

First State Heritage Park

18th Century Market Fair

www.destateparks.com/MarketFair

First Saturday of November

Compliance Standards



WHAT IS FIRST STATE HERITAGE PARK:

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

PURPOSE OF OUR MARKET FAIR

Once a year, on the first Saturday of November, as a part of the First Saturdays in the First State series offered throughout the year, First State Heritage Park holds a traditional 18th Century Market Fair. Volunteers and crafters in period costume barter and gossip with each other, demonstrate a skill or trade and sell their wares, prepare and sell period food, entertain visitors and run activities and sales booths.

Market Fairs are documented to have taken place on The Green in Dover during the colonial era, and were so popular, they were briefly banned. The Heritage Park **considers it to be a part of its educational mission. This focus on education means that standards for outside vendors are extremely high with trades/skills demonstrating being required.** The trade-off for our vendors is, unlike most other craft fairs, we do not charge fees nor expect any part of their profits.

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 photographs to the Market Fair Committee at least 8 weeks prior to Market Fair.

Once an application has been received, it will be distributed to the Market Fair Committee, a group of long-time volunteers, historians, and artisans who are committed to keeping our Market Fair's as educational and accurate as possible. They will review your application and do one of three things; accept it, decline it, or accept it with modifications/conditions. You will be notified of the Committee's decision by an email from the First State Heritage Park Superintendent. If you are accepted, you will receive additional information about the logistics for the Market Fair. For new applicants, photos are critical to your application, and they must include pictures of your clothing, wares, set up and tools. For past participants, a new application must be submitted if you are planning on making major changes to your setup.

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 a Market Fair.

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

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As space is at a premium for our Market Fairs, new applicants must not 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, so we thank you for your patience in advance as many of our committee members are volunteers. If you have any questions, please email sarah.zimmerman@state.de.us

GENERAL INFORMATION

-Because it is taking place in a City of Dover Park, participants may bring their pets on a 6ft 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. All modern items must remain out of view from 9:30 a.m. until 4 p.m.

-A first aid kit is located at 21 The Green. If a visitor or volunteer is seriously injured or ill, please contact the Superintendent, Interpretive Program Manager, or Volunteer Coordinator immediately and call 911.

RAIN

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.

SHELTERS/SPACE/SIGNAGE/APPEARANCE & LOGISTICS

- The Park Superintendent will assign each vendor a space within which to set up. Participants may not relocate tents without approval from the Superintendent.

-Accepted shelters include simple lean-to's, brush tents, marquee, wedge or wall tents

- Vendor signs will be provided by the First State Heritage Park specifically for the event. Additional signs should be no larger than 24” x 24 in, made of wood or canvas and painted in period appropriate colors.

- All participants are welcome to arrive on site the Friday before Market Fair between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. for set up with prior notice.

- Vehicles are NOT permitted around The Green on Saturday after 9 a.m. or before 4 p.m.

-Public Hours for the Market Fair are Saturday from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. Vendors must be open for business during public hours.

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DISPLAY AND PACKAGING OF WARES

- No modern packaging should be visible on your display
- The Market Fair Committee reserves the right to inspect your appearance in camp, including accouterments, wares etc.
- Credit cards may be used. However, the process should be handled discreetly and equipment and signs used to convey acceptance of credit cards should be period (ex: "Letters of Credit Accepted")
- Signs, display shelving, stands, racks, tables etc must be made of period materials. No plywood, pegboard or plastic is permitted.

FIREARMS

- Only Historic firearms appropriate to the period (1750-1790) may be brought into the park and they may only be used for educational purposes. Blackpowder firearms may NEVER be fired within the park for any reason. There are no exceptions to this rule. Bringing ammunition into the park is strictly prohibited.
- Firearms and edged weapons may not be carried by children under the age of 16 at any time.

ARTISANS/MERCHANTS

- All items used or sold at the FSHP Market Fair event must be authentic to era of 1750-1790.
- Sales of the following items are prohibited in the market fair area: blackpowder, anything with visible plastic parts, non-period jewelry, percussion weapons, medieval and/or 19th century items, illegal animal parts/products, cd's, tapes, clothing patterns in modern wrappings, modern style musical instruments.

ENTERTAINERS

An important aspect of the Market Fair is entertainment. Music, theater, puppet shows, slack rope walkers, shadow portrait artists and more encourage our visitors to watch, listen and feel the 18th century. All costumes, instruments, props and scripts must predate 1790. All entertainers will be pre-scheduled by the FSHP Superintendent at various intervals and locations to keep the flow of the crowd moving. Please note, entertainers ***are*** permitted to solicit money during the course of their act by way of cap, cup etc.

MILITIA

The militia was an important aspect of 18th century Delaware and it adds an extra touch to the feel of the Fair. When possible, musters & marches will be scheduled by the FSHP Superintendent around The Green. A militia camp will be given a designated space prior to set-up by the Park Superintendent. Please NOTE, Black powder weapons may NEVER be fired on FSHP property; please see the Firearms policy above.

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CLOTHING STANDARDS/PHYSICAL APPARANCE

Participants must remain in period clothing for the entire duration of the event and are expected to be properly attired by 9:30 a.m. on Saturday.

Men's Clothing: Must be worn according to proper 18th century custom and fashion for the individual's portrayal. The following items are not permitted: calico or bright colored shirts, buckskin or "Mountain Man" clothing. Appropriate 18th century hunting frocks may be worn.

Women's Clothing: Must be worn according to proper 18th century custom and fashion for the individual's portrayal. The following items are not permitted: inappropriate makeup, nail polish, off-the-shoulder shifts and "French/English style bodices".

Children's Clothing: Children should be properly attired for their age and gender. Boys may be breeched by age 4.

Footwear: FSHP understands appropriate footwear is often difficult and expensive to obtain. If proper footwear is difficult to obtain, please stick with plain black or brown shoes, no embellishments and are either clogs or ties. Please no Velcro, sneakers, or modern boots.

Borrowing Clothing: FSHP will allow new vendors & entertainers to borrow clothing for the Market Fair after being accepted. This clothing is available on a first requested, first provided bases. Please contact the FSHP Superintendent for details.

Jewelry: No modern jewelry or watches may be worn (with the exception of wedding bands)

Tattoos/Piercings: Tattoos and any sort of piercing (other than ears on women) must be covered at all times

Eyeglasses: Modern eyeglasses for prescription lenses are permitted as long as they are plain and not plastic.

Smoking: There is no smoking permitted on City of Dover Property. Visitors and participants will need to travel off of the property to smoke.

ASSIGNMENTS

-A space for each vendor will be pre-assigned based on the information you provided in your application. Sharing your space with a vendor that has not passed the jurying process is strictly prohibited and will not be tolerated. Vendors may forfeit their ability to come to future Market Fairs if they are found in violation of this rule.

-All attempts will be made to assign the same space to returning vendors provided you sign up at least 8 weeks before the Market Fair. If we do not receive confirmation of your attendance, we reserve the right to assign your space to another vendor.