

# Florida Folk Festival Vendor, Demonstrator & Exhibitor Guidelines and Application

## *The Best of Florida Music, Arts, and Culture*

---

### Application and Review

To participate as a **vendor, demonstrator, or exhibitor** at the Florida Folk Festival, please carefully review the following information before completing your application.

- **Application Deadline:** Applications must be submitted electronically by **11:59 p.m. on January 30, 2026**, or postmarked by **January 30, 2026** if mailed.
- **Assistance:** For help completing your application, call toll-free **1-877-635-3655**, Monday–Friday, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.
- **Submission:** Return all required information to:  
Florida Folk Festival  
Post Office Box G  
White Springs, FL 32096

**Important:** Participation in past festivals does **not** guarantee acceptance. Selection priority is given to applicants who submit a complete application.

---

### Application Requirements

- The application is a **Google Form**. You will need a Gmail account to apply.
    - A free Gmail account can be created at [Google.com](https://www.google.com).
    - Once you begin, you may update the pre-filled email to your preferred address.
  - You must allow your email address to be collected to receive a copy of your completed application.
  - **Electronic submission is preferred.** Applications sent by email attachment will not be accepted.
- 

### Mission and Purpose

- **Mission:** To provide a heritage-based celebration while conserving and interpreting Florida's diverse folk cultures and traditions.
- **Purpose:** To celebrate Florida's traditional songs, music, dance, stories, crafts, foodways, and folk expressions by presenting artists and knowledge-keepers to the public through performance, exhibition, and demonstration.

**Florida folklife** is defined in state law as the traditional expressive culture shared within familial, ethnic, occupational, religious, and regional groups. It includes custom, belief, technical skill, language, literature, art, architecture, music, play, dance, ritual, pageantry, and handicrafts, typically passed down orally, by imitation, or through performance.

---

## **Selection Criteria**

### **Craft, Luthier, Marketplace Vendors, and Fine Artists**

Invitations are based on:

- Ability to represent **regional, ethnic, or occupational folk traditions of Florida**.
- Quality and authenticity of craft items.
- Willingness to demonstrate tools, methods, and techniques during the Festival.
- Strong connection to Florida (e.g., residency).

#### **Guidelines:**

- Only **handmade items** are permitted. No mass-produced, resale, or commercial items.
- No items may be sold that could be perceived as weapons (e.g., spears, bows, arrows, knives, guns).
- Marketplace vendors may sell fine arts, crafts, publications, recordings, and other approved items.

**Luthiers:** Must demonstrate the ability to create high-quality, hand-crafted stringed instruments.

**Fine Artists:** Must depict Florida's environment, history, culture, or spirit in visual works.

---

### **Environmental Awareness & Cultural Heritage Exhibitors**

- Reserved for **nonprofit organizations** dedicated to environmental protection, cultural conservation, and awareness in line with the Festival mission.
  - Other groups (including political organizations) may provide exhibits but will be placed in designated areas and must pay standard Festival admission.
- 

### **Craft Square Demonstrators**

- Invitations are based on demonstrated ability to present traditional Florida folk crafts.
- Participants must have either:
  - Demonstrated in Craft Square at least 12 days in the past year, or
  - Received a Florida Folk Heritage Award.

- Priority is given to Florida residents who can demonstrate during all three Festival days.
  - Due to space limits, participation in Craft Square does not guarantee selection. Applicants will be ranked based on their involvement in ongoing programs at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park.
- 

## Application Materials

### Photographs

All applicants must submit:

- At least **5 labeled digital images** of booth setup and sample items.
  - Format: JPEG, submitted on CD or USB drive.
  - Materials will not be returned.
  - Photos may be used to promote Festival activities online.
- 

### Fees and Sales

- Vendors must pay **15% of gross sales** to the **Stephen Foster Citizens Support Organization (CSO)**.
    - Fees are collected after **6 p.m. on Sunday** (not before).
  - Vendors must also collect and remit **8% Florida sales tax**. Vendor information will be forwarded to the local tax office.
- 

### Vendor Agreement & Background Checks

- A **Short-Term Vendor Permit** is included with the application.
- Each vendor is required to perform a **sexual offender check** on employees, representatives, and volunteers prior to setup.
  - Records must be submitted to the Festival by **April 1, 2026**.
  - The Festival will verify background checks for the primary contact listed on the application.
- Vendors or representatives appearing in state or federal offender databases will not be permitted.

Required background check sites:

- [Florida Offender Search](#)
  - [National Sex Offender Registry](#)
-

## Placement & Logistics

- **Vendor placement** is determined by the Festival Coordinator and based on booth size, sales history, appearance, visitor flow, and event themes. Site locations may change each year.
  - **Craft Square demonstrator placement** is determined by the Festival Coordinator.
  - **Pets are not permitted.** Service animals are always welcome.
- 

## Notifications

Applicants will be notified of acceptance status by **February 25, 2026**.

---

## Contact & Mailing Information

### Florida Folk Festival

Post Office Box G

White Springs, FL 32096

Toll-Free: 1-877-635-3655 (Mon–Fri, 9 a.m.–4 p.m.)

### Apply Today!

[2026 Florida Folk Festival Vendor, Demonstrator, Exhibitor Application](#)