

First State Heritage Park

Colonial Market Fair

www.destateparks.com/MarketFair

Compliance Standards



WHAT IS FIRST STATE HERITAGE PARK:

First State Heritage Park (FSHP) is a partnership of federal, state and city agencies under the leadership of Delaware State Parks and working in conjunction with the National Park Service. It is Delaware's first urban "park without boundaries," linking historic and cultural sites in the capital city of the "First State."

PURPOSE OF OUR MARKET FAIR

Once annually, FSHP invites programming partners to join us on the historic Dover Green – an 18th century square – to recreate the sights, sounds, and bustle of the late 18th century town. Taking inspiration from the weekly markets that were held there on Wednesdays and Saturdays, makers, vendors, demonstrators, and performers specializing in an array of late colonial skills gather to share their talents with the visiting public. Visitation has often reached into the thousands, the event having become a regional institution over more than a decade of existence.

First State Heritage Park considers the authentic recreation of this historical atmosphere as a part of its educational mission. This means that **historical authenticity, uniqueness of presentation, and quality of engagement with guests** are all taken into consideration when evaluating the application of participants. We consider ourselves fortunate to be able to present a program like this on such storied grounds and, with space limited to The Green's half-acre, ours is among the most carefully curated Market Fairs in the circuit.

THE JURY PROCESS

Every participant – be they artisan, entertainer, military group, or vendor – that would like to participate in FSHP's 18th Century Market Fair must submit an application and supporting photographs to the Market Fair Committee by the deadlines stipulated on the application.

The Market Fair Committee is a select group of staff, historians, past participants, and artisans who share a commitment towards keeping our Market Fair as authentic and enriching for our guests as possible. Each application is reviewed by this group and returns one of three responses: accept, decline, or accept with modification or conditions. All participants who submit an application will be contacted by the site's Interpretive Programs Manager with the committee's results and they will be the applicant's primary contact during the process of event coordination.

Especially for new applicants, the inclusion of photographs of your impression (i.e. the clothing and personal material culture you utilize in your portrayal), physical set-up, wares, presentations, etc. are critical: these visual representations help us to determine the value your attendance brings to our greater program, as each acceptance equates to an allocation of our limited space. Accepted parties will receive further information regarding event logistics. Please note that not every participant is invited to return each year! This is not a reflection of their quality, but simply the result of a rotation which allows new talent to shine and keeps our guest experience fresh.

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If you are accepted with modifications/conditions, you will need to show proof of the modifications before the Committee will allow you to participate in this Market Fair.

If your application is declined, you are welcome to re-submit a new application with modifications if you choose to do so.

As space is at a premium for our Market Fair, the Committee generally seeks to avoid overlap with any pre-existing product, persona or portrayal already in place at the Market Fair. All decisions of the Market Fair Committee on this point are final.

The process can take anywhere from two weeks to a month to complete after the last submission is received, so we thank you for your patience in advance. If you have any questions, please email FSHPMarketFair@delaware.gov.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Because it is taking place in a City of Dover Park, participants may bring their pets on a 6 ft. leash to the Market Fair.
- Children under the age of 12 are the sole responsibility of their parents or guardians and must be supervised at all times.
- Market Fair opens to the public at 3 p.m. and runs until 8 p.m. on Friday for a Tavern Night theme, and from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. on Saturday. All modern intrusions, including vehicles, must remain out of public view from 9:00 a.m. until the event ends. This is non-negotiable.
- Non-compliance with event guidelines and event staff may result in your being asked to depart and may impact any subsequent applications to attend.
- A first aid kit is located at the John Bell House Interpretive Center (43 The Green). If a guest, participant, or volunteer is seriously injured or ill, please contact the Superintendent, Interpretive Program Manager, or Volunteer Coordinator immediately and call 911.

RAIN & SEVERE WEATHER

The Market Fair is held except in cases of extreme weather. There is no “rain date” for our Market Fair. In case of severe weather, please visit our website at www.destateparks.com/marketfair or call 302-739-9194 to check for cancellations.



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SET-UP & LOGISTICS

- FSHP Staff will assign each vendor a space within which to set up in advance. Said spaces will be marked on a map and with a sign upon your arrival. Participants may not relocate tents or other physical set-up without approval from the FSHP Superintendent.
- Sharing your space with a vendor that has not passed the jurying process is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Offenders of this injunction may forfeit their ability to come to future Market Fairs if they are found in violation of this rule.
- Participants are expected to carry out their own physical set-up on arrival. If you anticipate requiring assistance due to extenuating circumstance, you must inform the Committee as soon as possible so they can determine what aid can be rendered.
- Parking spaces will be designated for all participants by event staff based on the description of your vehicular transport and mobility needs included in your application. Any changes must be communicated promptly to event coordination.
- Acceptable shelters include simple lean-tos, brush huts, wedge tents, and marquees. Other forms of shelters will be considered on a case-by-case basis from submitted photos.
- Matching signage for each participant will be provided by FSHP for guest wayfinding and to aid you in locating your set-up space. Additional signage provided by the vendor is welcomed, but should not exceed 24” x 24” in size, made of wood or canvas and painted in appropriate period fashion.
- Participants are welcomed to arrive on site on the Friday of Market Fair between the hours of 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. for set-up. All others not involved in the Friday evening event are welcomed to arrive and set-up on Saturday morning beginning at 7 a.m. Set-up must be completed and vehicles removed to their designated parking locations no later than 2:00 p.m. on Friday, and 9:00 a.m on Saturday.
- Overnight security patrolling is provided by a contracted company employed by First State Heritage Park on Friday night. The Dover Police Department also steps up its monitoring of The Green neighborhood at our request. It is recommended that participants also take steps to secure their equipment and wares overnight as an additional precaution. Ours is a safe event, but we urge participants to be aware of the aforesaid and to understand that FSHP – while taking every precaution on your behalf – cannot be held liable in the unlikely event of an incident.
- Participants are encouraged to avail themselves of the greater Dover area’s many hotels and bed & breakfasts. Recommendations are available through our partners at Kent County Tourism and discount room blocks may be available on inquiry. Participants wishing to do so may also camp overnight on The Green if they so desire but **MUST** notify Event Staff in advance of this preference.

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- Public Hours for the Market Fair are Friday from 3 p.m. until 8 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. Participants must be prepared to engage with the public and vendors open for business during all public hours.
- Fires and open flame are permitted on The Green but those intending to utilize them must report their intent to Event Staff with their application. Water buckets must be kept immediately adjacent to the designated fire locations at all times and a fire extinguisher be concealed nearby. Fires should never be left unattended.

DISPLAY AND PACKAGING OF WARES

- Modern packaging or other elements should be limited on your display.
- Signs, display shelving, racks, tables, etc. must be of period materials or concealed.
- Event Staff reserve the right to inspect the appearance of your assigned space for authenticity compliance, including (but not limited to) accoutrements, wares, etc.
- Credit card processing for those selling their wares is encouraged but should be handled as discreetly as possible (i.e. devices should be concealed until moment of usage); signs used to convey acceptance of credit card payment are encouraged to maintain period nomenclature (ex: "Letters of Credit Accepted").

FIREARMS & EDGED WEAPONS

- Only historic firearms appropriate to the period of 1750-1790 are permitted at this event, and only so far as to be used for relevant educational purposes. **No black powder or other live ammunition is permitted under any circumstance. It follows that the discharge of any weapon is expressly forbidden and will result in the offending participant being asked to leave the event with immediate effect. Such will not be invited to return.**
- Edged weapons are permitted at the event under the same terms indicated above. They must be transported and stored in a durable scabbard.
- No firearm or edged weapon may be carried by any individual under the age of 16.
- Intent to bring a weapon to the site must be declared in a participant's application. All participants who proceed to do so must agree to yield up their weapon for safety inspection by Park staff (Superintendent, Interpretive Programs Manager, or their designated proxy) before the commencement of public hours.
- During public programming, all weapons must remain in the control of their handler.

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MERCHANTS & VENDORS

- FSHP takes great pride in keeping its Colonial Market Fair event free to the public, ensuring that it remains accessible to our community. One of the many ways we are able to defray the considerable expense of running this event is by assessing a modest \$75 fee to all participants who intend to sell their wares. This fee may be waived for first-time attendees, allowing them to explore the event's potential at minimum expense.
- Goods sold at the FSHP Market Fair must be authentic or otherwise documentable to the period of 1750-1790. Directly related items (books, toys, patterns, period music CDs, etc.) and other items crafted using historical techniques may also be permitted.
- Individuals interested in selling their own goods of modern make or otherwise unsuited to the period 1750-1790 may be directed to the Biggs Museum of American Art, who simultaneously hold their *Delaware By Hand Fall Fair* on adjacent grounds.
- Select items are prohibited for sale in the Market Fair area, including (but not limited to): black powder/live ammunition, non-period jewelry, items of obviously modern construction (including synthetic parts and inaccurate hardware), percussion weapons, medieval articles, items utilizing illegal animal parts/products, modern musical instruments, etc.
- Those wishing to sell food or drink must so inform the Market Fair Committee by way of their application and will subsequently be required to submit their Certificate of Insurance and Food Service Permit as issued by their state of origin. These are subject to review by the City of Dover and State of Delaware, who must approve them before any food or drink may be dispensed to the public.

ARTISANS & DEMONSTRATORS

- As FSHP's 18th Century Market Fair is an educational event, special consideration is given to those applicants who are capable of demonstrating a trade or skill documentable to the 1750-1790 period to the public.
- Artisans and historic trade demonstrators should be able to ply their craft in an outdoor setting and are expected to do so by hand or with the aid of simple machines available in the aforesaid time period only.
- Tools and other equipment should be of period construction.
- Artisans and trade demonstrators are expected to establish appropriate safety distances where applicable between themselves and the public to ensure the safety of all involved. Please contact the Market Fair Committee should you have any questions regarding this advisement.

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- Those wishing to sell their wares to the public in addition to their demonstrations should clearly indicate such on their applications. They may be eligible for a discounted vendor fee or other consideration, though this is not guaranteed and determination of such is solely the province of the Market Fair Committee.

ENTERTAINERS

- Entertainment is a critical component of the FSHP Market Fair experience and one that our guests eagerly anticipate each year. Taken altogether, they not only enliven the guest experience but serve also to immerse them in the time period.
- Such entertainments considered highly desirable include (but are not limited to): music, theater, sketching or painting, puppet shows, slack rope and acrobatics, silhouette or shadow artistry, dancing, swordsmanship.
- All costuming, props, and scripts must be appropriate to the period of 1750-1790.
- All entertainers will be pre-scheduled in 20-30 minute slots by the Market Fair Committee and are expected to perform in a timely manner according to that schedule. This is considered a key component of understanding between performer and the Committee.
- Entertainers are advised to be aware of their surroundings and the schedule of performances to avoid interference with their fellow performers. They are also asked to help promote their following fellow performers at the end of their performances.
- Entertainers are permitted to solicit money during the course of their act by way of cap, cup, or other such device.

MILITARY INTERPRETERS

- The armed forces, whether Crown soldiers, provincial militia, or later Continental troops – as well as their civilian followers – played a critical role in the America of the late 18th century. Authentically-attired and equipped groups of individuals portraying any of these forces are eligible for consideration as participants in FSHP's Colonial Market Fair.
- Military camps will be provided a designated space by Event Staff.
- Attending Military Interpreters are strongly encouraged to develop and share with Event Staff activities which engage the public in various facets of 18th century military life.
- Where possible, marches, drill demonstrations, and other interaction opportunities will be scheduled by the Market Fair Committee to encourage public attendance.
- Please note the Firearms & Edged Weapons compliance standards outlined above.

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CLOTHING STANDARDS & PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

- With one of FSHP's Colonial Market Fair's main goals being recreating the appearance and feel of the Dover Green's historic space in the age of Revolution, the commitment of participants to properly wear historically-accurate reproduction garb is a requirement of all participants. Participants are encouraged to include images of themselves in the historic clothing they intend to wear with their application, if available.
- Participants must remain in properly attired in period clothing for the entire duration of the event, beginning at 9:30 a.m. each day and concluding only after public hours.
- FSHP values authenticity. In general, clothing worn by participants should:
 - Be well-fitted to the individual and be appropriate to their portrayal
 - Be well-constructed of period-appropriate materials
- To the best of their ability, participants are asked to make efforts to conceal present-day things that would not be found in the period, such as dyed hair, non-period makeup, nail polish, non-documentable piercings, and modern tattoos. Refraining from wearing modern jewelry (with the exception of wedding bands) is encouraged, but not required. We ask that all jewelry be modest or small if it must be worn.
- A limited amount of historic clothing is available for loan from FSHP's stocks. Such requests **MUST** be included in a participants' application and they must be responsive to staff's efforts to arrange accurate sizing. Borrowed clothing can be picked up on Saturday morning or, by prior arrangement, in the week leading up to the event. Clothing must be picked up as soon as you arrive to the event, and they must be returned after the event concludes before participant departure.
- By applying to attend, participants agree to provide additional documentation and engage in additional dialogue with members of the Market Fair Committee regarding their impressions in advance of the event to further establish historical authenticity.

DESCRIPTIONS OF HISTORIC CLOTHING

Clothing production was the most common trade in 1700's. There were few, if any, stores to buy premade clothing (besides accessories like hats, shoes, or handkerchiefs), so most clothing was bespoke (fitted to you). As each piece of clothing was custom made for you, it was the quality and type of the fabric that represented the real expense, and thus your status. This meant that even the poorest farmer could oftentimes dress in fashionably cut clothes, and only be distinguished by their inferior fabric quality. This means you've got quite a few options when it comes to what to wear to FSHP's Colonial Market Fair!

While all sorts of people could be found at Dover's market fairs in the past, from the poorest to the wealthiest, generally, people choose to portray the 'middling sort' or middle class at our

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modern-day Market Fair. You're more than welcome to pick a fancier look if you so choose though! However, as the majority of participants choose a middling or working-class outfit, these classes will be the most common represented below. Below is a list of items that would make up both feminine and masculine outfits appropriate for the late 18th century working-middling class person, as well as what types of fabric would commonly be chosen for each piece.

Feminine Dress

Bedgowns – most common for working (lower)-middling (middle) class. Comfortable, the colonial equivalent of sweatpants. A looser fitting garment that closes at the front like a robe and ends at mid-thigh. Most often worn when doing any sort of physical labor. Bedgowns could come in a wide variety of colors, including pinks, greens, yellows, and blues. Pinned closed by straight pins. **Made of linen, wool, or printed cotton.**

Short Gowns – common for working-middling class. The fitted version of the bedgown. Often favored by younger women, as it was a more fashionable choice than the bedgown. These also came in a wide range of colors. Pinned closed by straight pins. **Made often of linen, printed cotton, or sometimes silk.**

Long Gowns/English Gown – common to all classes. Fitted bodice, tight sleeves, and an open front to show off your petticoats. Pinned closed by straight pins. **Made often of linen or printed cotton.**

Mopcap – common to all classes. These are the little white caps worn by colonial women. Worn as a fashion statement and as a hair protectant. Often trimmed with colored ribbon. Can be pinned with straight pins. **Made of white linen.**

Bergère/Flat Brimmed Straw Hat – common to all classes. These are the flat straw hats often seen on colonial women. Usually trimmed with colored ribbon, these hats were used by women as fashion accessories and to shield their eyes and faces from the sun. **Made often of straw and sometimes covered in silk.**

Headscarf – common to working - middling classes. Most commonly worn by both enslaved and free Black women as a hair protectant. Coming in a wide range of colors and patterns, for enslaved women in particular, it was often the most colorful part of an outfit. Can be as simple as a square of fabric tied on like a handkerchief, or as complicated as a multi-yard hair wrap. **Made often of linen, printed cotton, or silk.**

Neckerchief/Fischu – common to all classes. A square piece of fabric folded into a triangle and wrapped around your shoulders and neck to protect from sunburn or cold. Pulls double duty as a fashion statement. Working classes often chose more vibrant fabrics with bright patterns and colors, while middling and upper classes often chose a white fabric. Can be tucked under your outer garment (gown/bedgown) or stay pinned to the outside of your outer garment. **Made often of silk or linen.**

Petticoat- common to all classes. These are your skirts. Secured at the waist by two sets of ties which make them very adjustable, these skirts typically end at your ankles or a little above.

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Usually layered, with three or four being common, for a fashionable look as well as for warmth. **Made often of linen for everyday work, sometimes wool or quilted for cool weather.**

Pockets – common to all classes. All women wore large, removable pockets that tied around your waist. Could be worn either inside your petticoats or outside. **Made often of linen.**

Apron – common to all classes. Worn most often by women to help protect their clothing, though also pulled double duty as a fashion statement. Working class women often chose checked or otherwise patterned fabric as it was favored for work aprons since it showed fewer stains. Middling class or above would more often wear crisp white aprons while not working, as this demonstrated that they could afford to have an apron that stayed clean and was not dirtied with physical labor. **Made often of linen.**

Stockings – common to all classes. Usually white or gray in color but can be found in a wide range of colors used during the 18th century. Stockings are long, extending up past the knee. The thickness of the stocking depended on the temperature outside, with thinner stockings preferred in summer and thicker stockings in winter. The stocking should always be close fitting. **Made of wool.**

Buckle Shoes – common to all classes. Common to both masculine and feminine dress as well. While often seen with a flat heel, for women the buckle shoe could also have a mid-height heel and be tied closed with ribbon. Though often black with silver or brass buckles, women's heeled shoes could also come in different colors as well! **Made often of tanned leather.**

Masculine

Cocked or Round Hat – common to all classes. The cocked hat is what is usually called a Tricorn, though it was not referred to as that in the 18th century. The cocked hat is the most common hat worn by men in the colonial era. The round hat is an older style, yet was also popular in the colonies. **Made often of stiffened wool or (in the case of the round hat) beaver felt.**

Neckcloth – common to all classes. The precursor to a necktie, the neckcloth was a large square of fabric wrapped several times around the neck, usually over the shirt collar, and then tied with a square knot. Often, especially in the middling class, made of a white fabric. Working classes often chose a brightly printed or patterned handkerchief as their neckcloth. **Made often of linen or silk.**

Square Cut Shirt – common to all classes. Usually made of white linen for middling and upper classes, working class men often chose a checked linen for their everyday shirt, which better hid stains and wear. Unlike most masculine clothing in the colonial era, men's shirts were not fitted but were loose and served not just as a shirt but were tucked between the legs to serve as undergarments. Of course, you're not expected to use them this way at Market Fair! **Made often of linen.**

Waistcoat/Vest – most common to middling-upper classes. While a waistcoat would be worn by all classes, it was most commonly seen on middling-upper classes simply as it could be forgone

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while doing manual labor. Usually paired with a Frock coat. The type of fabric used reflected the temperature, with heavier wool being favored in winter and a lighter linen seen in warmer temperatures. **Made often of wool broadcloth or linen.**

Frock Coat – common to all classes. A thick outer garment fastened with buttons, or sometimes hooks, at the chest, and then sweeping back into a tail that ended at the back of your knee or mid-thigh. The frock coat was a key piece of outerwear for all classes, though it was not considered a garment appropriate for manual labor. Men’s clothing was generally much more form fitting than women’s in the 18th century, and the fashionably tight cut of the frock coat would have inhibited the larger movements needed more physical labor. **Made often of linen or wool broadcloth.**

Short Jacket – common to working class. Often favored by laborers and other working-class men in the latter half of the 18th century, the short jacket was preferred to the frock coat for several reasons. Mainly, it saved on expensive material, and was usually less form fitting than the frock coat, making it less restrictive for manual labor. Often worn unbuttoned and without a waistcoat, they could come in many vibrant colors, including indigo blue, red, and the most common color, brown. **Made often of linen or wool broadcloth.**

Breeches – common to all classes. Found throughout the 1700s into the early 1800s, breeches are tight fitting pants that end just below your knee, where they would be fastened closed with buttons or ties. **Made from linen, broadcloth, cotton, wool, even silk.**

Stockings – common to all classes. Used to cover the calf, which the breeches leave exposed, stockings were worn by all classes of both men and women. On men, the stockings would extend up past the knee, and be secured under the breeches with a ribbon or garters. The fit should be close, and the thickness of the fabric used usually reflected the temperatures, with thicker wool being used in cooler weather and lighter wool in warmer temperatures. White was the most common color, with grey, and then browns and blues following. **Made from cotton.**

Buckle Shoes - common to all classes. Almost always seen in black with a low heel, the buckle shoe was fastened with a brass or silver buckle. **Made often from tanned leather.**

Hair

While hairstyles could be quite dramatic in the 18th century for both men and women, we at FSHP require no more of you than to simply wear your caps and hats! There are a few guidelines as to how to achieve a more colonial look while wearing your cap or hat!

Feminine: Colonial women almost always wore their hair up. Most hair should fit under a wrap or a mop cap fairly easily. Tutorials for headwraps or other colonial hairstyles can be provided in advance if you wish to try for a more authentic look. Unnaturally colored hair is fine, though we ask that you attempt to keep it as covered as possible.

Masculine: While most men’s hair fits fine under a cap or hat, if you have particularly long hair, we ask that you tie it back with a low ponytail. Unnaturally colored hair is fine, though we ask that you attempt to keep it as covered as possible.

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Colonial men were most often clean shaven, with a bit of scruff sometimes visible for working class men, but it was considered unclean and unfashionable. We will **not** be asking you to trim or shave or otherwise alter your facial hair, however, if you choose to do so, it will contribute to an authentic appearance.

