



North Carolina Rice Festival

CALL FOR VENDORS!!



Our March 7, 2026 Festival offers a unique opportunity to:

- ✓ **Sell your arts/crafts (preferably Gullah Geechee-themed)**
- ✓ **Promote your organization's community/social programs**
- ✓ **Bring your Food Truck or sell food items**

- Over 5K attended last year!! -

INFORMATION & FORMS BELOW:

**-- Print out, complete, & sign the forms by hand,
then scan to send by email or drop off in postal mail
OR**

--Fill out and sign the forms online, then email them back to us!



Hey There!

The **North Carolina Rice Festival (NCRF)** is now accepting applications for vendors/exhibitors interested in showcasing or selling arts, crafts, and other items at its 2026 **North Carolina Rice Festival (NCRF)**. Vendors featuring Gullah Geechee-related arts, crafts, and products are especially encouraged to apply as well as event-related historic sites/museums, organizations, and nonprofits.

The 2026 Festival will be held on **Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.** The Festival will take place at the Brunswick Town/Fort Anderson State Historic Site located at 8884 St. Philips Road SE, Winnabow, NC, along the Brunswick River between Leland and Southport, NC. Detailed information on the 2026 Festival and its related programs can be found on the NCRF website at **www.northcarolinaricefestival.org**.

Attendance at the 2025 Festival topped 5,000—a 25% increase over 2024—despite the closure of Highway 133. With the Festival's growing popularity and increasing recognition as an important celebration and destination event for folks up and down the **Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor**—and with the *reopening* of Highway 133—an even larger attendance is expected in 2026!

If you are interested in participating, please *review, sign, and return* the **Exhibitor Rules & Regulations Form** (next page) and *complete, sign, and return* the **Vendor/Exhibitor Application Form** (page 3). All applicants selling wares must include their NC Department of Revenue Certificate of Registration number (CoR) with their application and *must display* a copy of their CoR at their exhibit booth(s) during the Festival.

Spaces will be limited and vendors/exhibitors are encouraged to submit the required documents at their earliest opportunity. Applications may be submitted by email (preferred) to: **Nanette York** at **Nan.York10@gmail.com** or by mail to **NCRFI, Attn: Nanette York, PO Box 674, Leland, NC 28451**.

Applicants will be notified via email regarding the status of their application. Upon application acceptance, further instructions will be provided via email to submit the required **vendor fee** noted on the application form to secure booth space. Notification of site assignments, setup details, and directions to the Festival site will be sent via email on or about **March 1, 2026**.

Applications will be accepted until 5:00 pm on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, or until all exhibitor sites have been allocated, whichever occurs first.

Questions? Need more information? Email Nanette York, NCRFI Secretary, at **Nan.York10@gmail.com**, or Festival Manager Caroline Lewis at **Caroline.C.Lewis@gmail.com**.

Hope to see you in March!

The 2026 North Carolina Rice Festival
Saturday, March 7

*Brunswick Town State Historic Site
8884 St. Philip's Road SE
Winnabow, North Carolina 28479*

2026 NC RICE FESTIVAL VENDOR/EXHIBITOR RULES & REGULATIONS

The **North Carolina Rice Festival, Inc. (NCRFI)** is an all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting family-friendly events that highlight the history of rice cultivation in southeastern North Carolina. Over the course of four days, we create engaging programs that bring our motto, **Education through Celebration**, to life.

Since 2021, the NCRFI has hosted events celebrating the cultural and historical connections related to rice farming between southeastern North Carolina and Africa's "Rice Coast"—the original homeland of the "Carolina Gold" rice strain that was cultivated locally by the enslaved Africans now known as the Gullah Geechee. Brunswick, New Hanover, Pender, and Onslow counties comprise the northernmost sector of the federally recognized Gullah Geechee Cultural Heritage Corridor. Therefore, Vendors/Exhibitors of Gullah Geechee heritage or whose arts, crafts or products reflect Gullah Geechee heritage or culture will be given priority consideration and are encouraged to apply, but all artists and crafters inspired by southeastern North Carolina arts and culture are welcome to apply.

The 2026 North Carolina Rice Festival will be on **Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm**, to include an opening and closing ceremony at the **Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson State Historic Site (BTFA)**.

1. Vendor/Exhibitors will be able to set-up beginning at 7:00 a.m. Festival program will conclude with a featured closing ceremony from 4:00 pm–4:30 pm. Exhibitors are encouraged to participate in the opening and closing ceremonies; however, take-down may begin at 4:00 pm. No vehicles are permitted on Festival grounds until the official closing of the event at 4:30 p.m.
2. NCRFI seeks to provide a wide and diverse offering of arts, crafts and information to Festival attendees as possible; however, NCRFI reserves the right to accept or reject any applicant.
3. NCRFI will assign vendor/exhibitor locations on the Festival site, with consideration regarding product type and theme to create a cohesive layout in alignment with the highlights of the BTFA site.
4. All vendors/exhibitors must comply with all rules, regulations and application ordinances of BTFA and the North Carolina Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources.
5. Vendors/Exhibitors must identify the type of items and products to be exhibited and offered for sale in the application. Once approved and accepted, vendor/exhibitor locations must be obtained from the Festival Manager before changing or adding products/items.
6. NCRFI will provide 10'x10' space for vendors/exhibitors, unless otherwise indicated on the application form. Vendors/Exhibitors must provide all displays, tents, tables, chairs, drop cords, generators, etc.
7. **Vendors/Exhibitors must submit a completed Application Form by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, February 18, 2026, or until all vendor spaces are full.**
8. An accepted application is a commitment to show; payment will be accepted until March 1, 2026, and no refunds for vendor/exhibit fees will be issued after that date.
9. All vendors/exhibitors must set up between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. Vehicles must be cleared from festival grounds by 9:00 a.m. prior to the opening processional at 9:30 a.m. No vehicles permitted on festival grounds until 4:30 p.m. For the safety of all, no vehicles may move on or off the festival grounds between 9:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Late arrivals will be required to move hand-truck tents, products, etc., to their assigned spot. No one will be permitted to set up after 10 a.m.
10. Vendors/Exhibitors are responsible for appropriate tax ID numbers and related information. NC Dept. of Revenue requires a Certificate of Registration (CoR) or exemption to be prominently displayed at booth during the event. NCRF is not responsible for vendor sales.
11. Vendors who do not have an NC CoR can get registration information at <https://ncdor.gov/taxes-forms/sales-and-use-tax/sales-and-use-tax-registration>.
12. Applications may be submitted by email (preferred) or mail, as follows:
Email: Nan.York10@gmail.com; Mail: NCRFI, Attn: Nan York, PO Box 674, Leland, NC 28451.
13. Individuals with questions or requests for more information, should contact NCRF Festival Manager Caroline Lewis at Caroline.C.Lewis@gmail.com

The undersigned understands and agrees to be a Vendor/Exhibitor at the 2026 North Carolina Rice Festival according to the rules and regulations stated above, and that failure to comply will result in disqualification and/or removal from current and future events. **(SIGN BELOW and SUBMIT SIGNED COPY WITH APPLICATION)**

Applicant/Organization Name: _____

Sign Name of Representative: _____ **Print Name:** _____ **Date:** _____

**VENDOR/EXHIBITOR APPLICATION FORM****VENDOR/EXHIBITOR FEE** (Check Size Booth Requested Below)

Business: _____ \$55 (10' x 10' booth space) _____ \$75 (10' x 20' booth space)

Nonprofit: _____ \$ 0 (10' x 10' booth space) _____ Require _____ ft. additional space

Applicant/Organization Business Name: _____**Organization Type** (check one): _____ For-Profit Business _____ Nonprofit Organization**Contact Person:** _____**Contact Phone:** _____**Contact Email:** _____**Mailing Address:** _____**Website/Social Media:** _____**PRODUCTS TO BE SOLD / INFORMATION TO BE DISPLAYED (PLEASE LIST ITEMS):**

EXHIBIT BOOTH SETUP/BREAKDOWN

Vendors are responsible for setup and breakdown. Setup begins at 7:00 a.m.; vendors *must* clear their vehicles from the setup site by 9:00 a.m. Breakdown begins at 4:00 p.m., but vendor vehicles are not permitted onto the exhibit area until after the conclusion of the Closing Ceremony at 4:30 p.m.

ELECTRICITY/GENERATOR USE

Will you be using a generator? _____ Yes _____ No.

Electricity is not provided onsite. Use of a generator will determine booth placement so as not to disturb neighboring vendors, and generators must be located behind your booth space and away from Festival attendees to ensure the safety of everyone.

NCRFI STAFF USE ONLY

Application Received Date: _____ Received by _____

Applicant Approved: _____ YES _____ NO Applicant Notified (date) _____