



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **Family Area Activities & Street Performers return to the 81st National Folk Festival**

SALISBURY, MD (June 28, 2022) – Organizers are excited to announce that family fun returns this year to the 81st National Folk Festival, August 26-28, 2022, in Downtown Salisbury, MD. This special interactive area features hands-on crafts, quiet games and active games, and other creative learning activities for young audiences and their families. The Family Area will also feature a variety of street performances sure to delight festivalgoers of all ages. This year's National Folk Festival will mark the final year of the event's residency. In 2023, the festival will transition to the Maryland Folk Festival in Salisbury.

The Family Area will be open on Saturday, August 27 and Sunday, August 28 between noon and 5:00pm. The National Folk Festival, including all Family Area activities, is free to the public.

#### **FAMILY AREA ACTIVITIES:**

**Meet the animal ambassadors** from the Salisbury Zoo. Staff from the Salisbury Zoo will be roving through the crowds with ambassador animals and educating festival guests about various animals' characteristics, where they can be found in nature, and cool facts on zoo ambassadors and their counterparts in the wild.

Festivalgoers will get the chance to **create their own paper plate tambourine** with the University of Maryland (UMD) Extension. Once it is done, they will have their own musical instrument to play while enjoying the festival.

Also from the UMD Extension, join the Lower Shore Master Gardeners to **learn all about bees and other pollinators**. See the bees in action in a self-contained hive. Make butterflies with colorful wings out of coffee filters. Explore the pollinator garden with flowers for all the pollinators, plus the plants caterpillars eat.

With the fall migration about to start, **decorate an eco-friendly bird feeder** with the Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art at Salisbury University. Help birds on their way south by supplying food for their trip.

Step inside the Wicomico County Libraries' new Mobile Learning Lab for some **kid-friendly karaoke and to learn about the libraries' partnerships and outreach programs!** Plus, the Paul S. Sarbanes Branch, located downtown, will be holding their annual book sale right around the corner.

#### **FAMILY AREA STREET PERFORMERS:**

**Lurking Class Skate Shop** (Salisbury, Maryland) – skateboarding

A diverse crew of skaters from Salisbury's downtown skate shop will demonstrate skateboarding's improvisational ethos as well as classic tricks on a pop-up obstacle course.

**Robert Clarke** (Boston, Massachusetts) – juggling and magic

Specializing in juggling and magic, this well-traveled street performer has the uncanny ability to captivate both young and old with his fun-filled, laugh-out-loud interactive family show.

In addition, other street performances will feature several previously announced artists. Schedule details and street performance times will be announced later this summer.

Special thanks to our Family Area partners: Salisbury Zoo, Ward Museum of Wildfowl Art at Salisbury University, University of Maryland Extension, UMD Extension – Lower Shore Master Gardeners, and Wicomico Public Libraries.

For more information about the Family Area visit:

<https://nationalfolkfestival.com/family-area/>.

The National Folk Festival will feature individual artists on Facebook ([facebook.com/NFFMaryland](https://www.facebook.com/NFFMaryland)), Twitter ([twitter.com/NFFMaryland](https://twitter.com/NFFMaryland)), and Instagram ([Instagram.com/nffmaryland](https://www.instagram.com/nffmaryland)) throughout the next month.

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### **About the National Folk Festival**

Since it was first presented in St. Louis in 1934, the National Folk Festival, the NCTA's flagship event, has celebrated the roots, richness, and variety of American culture. Championed in its early years by Eleanor Roosevelt, it was the first event of national stature to present the arts of many nations, races, and languages on equal footing. It was also the first to present to the public musical forms such as the blues, Cajun music, polka, Tex-Mex conjunto, Peking Opera, and many others. Today, the National is an exuberant traveling festival, produced by the NCTA in partnership with communities around the country, that embraces the diverse cultural expressions that define us as a people in the 21st century. <http://www.nationalfolkfestival.com/>

### **About the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA)**

A leading non-profit in the field, the National Council for the Traditional Arts (NCTA) is dedicated to the presentation and documentation of folk and traditional arts in the U.S. Stressing excellence and authenticity, the NCTA presents the nation's finest traditional artists in major festivals, tours, concerts, workshops, demonstrations, exhibitions, media productions, school programs, cross-cultural exchanges, and other activities. It works in partnership with American communities to establish new, sustainable traditional arts events that deliver lasting social, cultural, and economic benefits. Over 7,000 hours of the NCTA's archival audio recordings dating from the 1930s are permanently housed at the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The NCTA champions the interests of folk and traditional artists and organizations in the arena of public policy. <http://ncta-usa.org/>

### **About the City of Salisbury, Maryland**

Founded in 1732, Salisbury is the county seat of Wicomico County, a place where John Smith touched land in 1608 during his exploration of the Chesapeake Bay bringing him in contact with the Wighcocomoco or Wicomico, the Nause, the Kusk'arawack, and the Nantaquack or Nanticoke tribes who had lived in the region for several millennia. Situated on Maryland's historic Eastern Shore at the crossroads of the Delmarva Peninsula, Salisbury is now one of the region's largest cities, and serves as the capital of the Eastern Shore, a rural area defined by its agricultural and maritime traditions, landscapes, and industries. The Chesapeake Bay is central to this distinctive identity. Though a relatively small city, Salisbury is the geographic and economic hub of one of the nation's fastest-growing Metropolitan Statistical Areas. Led by a dynamic mayor, the City of Salisbury is working to build its reputation as an arts and culture destination and is aligning its downtown development and revitalization efforts with the arts. Salisbury believes hosting the National Folk Festival is the perfect catalyst to further a cultural renaissance and urban renewal. <https://salisbury.md/>