

First State Heritage Park

18th Century Market Fair

www.destateparks.com/MarketFair

First Weekend of November

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.

This year, 2022, marks this event's first foray into a full weekend of programming! In response to popular request from past programming partners, participants will be invited to partake of the event on both Saturday (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) **and** Sunday (10 a.m. to 3 p.m.)!

THE JURY PROCESS

Every 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 at least 6 weeks prior to Market Fair.

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.

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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.

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 TourFSHP@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 10:00 a.m. and runs until 4 p.m. on Saturday and 3 p.m. on Sunday. All modern intrusions, including vehicles, must remain out of public view from 9:30 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 (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 and coloration.
- Participants are welcomed to arrive on site on the Friday before Market Fair between the hours of 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. for set-up **with prior notification**. All others 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 9:30 a.m. each morning of the event.
- Overnight security patrolling is provided by a contracted company employed by First State Heritage Park on Friday and Saturday nights. 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 Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. and Sunday 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 not be visible on your display: the appearance of 18th century life is paramount.
- 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 18th Century 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 18th Century 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 18th Century 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 wear historically-accurate reproduction garb is a requirement of all participants. To this end, participants are enjoined to include images of themselves in the historic clothing they intend to wear with their application.
- 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 of documented pattern, design, and form
 - Be well-constructed of period-appropriate materials
 - Fully hand-sewn is ideal; concealed long seams only completed by machine is next preferred; interior seams completed by machine with top finishing done by hand is next; further compromises should be avoided.
- Individuals portraying masculine roles are asked to shave their face within three days' growth in keeping with late 18th century custom and norm.
- Participants are asked to make efforts to conceal present-day affectations that would not be found in the period, such as dyed hair, non-period makeup, nail polish, non-documentable piercings, and modern tattoos. Modern jewelry (with the exception of wedding bands) and wristwatches are prohibited.
- Participants are further strongly encouraged to avoid wearing non-period eyeglasses, with contacts or (even more accurately) going without as recommended alternatives, insofar as personal and public safety allows.
- 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. 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.