year (USB video preferred).

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### Admission

- **Performers/Consultants:** 1 pass for self + 1 guest
- **Volunteers:** 1 pass for self + 1 guest (minimum 12 hours service)
- **Vendors/Exhibitors:** 1 pass for self + 1 assistant; nonprofits may request up to 6 passes
- **Food Vendors:** Up to 4 passes (commercial); up to 8 passes (nonprofit groups)
- **Dependent Children (0–17):** Free, but must be issued passes

All complimentary passes must list each recipient's **first and last name**.

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## Camping

- Camping is free for registered festival performers, volunteers, vendors, exhibitors, and their registered guests.
- All campers and registered guests must have a 3-day festival pass (complimentary or purchased).
- Camping registration is completed when participants return their acceptance acknowledgements.

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## Scheduling

- **Performers:**
  - Schedules distributed in February.
  - Conflicts must be reported by February 25.
  - Expected to perform once per day (plus optional jams/workshops).
  - Must be available all three days.
  - Festival staff reserves the right to change schedules.
  - Invitations may be withdrawn if performance scope changes significantly.
  - Failure to notify the festival by December 15 if unable to attend may affect future eligibility.
- **Volunteers:**
  - Schedules distributed by mid April.
  - Must complete at least 12 hours (hours cannot be shared).
  - Scheduling is determined by festival needs, not volunteer preference.
  - Failure to complete hours may affect future participation.

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## Timelines & Deadlines

- **August 15** – Application period opens for Performers, Food vendor, vendor, exhibitor, demonstrator, and Volunteers
- **October 15** – Performer application deadline
- **December 15** – Food vendor application deadline
- **January 30** – Vendor, exhibitor, demonstrator application deadline
- **February** – Performer schedules distributed

- **February 25** – Deadline for performers to report scheduling conflicts
- **March 15** – Volunteer application deadline
- **March 30** – Volunteers notified of status/schedules
- **April 15** – Deadline for advertising in program
- **May 1** – Deadline for volunteers to report scheduling conflicts
- **May 21** – Final festival schedule distributed; participant registration and campground open at 10 a.m.

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Additional information is available through the festival office at **(386) 397-7009**, Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–5 p.m.