

FOLK FESTIVAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Superintendent: Jeri-Ellen Helms

Registration Deadline: Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 11:59 PM

Location: The large tent next to the church near Heritage Circle on the west side of the fairgrounds.

The N.C. State Fair Folk Festival was founded in 1948 to preserve and showcase the music and dance traditions of Southern Appalachia, celebrating the beauty and dignity of the region's culture.

[Click here](#) to learn more about the history of the N.C. State Fair Folk Festival.

FOLK FESTIVAL & PERFORMING ARTS RULES & REGULATIONS

- ♪ The General Rules and Regulations of the Fair will govern this department, except in cases of conflict, where the following Rules and Regulations will prevail. Please read all rules & regulations carefully before submitting your entries.
- ♪ Submit questions to: NCSFCompetitions@ncagr.gov.
- ♪ Open to residents of the United States of America.
- ♪ Pre-registration is required. All entries are required to be made [online](#) for this department.
- ♪ Registration is first come, first served. Once the time slots fill up, no additional performances will be scheduled.
- ♪ All performances have a maximum time limit of 8 minutes. A performance refers to each individual division entry.
- ♪ Judges will be provided for each Division on specific days. **Any performances outside of the specific judging days for each Division will be considered a showcase performance.** Showcase performances are not judged and are ineligible for winning ribbons and premiums.
- ♪ Professional sound engineers will be on hand every day.
- ♪ A House Band and Professional Clogging Judges are only provided on Folk Festival days.
- ♪ For performances not utilizing the House Band, all music must be provided by the exhibitor.
- ♪ All performances, attire, and music must be appropriate for ALL audiences. The Competition Staff reserves the right to immediately end and disqualify performances that include any aspects deemed inappropriate or suggestive.
- ♪ Please plan to arrive early to ensure you are prepared for your performance. Any exhibitors who are not ready to perform during their allotted time may be disqualified.
- ♪ 1st-3rd place ribbons will be awarded to judged performances in each Class. Additionally, premiums will be awarded where designated.

PARKING OPTIONS:

The Folk Festival & Performing Arts tent is closest to Gate 7 on Youth Center Road.

1. **Cardinal Lot:** Is walkable or has FREE transportation from your vehicle to the road across from Gate 7.
2. **Gate C Parking Lot:** Located on Trinity Road, but you must request a parking pass in advance. The free shuttle from Gate C drops you off at Gates 3 or 12 on the other side of the fairgrounds. We encourage carpooling as much as possible since parking can be limited.
3. **Unloading Passes:** You must request an unloading pass in advance to be able to unload close to the Folk Festival tent on the day of your performance. Vehicle access to the tent to unload is available before 9 AM only. Unloading passes cannot be used for long term parking.

FOLK FESTIVAL & PERFORMING ARTS

REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS:

- ♪ All registrations in this department must be completed online.
- ♪ Please ensure that your registration is completely accurate upon submission. Registrations **cannot be adjusted** once the deadline closes on September 15th, 2026.
- ♪ When entering exhibitor information, please use a **valid mailing address** for your address since we will be mailing your tickets and parking passes.
- ♪ **For groups**, each team/individual must be entered as a separate exhibitor. It is recommended to use the Quick Group registration feature to enter all of your team's performances at one time.
- ♪ For all Group Performances, please determine your class based on the group's average age.
- ♪ During registration, you will be asked to provide the following related to each performance. A performance refers to each individual division entry:
 - ♪ **Preferred Performance Date/Time** - Please list your preferred day and session during which you would like to perform.
 - ♪ Session 1: 10 AM - 1 PM
 - ♪ Session 2: 2 PM and later

*On Sunday, October 18th & Sunday, October 25th, performances will start at 12 PM.
 - ♪ **Song or Performance Title** - List the title of the song you plan to perform or what the title of your performance is.
 - ♪ **Number of Performers** - List the number of participating performers.
 - ♪ **Format** - List the format of the music that will need to accompany your performance.
Ex: House Band, MP3, flash drive, smart phone, etc.
 - ♪ **Duration** - List how long your performance will be. Maximum of 8 minutes.
 - ♪ **Lineup Order Number** - List where the performance will fall in your overall lineup if you or your group has more than one performance entry.
 - ♪ **Credentials** - If registering multiple acts, please only include total credential amounts on one entry for the entire group.
 - ♪ **Number of Performer Tickets** - These are only for the individuals who are performing.
 - ♪ **Number of Instructor Tickets** - These are only for instructors who are bringing performing groups. Maximum limit of 4.
 - ♪ **Number of Gate C Parking Passes**
 - ♪ **Number of Unloading Passes** - To be used for loading/unloading for the day of performance only. Cannot be used to park.
 - ♪ **Additional Notes** - Please include an introduction for the MC to announce you on stage and list any equipment or accommodations needed for your performance. Please also note if you would like to perform the same performance twice.



FOLK FESTIVAL & PERFORMING ARTS

FOLK FESTIVAL & PERFORMING ARTS JUDGING SCHEDULE

🎵 Judges will be provided for each Division on specific days. **Any performances outside of the specific judging days for each Division will be considered a showcase performance.** Showcase performances are not judged and are ineligible for winning ribbons and premiums.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				15 OPENING DAY! NO PERFORMANCES.	16 FOLK FESTIVAL DIV. 101-115	17 FOLK FESTIVAL DIV. 101-115
18 FOLK FESTIVAL DIV. 101-115 *PERFORMANCES START AT 12 PM*	19 FOLK FESTIVAL DIV. 101-115	20 NOVELTY & CONTEMPORARY DANCE DIV. 201-207	21 DRAMATIC ARTS DIV. 214-219	22 INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL DIV. 111-115, 208-212	23 SCHOOL & YOUTH SHOWCASE DIV. 111-115, 201-219	24 INSTRUMENTAL & VOCAL DIV. 111-115, 208-212
25 A CAPPELLA DAY DIV. 213 *PERFORMANCES START AT 12 PM*						



FOLK FESTIVAL & PERFORMING ARTS

FOLK FESTIVAL

The Folk Festival includes Divisions 101-115. A House Band and professional clogging judges will only be available during the Folk Festival on Friday, October 16th-Monday, October 19th, 2026. Clogging performances outside of these dates will not be judged.

HERITAGE DANCE

Performances that celebrate traditional styles from North Carolina and beyond, including Appalachian flatfooting, clogging, Bollywood, tango, Irish step, African and Indigenous dances, and global folk traditions.

These performances focus on storytelling, technique, and cultural expression.

DIVISION 101: TRADITIONAL FREE-STYLE CLOGGING

Four or more couples dancing as a team using traditional figures. Choose your Class from the list below using your group's average age.

CLASS *Based on your group's average age.*

01 - Ages 5-7

02 - Ages 8-13

03 - Ages 14-18

04 - Ages 19-30

05 - Ages 31-50

06 - Ages 51 & Older

DIVISION 102: PRECISION CLOGGING

Four or more couples performing traditional figures as a team. Choose your Class using your group's average age.

CLASS *Based on your group's average age.*

01 - Ages 5-7

02 - Ages 8-13

03 - Ages 14-18

04 - Ages 19-30

05 - Ages 31-50

06 - Ages 51 & Older

DIVISION 103: TRADITIONAL SMOOTH DANCE

Four or more couples dancing as a team performing traditional figures as a team.

CLASS *Based on your group's average age.*

01 - Ages 5-7

02 - Ages 8-13

03 - Ages 14-18

04 - Ages 19-30

05 - Ages 31-50

06 - Ages 51 & Older

DIVISION 104: CLOGGING LINE

Four or more people standing line or formation line, no facing in same line, no personal contact.

CLASS *Based on your group's average age.*

01 - Ages 5-7

02 - Ages 8-13

03 - Ages 14-18

04 - Ages 19-30

05 - Ages 31-50

06 - Ages 51 & Older

DIVISION 105: CLOGGING DUO/DUET

Male/female couple, or 2 males, or 2 females dancing as partners – do not separate from partner. Join hands as much as possible. As a couple move into a 4-corner pattern. Bluegrass or country music is required.

CLASS *Based on your group's average age.*

01 - Ages 5-7

02 - Ages 8-13

03 - Ages 14-18

04 - Ages 19-30

05 - Ages 31-50

06 - Ages 51 & Older

FOLK FESTIVAL & PERFORMING ARTS

DIVISION 106: INDIVIDUAL CLOGGING - MALE

Individual free-style clogging for Males.

CLASS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 04 - Ages 19-30 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 05 - Ages 31-50 |
| 03 - Ages 14-18 | 06 - Ages 51 & Older |

DIVISION 107: INDIVIDUAL CLOGGING - FEMALE

Individual free-style clogging for Females.

CLASS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 04 - Ages 19-30 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 05 - Ages 31-50 |
| 03 - Ages 14-18 | 06 - Ages 51 & Older |

DIVISION 108: MISCELLANEOUS CLOGGING ROUTINES

Anything that does not fall into other traditional clogging divisions.

CLASS *Based on your group's average age.*

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 04 - Ages 19-30 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 05 - Ages 31-50 |
| 03 - Ages 14-18 | 06 - Ages 51 & Older |

DIVISION 109: GLOBAL FOLK DANCE (SHOWCASE ONLY)

Includes traditional dances from cultures around the world, showcasing unique steps, rhythms, and styles. This division preserves and shares cultural heritage through performance.

CLASS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 04 - Ages 19-30 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 05 - Ages 31-50 |
| 03 - Ages 14-18 | 06 - Ages 51 & Older |

DIVISION 110: INDIGENOUS DANCE (SHOWCASE ONLY)

Features traditional dances from Indigenous cultures, showcasing authentic movements, rhythms, and storytelling passed down through generations.

CLASS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 04 - Ages 19-30 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 05 - Ages 31-50 |
| 03 - Ages 14-18 | 06 - Ages 51 & Older |



FOLK FESTIVAL & PERFORMING ARTS

HERITAGE MUSIC

Includes instrumental and vocal performances characterized by Appalachian folk, bluegrass, gospel, and blues blend African, European, and Indigenous influences. Often includes the use of fiddles, banjos, and soulful harmonies. Ribbons and premiums will be awarded to Divisions 111-115.

DIVISION 111: INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

CLASS

01 - Ages 5-7	04 - Ages 19-30
02 - Ages 8-13	05 - Ages 31-50
03 - Ages 14-18	06 - Ages 51 & Older

PREMIUMS

1st	2nd	3rd
\$75	\$50	\$40

DIVISION 112: GROUP INSTRUMENTAL

CLASS *Based on your group's average age.*

01 - Ages 5-7	04 - Ages 19-30
02 - Ages 8-13	05 - Ages 31-50
03 - Ages 14-18	06 - Ages 51 & Older

PREMIUMS

1st	2nd	3rd
\$100	\$75	\$50

DIVISION 113: VOCAL SOLO

CLASS

01 - Ages 5-7	04 - Ages 19-30
02 - Ages 8-13	05 - Ages 31-50
03 - Ages 14-18	06 - Ages 51 & Older

PREMIUMS

1st	2nd	3rd
\$75	\$50	\$40

DIVISION 114: GROUP VOCALS - NON-SCHOOL

CLASS *Based on your group's average age.*

01 - Ages 5-7	04 - Ages 19-30
02 - Ages 8-13	05 - Ages 31-50
03 - Ages 14-18	06 - Ages 51 & Older

PREMIUMS

1st	2nd	3rd
\$100	\$75	\$50

DIVISION 115: GROUP VOCALS - SCHOOL

CLASS *Based on your group's average age.*

01 - Ages 5-7
02 - Ages 8-13
03 - Ages 14-18

PREMIUMS

1st	2nd	3rd
\$100	\$75	\$50

FOLK FESTIVAL & PERFORMING ARTS

PERFORMING ARTS

Performing Arts includes Novelty and Contemporary music and dance, along with our new Dramatic Arts performance divisions.

NOVELTY & CONTEMPORARY DANCE

DIVISION 201: JAZZ/TAP

Includes performances in jazz and tap dance styles. Dancers showcase rhythmic footwork, musicality, and movement in both traditional and modern routines.

CLASS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 04 - Ages 19-30 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 05 - Ages 31-50 |
| 03 - Ages 14-18 | 06 - Ages 51 & Older |

DIVISION 202: BALLET

Includes classical and contemporary ballet performances, showcasing technique, grace, and artistic expression through movement.

CLASS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 04 - Ages 19-30 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 05 - Ages 31-50 |
| 03 - Ages 14-18 | 06 - Ages 51 & Older |

DIVISION 203: COUNTRY LINE DANCE

No clogging. Features choreographed group dances performed in lines, set to country and western music, emphasizing rhythm, coordination, and footwork.

CLASS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 04 - Ages 19-30 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 05 - Ages 31-50 |
| 03 - Ages 14-18 | 06 - Ages 51 & Older |

DIVISION 204: INTERPRATIVE DANCE

Focuses on expressive movement that conveys emotions, themes, or storytelling. Performances may blend various dance styles to create unique, artistic interpretations.

CLASS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 04 - Ages 19-30 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 05 - Ages 31-50 |
| 03 - Ages 14-18 | 06 - Ages 51 & Older |

DIVISION 205: ETHNIC DANCE

Showcases traditional dances from specific cultural backgrounds, highlighting unique movements, music, and storytelling.

CLASS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 04 - Ages 19-30 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 05 - Ages 31-50 |
| 03 - Ages 14-18 | 06 - Ages 51 & Older |

FOLK FESTIVAL & PERFORMING ARTS

DIVISION 206: NOVELTY DANCE

Features fun, quirky, and unconventional performances, including trend-based, theatrical, and comedic routines.

CLASS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 04 - Ages 19-30 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 05 - Ages 31-50 |
| 03 - Ages 14-18 | 06 - Ages 51 & Older |

DIVISION 207: CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Blends elements of ballet, modern, and jazz dance, emphasizing fluid movement, creativity, and emotional expression.

CLASS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 04 - Ages 19-30 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 05 - Ages 31-50 |
| 03 - Ages 14-18 | 06 - Ages 51 & Older |

NOVELTY & CONTEMPORARY MUSIC

Includes any instrumental or vocal performances that are **NOT** classified as Heritage Music, which includes Appalachian folk, bluegrass, gospel, and blues blend African, European, and Indigenous influences.

DIVISION 208: INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

CLASS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 04 - Ages 19-30 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 05 - Ages 31-50 |
| 03 - Ages 14-18 | 06 - Ages 51 & Older |

PREMIUMS

1st	2nd	3rd
\$75	\$50	\$40

DIVISION 209: GROUP INSTRUMENTAL

CLASS *Based on your group's average age.*

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 04 - Ages 19-30 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 05 - Ages 31-50 |
| 03 - Ages 14-18 | 06 - Ages 51 & Older |

PREMIUMS

1st	2nd	3rd
\$100	\$75	\$50

DIVISION 210: VOCAL SOLO

CLASS

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 04 - Ages 19-30 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 05 - Ages 31-50 |
| 03 - Ages 14-18 | 06 - Ages 51 & Older |

PREMIUMS

1st	2nd	3rd
\$75	\$50	\$40

FOLK FESTIVAL & PERFORMING ARTS

DIVISION 211: GROUP VOCALS - NON-SCHOOL

PREMIUMS

CLASS Based on your group's average age.

1st	2nd	3rd
\$100	\$75	\$50

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 04 - Ages 19-30 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 05 - Ages 31-50 |
| 03 - Ages 14-18 | 06 - Ages 51 & Older |

DIVISION 212: GROUP VOCALS - SCHOOL

PREMIUMS

CLASS Based on your group's average age.

1st	2nd	3rd
\$100	\$75	\$50

- 01 - Ages 5-7
02 - Ages 8-13
03 - Ages 14-18

DIVISION 213: A CAPELLA

Vocal groups who perform unaccompanied by instruments, using only their voices to create harmony, melody, and rhythm.

CLASS Based on your group's average age.

- | | |
|---|---|
| 01 - Youth Male Group - Ages 18 & Under | 04 - Adult Male Group - Ages 19 & Older |
| 02 - Youth Female Group - Ages 18 & Under | 05 - Adult Female Group - Ages 19 & Older |
| 03 - Youth Co-Ed Group - Ages 18 18 & Under | 06 - Adult Co-Ed Group - Ages 19 & Older |



DRAMATIC ARTS

Includes performances related to dramatic arts and theater. Groups should determine their class based on the group's average age.

DIVISION 214: POETRY PERFORMANCE

Spoken word, slam poetry, traditional, or original poetry.

CLASS

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 03 - Ages 14-18 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 04 - Ages 19 & Older |

DIVISION 215: STORYTELLING PERFORMANCE

Folktales, personal narratives, cultural, or heritage stories.

CLASS

- | | |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 03 - Ages 14-18 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 04 - Ages 19 & Older |

DIVISION 216: MONOLOGUE PERFORMANCE

Dramatic or comedic solo theatrical performance.

CLASS

- | | |
|----------------|------------------------|
| 01 - Ages 5-7 | 03 - Ages 14-18 |
| 02 - Ages 8-13 | 04 - Ages 19 and older |

FOLK FESTIVAL & PERFORMING ARTS

DIVISION 217: DUO SCENE PERFORMANCE

Two-person scripted or original scene.

CLASS Based on your group's average age.

01 - Ages 5-7

03 - Ages 14-18

02 - Ages 8-13

04 - Ages 19 & Older

DIVISION 218: MUSICAL THEATER PERFORMANCE

Soloist or small group presenting a musical theater selection. Combines strong vocals with theatrical expression, stage presence, and appropriate choreography.

CLASS

01 - Ages 5-7

03 - Ages 14-18

02 - Ages 8-13

04 - Ages 19 & Older

DIVISION 219: SHOW CHOIR/GLEE CLUB PERFORMANCE

Show Choir or Glee Club group performance. *The N.C. State Fair reserves the right to further divide this division into additional classes based on registered entries.*

CLASS Based on your group's average age.

01 - Show Choir/Glee Club Performance

FOLK FESTIVAL & PERFORMING ARTS SPECIAL AWARDS

Ribbons only.

AWARDS

- ♪ Best of Show - Youth Heritage Dance Div. 101-110, Classes 1-3
- ♪ Best of Show - Adult Heritage Dance Div. 101-110, Classes 4-6
- ♪ Best of Show - Youth Novelty & Contemporary Dance Div. 201-207, Classes 1-3
- ♪ Best of Show - Adult Novelty & Contemporary Dance Div. 201-207, Classes 4-6
- ♪ Best of Show - Youth Instrumental Div. 111-112, 208-209, Classes 1-3
- ♪ Best of Show - Adult Instrumental Div. 111-112, 208-209, Classes 4-6
- ♪ Best of Show - Youth Vocal Div. 113-115, 210-213, Classes 1-3
- ♪ Best of Show - Adult Vocal Div. 113-115, 210-213, Classes 4-6
- ♪ Best of Show - Youth Dramatic Arts Div. 213-218, Classes 1-3
- ♪ Best of Show - Adult Dramatic Arts Div. 213-218, Classes 4-6
- ♪ Annette Pulley Award Awarded to an individual or group in Div. 101-108 for outstanding talent, sportsmanship, audience appeal, and continuing support of the Folk Festival. The performance should be entertaining, appropriate, and enhancing for the Folk Festival.
- ♪ Bascom Lamar Lunsford Award Awarded in memory of the founder of the N.C. State Fair Folk Festival to a group or individual in Div. 111-115 whose musical performance best exemplifies the historical and entertainment purposes of the Folk Festival.
- ♪ Curtis Lee Award Awarded to an outstanding individual instrumental performance in Div. 111 that is characteristic of the N.C. State Fair Folk Festival tradition.