

FLORIDA



FOLK FESTIVAL

The Best of Florida Music, Arts, Culture

## 2025 Florida Folk Festival Guidelines Vendors, Demonstrators and Exhibitors

**Application and Review.** To participate as a vendor, demonstrator or exhibitor at the 2025 Florida Folk Festival, please read the information below that will guide you in the completion of your application. **Complete the application by clicking on the link below.** There is no special software required to submit an application. If you need assistance call toll free 1-877-635-3655, Monday – Friday, 9am – 4pm. Return all required information to Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park at the address listed below. Applications must be postmarked by **January 1, 2025.**

### Applications

- **This application is a google form and you will need a gmail account to submit your application. Once you start the application process you can change the pre-populated email on the application to the one you would like to use. You can create a free Gmail account at Google.com.**
- **When submitting your application, you must allow your email address to be collected.**
- The preferred method for submission of applications is electronically. Applications submitted through the electronic process will be accepted until 11:59 p.m. on January 1, 2025.
- DO NOT Email attachments to the Florida Folk Festival. Our email system will not accept them.
- Participation in a prior Florida Folk Festival does not guarantee acceptance to the 2025 Festival.

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

**Purpose.** The Florida Folk Festival celebrates the folk songs, music, dance, stories, crafts, foodways and other forms of traditional expression that reflect the folklife of Florida. The festival's primary purpose is to present Florida folk artists and other keepers of Florida's traditional knowledge to the public. This is accomplished through performances and demonstrations by folk artists and other tradition bearers.

**Florida folklife** is defined in Florida law 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, which forms are generally learned orally, by imitation or in performance and are maintained or perpetuated without formal instruction or institutional direction."

**Florida Fine Arts** – In 2025 the Florida Folk Festival will provide an area for Florida's painters, sculptors and other fine artists to showcase and sell their works depicting Florida's environment, history, culture and the "spirit" of Floridians.

### **Selection of Craft, Luthier, Marketplace Vendors, Fine Artists and Traditional Arts**

**Demonstrators.** An invitation is based on the applicant's ability to present regional, ethnic or occupational folk traditions of Florida, and on the quality of the craft items to be sold or demonstrated. Priority is given to applicants who demonstrate the methods, tools and techniques of their craft or art while at the Festival. Applicants must be available to demonstrate their craft during all three days of the Festival and must demonstrate a significant relationship to Florida such as residency. Festival Marketplace vendors may sell popular fine arts and crafts, recordings, publications and other items deemed appropriate by festival coordinators.

Vendor, Exhibitor and Demonstrator selection is based on how well the craft, exhibit or demonstration represents traditional arts and culture in Florida, the appropriateness of the activity to the Festival, and the total variety of crafts to be included in the Festival. As it pertains to artists and retail sellers who present studio or fine crafts, selection priority is given to crafts made using natural materials such as clay, metal, wood, leather and fiber arts, and to those crafters whose work is inspired by cultural traditions or by the natural environment. Mass produced and commercial resale items are not permitted. **Only handmade items are permitted** in all craft areas. No exceptions are allowed, including items available for sale to children.

An invitation to participate as a Luthier Exhibitor is based on the applicant's ability to construct high-quality, hand-made stringed musical instruments.

An invitation to participate as a Fine Artist is based on the applicant's ability to depict Florida's environment, history, culture and the "spirit" of Floridians in visual works.

**Selection of Environmental Awareness & Cultural Heritage Exhibitors** An invitation as an Environmental Awareness or Cultural Heritage Exhibitor is based on the applicant's ability to present educational exhibits as a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting environmental protection and cultural conservation and awareness, particularly as it applies to the Festival Mission Statement, which is: "to provide a heritage-based celebration while conserving and interpreting Florida's diverse folk cultures and traditions."

Other organizations outside of this scope, including political action groups, are allowed to provide information and exhibits for Festival visitors. Those exhibits and information booths will be located in an area designated by the Park Manager. Members of other organizations and political action groups who are working on behalf of their organization or group at the Festival are required to pay regular Festival admission fees.

### **Selection of Craft Square Demonstrators**

An invitation is based on the applicant's ability to present regional, ethnic or occupational folk traditions of Florida and/or the quality of the craft items to be sold or demonstrated. Participants must have demonstrated in the Craft Square program at least 12 days during the previous 12 months or must be a recipient of the Florida Folk Heritage Award. Priority is given to applicants from Florida who are available to demonstrate their craft during all three days of the Festival, and who demonstrate the methods, tools and techniques of their craft while at the Festival.

**Note:** Due to limitations in space, participation in the Craft Square demonstration program does not guarantee invitation to the 2025 Festival. Demonstrators expressing their desire to participate in the program through the application process will be ranked according to their level of participation in the ongoing craft demonstration program at Stephen Foster Folk Culture Center State Park.

**Selling spears, bows and arrows, knives, guns and other items that may appear dangerous are not allowed by any vendor at the festival.**

### **Application and Review.**

Please complete the accompanying application and Release/Assurance form. Assistance completing your application may be obtained by calling toll free 1-877-635-3655, 9am – 4pm, Monday through Friday. Return all required information to Stephen Foster FolkCulture Center State Park. Applications must be postmarked by **January 1, 2025**.

**Note:** Participation in prior Florida Folk Festivals does not guarantee an invitation to the 2025 Festival. **Priority in selection will be given to those vendors who complete the application in its entirety.**

### **Photographs**

All applicants are **required** to submit photographs for review. At least 5 photographs of your booth and examples of items you have available to sell must be submitted as digital images on a CD or USB drive in a JPEG Format. Please be sure to label your submission with applicant's name. All materials submitted will be kept on file and will not be returned to you. These photos may be used on our website to promote festival activities.

### **Vendor Fees**

Vendors are required to pay 15% of their gross sales to the Stephen Foster Citizens Support Organization. Fees are due after the close of business for vending areas on Sunday evening of the Festival. You are expected to stay open until 6 p.m. and fees **will not** be collected prior to 6 p.m. All vendors are responsible for paying 7% state sales tax. Your vendor information will be forwarded to the local tax revenue office following the Festival.

### **Vendor and Demonstration Agreement**

A Short-Term Vendor Permit is included as part of your application. Please read the agreement carefully. **Pay special attention to the requirement that each vendor must complete a sexual offender check on its employees, representatives and volunteers prior to being allowed to set up at the Festival. Records of these checks must be provided to the Florida Folk Festival by March 1, 2025 and must be maintained by each vendor.** Please also note that the Festival has the responsibility of making these checks for the contact person listed on each application. The festival cannot accept any vendors that appear in these databases, nor are any vendors allowed to have any employees, volunteers or representatives that appear in these databases. We have provided links below to the two sites applicants are **required** to check to comply with permit requirements.

<http://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/homepage.do>

<http://www.nsopw.gov>

### **Vendor Locations:**

Vendor site locations are determined by the event coordinator. The location and placement of each vendor is determined by many factors, including the size of the vending area, sells performance from previous years, overall theme and the appearance of your vending area. We do not guarantee the same site location or venue area each year. Vendors are located to best accommodate all vendors and to meet visitor needs and trends.

The location and placement of each Craft Square Demonstrator is determined by the Craft Square Manager. Demonstrators are located in order to best accommodate each demonstrator and to meet

visitor needs and trends.

**Pets:**

Pets are not permitted at the Florida Folk Festival. Service animals are always welcome.

Applicants will be notified of their status by January 15, 2025.

**Mailing Address:**

Florida Folk Festival  
Post Office Drawer G  
White Springs, Florida 32096

[Vendor, Demonstrator, Exhibitor Information and Application - Apply Today!](#)