



79th National Folk Festival Fact Sheet

Basic Information:

- ✓ FREE to the public
- ✓ Dates: September 6, 7 and 8, 2019
- ✓ Location: Salisbury, Maryland, National Folk Festival Host City for 2018, 2019 and 2020
- ✓ Festival Hours:
 - Friday – 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
 - Saturday – 12:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
 - Sunday – 12:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
- ✓ Festival site: Downtown Salisbury, Maryland
- ✓ An estimated 120,000 people are expected to attend in this second year of the National in Salisbury, Maryland.
- ✓ The 79th National Folk Festival has more than 800 volunteers
- ✓ Satellite parking is available at the Wicomico Youth & Civic Center. Shuttle buses from the Civic Center to the festival site start at 5 p.m. on Friday and at 11 a.m. on Saturday and Sunday. They will run until 11:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and until 7:30 p.m. on Sunday.
- ✓ All direct route fares on Shore Transit buses serving Wicomico, Worcester, and Somerset counties will be free of charge to all riders during the festival weekend.
- ✓ For more information visit www.nationalfolkfestival.com

What to Expect:

- ✓ Wide range of music, dance, talk/demonstration workshops, ethnic and regional food, storytelling, and craft exhibits and demonstrations presented by the nation's finest traditional artists.
- ✓ The folk and traditional arts—including music, dance, crafts, and oral expression—are rooted in and reflective of the cultural life of a community and are shaped by values and standards of excellence passed on through time in families, ethnic or tribal communities, and occupational groups.

- ✓ Performances at National Folk Festivals include blues, bluegrass, rockabilly, gospel, Cajun, klezmer, cowboy, Native American, mariachi, rhythm and blues, beatbox, breakdance, jazz, zydeco, old-time, western swing, reggae, polka, honky-tonk, Middle Eastern, Caribbean, Celtic, East Asian, Appalachian, Latino, Eastern European, West African, and more.
- ✓ Seven stages of continuous performances, including a dance pavilion and a family stage
- ✓ More than 35 performing artists/groups
- ✓ Over 350 artists—musicians, dancers, craftspeople, storytellers, and other keepers of tradition
- ✓ The festival kicks off at Community Stage on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m.
- ✓ 26 food vendors featuring traditional, ethnic, regional and “festival foods” will be found throughout the festival site in five food courts (see site map).
- ✓ The Maryland Traditions Folklife Area features a performance stage, a narrative stage, and a traditional crafts demonstration area.
 - At the 79th National Folk Festival, Maryland folklife is celebrated with *Maryland Masters*. This special program showcases current and past recipients of **Maryland State Arts Council’s Folklife Apprenticeship Award**, which supports master/apprentice teams that are carrying forward the state’s living cultural traditions to future generations.
- ✓ The juried Festival Marketplace features for sale a variety of hand-crafted creations by Maryland and Delmarva’s finest artists and craftspeople.
- ✓ Wide appeal to children of all ages, including fun and educational performances, games, and hands-on crafts activities in the festival’s Family Area.

Background and organizational information:

- ✓ First presented in St. Louis in 1934, the National Folk Festival is the oldest and longest-running multicultural traditional arts event in the nation. It celebrates the richness and variety of American culture through music, dance and crafts, storytelling and other traditional arts.
- ✓ The National Folk Festival is a program of the non-profit National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA), the same organization that created the festival in 1934. Based in Silver Spring, Maryland, the NCTA is dedicated to the presentation and documentation of folk and traditional arts in the U.S. It has 86 years of experience in producing successful events and festivals within diverse communities across the nation.
- ✓ 2018-2020 marks the first time the National Folk Festival host city has been in the NCTA’s home state of Maryland.
- ✓ The National Folk Festival is a large-scale, three-day outdoor event presented **free** to the public. It is a traveling event that has been presented in 29 cities across the country.

- ✓ This the second year of Salisbury, Maryland’s three-year tenure—2018, 2019 and 2020, with the final year in Salisbury marking the event’s 80th anniversary. Salisbury won the honor of hosting the National in a competitive process involving 34 cities across the nation.
- ✓ The National Folk Festival’s stay in a community is intended to lay the groundwork for the creation of a new, locally-produced festival that continues after the National moves on to a new location. It has seeded successful festivals in communities across the country.
 - Lowell, Massachusetts first hosted the National in 1987. Since then, it has continued to host its own event, the Lowell Folk Festival, which has grown to one of the largest and most successful festivals in New England.
 - Richmond, Virginia first hosted the National in 2005. It has become one of Virginia’s largest and most-loved events of the year and has been voted as the best musical festival in Richmond several years running.
 - Other past National Folk Festival host cities have continued to present their own events of similar size and focus, including the highly successful American Folk Festival in Bangor, Maine; the Montana Folk Festival in Butte, Montana; and the North Carolina Folk Festival in Greensboro, North Carolina.
- ✓ The National Folk Festival in Salisbury, Maryland, is produced by the National Council for the Traditional Arts and the City of Salisbury, in partnership with Salisbury Arts & Entertainment District; the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art, Salisbury University; Maryland Traditions; Maryland State Arts Council; Wicomico County Tourism; Ocean City Tourism; Worcester County Tourism; Maryland Tourism; Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development; Maryland Heritage Areas Authority; United Way of the Lower Eastern Shore; GetConnected Volunteer Center; T.E.A.M. Productions; National Endowment for the Arts; and the National Park Service.

Festival funding:

- ✓ The festival is supported by a combination of public and private funds from a variety of sources that include local, state, and federal government, foundations, corporations, organizations and individuals. The festival costs approximately \$1.3 million per year to produce.

For More Information:

- ✓ For more information about the National Folk Festival, call (347) 678-3525 or visit www.nationalfolkfestival.com for artist bios, sound clips, and updated information about the 79th National Folk Festival.