

# Florida Folk Festival Volunteer Application Information

The Florida Folk Festival depends on the dedication of volunteers to create a safe, welcoming, and successful event. Volunteers are individuals invited without pay to work in various festival areas such as stages, workshops, craft areas, folklife demonstrations, food service, campground, and more.

- **Minimum Hours:** Volunteers must work at least **12 hours** during the festival.
  - **Availability:** Preference is given to volunteers available **all three days** and to those with prior experience or special skills.
  - **Work Environment:** While some positions are indoors, most require working **outdoors in the heat** for 4-hour shifts.
  - **Capacity:** A maximum of **150 volunteers** will be selected. The number may be adjusted by coordinators depending on festival needs.
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## Terms of Acceptance

- Invitations are issued by the Festival Coordinator after a review process.
  - Being selected is considered an **honor and privilege**, as many more people apply than can be accepted.
  - Selection is based on the **needs of the festival**, not on personal preference.
  - A **waiting list** of qualified applicants is maintained to fill vacancies as needed.
  - Volunteers will be notified of their acceptance by **March 15, 2026**.
  - Invitations may be **withdrawn** if deadlines are missed, if availability changes, or if unreasonable demands are made on festival staff.
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## Volunteer Benefits

- **Passes:** Volunteers who complete at least 12 hours receive a complimentary festival entrance pass for themselves and **one adult guest**. Dependent children are admitted free.  
*Note: Guests may not bring additional guests.*
  - **Camping:** Volunteers working 12+ hours are eligible for **free primitive camping** in the festival campground (first-come, first-served).
  - **Pets:** Pets are not permitted in the park during the festival. **Service animals** are always welcome.
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## Scheduling

- Volunteer schedules will be shared around **April 15**.
- If you are unable to work your assigned shift, notify staff by **May 1**.
- **Important:** Volunteers who do not fulfill their assignments may lose eligibility for future festivals.

## **Please Remember:**

- Volunteers should be available for **one 4-hour shift each day** of the festival.
  - Placement is determined by festival needs; specific areas cannot be guaranteed.
  - The Festival Coordinator may adjust scheduling as necessary at any time.
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## **Applications**

- Applications are accepted **August 15 – March 1**.
  - **Each person must submit an individual application.**
  - Applications received after March 1 may not be reviewed.
  - Application link is provided following the position descriptions.
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## **Volunteer Position Descriptions**

### **Campground Aide**

Check in campers, verify campground passes, give instructions, sell ice, and monitor campground for safety. Assist with cleaning and restroom upkeep. *Supervised by the Campground Coordinator.*

### **Children's Area**

Assist children with crafts and activities, encourage participation in performances, and help area coordinators with workshops. Must be energetic, child-friendly, and able to work in the heat. *Supervised by the Children's Area Coordinator.*

### **Emcee**

Keep audiences informed and entertained while stages are prepared. Ensure performers are on time and ready. **Mandatory orientation** Friday, 8:00 a.m. at Nelly Bly's Kitchen. *Supervised by the Stage Coordinator.*

### **Folklife Area**

Assist demonstrators with set-up and break-down, provide relief during breaks, and monitor exhibits. *Supervised by the Folklife Area Coordinator.*

### **Hospitality Aide**

Assist with food service at Nelly Bly's Kitchen. Keep the area clean and stocked. Afternoon shifts handle cleanup and closing. *Supervised by the Hospitality Coordinator.*

### **Information**

Located on the Auditorium back porch. Provide information, assist volunteers, handle lost and found, coordinate wheelchair loans and interpreter requests, monitor communications, and fill in as needed. *Supervised by the Festival Office Manager.*

## Logging

Maintain accurate records of archival recordings. Must be computer literate, detail-oriented, and have neat handwriting. **Mandatory training** Friday, 8:00 a.m. at the Gamble Rogers Stage.

*Supervised by the Archival Recording Supervisor.*

## Merchandise Sales

Selling performer CDs, festival t-shirts, and other items at the merchandise tent.

*Supervised by the Merch Tent Coordinator.*

## Museum/Tower Aide

Assist docents, greet visitors, relieve staff for breaks, help with restrooms, monitor safety, and protect exhibits. *Supervised by the Museum Guide.*

## Recording

Operate digital recording equipment at performance stages. Recording experience required. **Mandatory training** Friday, 8:00 a.m. at Gamble Rogers Stage. *Supervised by the Archival Recording Supervisor.*

## Registration/Check-In

Distribute passes, T-shirts, and information to participants. Check in at the desk 10 minutes early for orientation and shift change. *Supervised by the Registrar.*

## Stage Aide

Assist stage managers/emcees with setup, seating, supplies, and maintaining a pleasant environment. May assist artists with equipment after notifying supervisors. **Mandatory orientation** Friday, 8:00 a.m. at Nelly Bly's Kitchen. *Supervised by the Stage Coordinator.*

## Stage Lighting/Safety

Assist with daily lighting setup and monitor safety. *Supervised by the Stage Lighting Manager.*

## Stage Manager

Assist sound crew with microphones, direct stage aides, ensure performers are ready, and coordinate with emcees. **Mandatory orientation** Friday, 8:00 a.m. at Nelly Bly's Kitchen. *Supervised by the Stage Coordinator.*

## Surveys

Conduct attendee surveys throughout the festival. Report to the Information area to receive materials and return completed surveys after your shift.

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## Thank You!

We appreciate your interest in volunteering for the **2026 Florida Folk Festival**. Your time and talents help preserve and share Florida's rich folk traditions.

[2026 Florida Folk Festival Volunteer Application](#)