



Native Rhythms Festival Food Vendor Rules 2026



The **Native Rhythms Festival** (hereinafter referred to *the festival*) organizing committee (hereinafter referred to as the *NRF committee* or *the committee*) establishes the following for invited food vendors who agree to conform to the below rules to participate in our indigenous people's music festival at Wickham Park, Melbourne, FL on November 13-15, 2026.

General Requirements for Food Vendors

- Food vendors will be accepted **by invitation only**. *Please do not apply if you have not been invited*. We want to offer our guests a variety of food offerings while trying to ensure fair opportunity for all of our food vendors. If you would like to be considered for an invitation, please contact Martha Pessaro (321-505-2418 / martha@nativerhythmsfestival.com).
- The names of all the persons who will be operating the booth must be included on the registration form. Each person will be issued a **Native Rhythms Festival** security badge. **Only people with an official security badge will be permitted to operate booths**. Please have your security badge ready to present to roving security personnel, especially after hours.
- **Food vendors must check in with the organizing committee at the registration tent before beginning setup**. An NRF *committee* member will direct arriving food vendors to their assigned location. Vendors must set up within the marked boundaries of their assigned locations.
- As applicable, each food vendor must supply his/her own tents, tables, chairs, lighting fixtures, extension cords, packing materials, backdrops, etc. (We can provide information about renting tents, tables and chairs locally). Note that this event continues after sunset on Friday and Saturday. Vendors will be responsible for extension cords and lighting fixtures for their booth. Power will be available to each vendor booth. (See requirements below regarding light fixtures and extension cords meeting City of Melbourne fire codes.)
- **Native Rhythms Festival** is required to fully comply with the City of Melbourne's event fire codes. A city fire inspector will be on-site to check us and our vendors for compliance with the following regulations. All vendors must be completely setup and ready for the inspector at **9:00AM on Friday**. All vendors must pass their inspection before we will be allowed to open the festival. **Each vendor shall cover exposed wiring in pedestrian pathways to avoid tripping**.
 - City of Melbourne fire codes require that vendors meet certain requirements regarding spacing between tents. In general, there must be 10 feet between tents. However, we may place two 10'x10' tents "adjacent" to one another, but then provide 10 feet between the pair and the next closest tents. The committee will lay out the vendor area to comply with these requirements. It is critical that all vendors set up exactly where designated within their assigned area to comply

with these requirements. If in doubt, check with the NRF vendor coordinator, who will be on site during setup on Thursday, before setting up your tent.

- Complying with the spacing requirement (see above) can mean longer electrical cord runs between electrical panels and tents. Extension cords up to 200 feet in 12 gauge may be necessary, but for those closer to the panel, extension cords of any gauge up to 100 feet long may be used. However, we recommend being prepared for the longer cord.
- All tents larger than 10'x10' (i.e., 120 square feet or larger) must have a manufacturer's certificate stating it is made of a fire-retardant material.
- All bulbs, LED, incandescent or fluorescent (tube or CFL), must be shielded against bulb breakage. Open bulbs must have either the manufacturer's designed cage or cover, or an equivalent plastic cover or bulb protector. This includes the popular clamp-on "can" lights.
- One thing the inspector makes a point of checking is that all plug connections between extension cords and cords to lights or other devices **must be off the ground**.
- All tents must have conspicuous "NO SMOKING" signs posted.
- SET UP: Vendor area layout will be done by the *committee* on Wednesday. Vendor set-up time starts at 9AM on Thursday. **All vendor vehicles** (other than food trucks) must be removed from the vendor area by 9AM Friday. Special parking areas for Vendor vehicles will be provided in the Northwest area, access by north roadway with access from main park road behind Workshop Tent. Overnight security is provided, wearing of your name badges is required for access after hours. Remember, your booth needs to be open and occupied for the City to complete its inspection at 9AM on Friday.
- The Show hours for vendors are:
 - Friday: 9AM – 9PM
 - Saturday: 9AM – 9PM
 - Sunday: 9AM – 5PM
- Quiet time begins each night at 10:30PM. **All loud noises** (including music, drumming, etc.) must cease by this time.
- **Tear Down: Please do not begin teardown earlier than 5:00PM Sunday. Vehicles will not be permitted back into the vendor area for teardown before 5:30PM Sunday.** Always be extremely careful when driving in the vendor area during setup and teardown. This area is likely to be congested with people not watching for vehicles. **For the Safety of ALL-no driving on grounds between setup and teardown, parking in the Vendor Parking area only.**
- No loud flute playing or other loud noises (including CD playing, drumming, etc.) will be allowed during scheduled concert performances. Normal flute demonstrations within a booth would not normally be a problem. Just always be respectful of our performers and the other vendors around you.
- Booths must be neat and orderly throughout the festival.

- To prevent uncomfortable situations with customers, we request that all vendors who **do not accept credit cards** place a notification to that effect in their booth.
- **Food vendor** fees will be:
 - 10' x 10' - \$300.00
 - Food trucks & larger tents - \$400
- Check or money order must be made out to **NHGI** for the correct amount in full. Send completed registration form, required food vendor documents (see below), photos, and check/money order to:

**Native Heritage Gathering Inc.
1280 Marshall Ct.
Merritt Island, FL 32953**

Deadline for submission is September 1, 2026, unless prior arrangements have been made with the organizing committee.

- Please e-mail an image file (logo or photo, .gif or .png preferred but .jpg OK) that you would like to see with your listing on the *festival* website's vendor village web page to webmaster@nativerhythmsfestival.com.
- Camping will be available for vendors on the north side just beyond the vendor area and at the Wickham Park campgrounds.
 - Camping adjacent to the north end of the vendor area is for primitive camping and self-contained RVs only. Camping in this area is reserved with your vendor registration for \$10 per night. This camping **does not** include plugging into vendor area power. **Plugging into the vendor area power causes power failures and can damage the grid.**
 - The park campground with full hook-ups is within short walking distance of the festival grounds. Vendors are responsible for reserving campsites and paying fees directly to Wickham Park (www.brevardfl.gov/ParksAndRecreation/Campgrounds/WickhamPark). We strongly recommend making reservations with the park early as all improved campsites are expected to be reserved well before the NRF weekend.

This will be an alcohol-free and drug-free event. Any vendor violating this rule will be asked to leave.

Special Requirements for Food Vendors

General requirements include the following:

- Food vendors must comply with all applicable State of Florida, Brevard County and City of Melbourne health and safety codes. Department of Hotels & Restaurants (DHR) health inspectors will be on-site to check compliance.
- **All food vendors who operate food trucks or trailers that are used to prepare foods that give off grease-laden vapor and require a hood ventilation and/or suppression system are**

required to fill out the on-line City of Melbourne “Food Truck Database Registration Form.” The form is accessed on-line at:

<https://www.melbourneflorida.org/Government/Departments/Fire-Department/Fire-Prevention-Office/Food-Truck-Database-Registration-Form>

This is how the city verifies that food trucks arriving at an event, including the Native Rhythms Festival, are current and have met all legal requirements. You will be asked to leave in event of noncompliance.

- **All food vendors must have current**
 - 1. State issued Mobile Food Truck License**
 - 2. Most Recent Hood Cleaning Certificate**
 - 3. Suppression System Inspection**
 - 4. Gas Leak Detection Inspection**

**THESE MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE ON-LINE FORM IDENTIFIED ABOVE!
Please provide PDFs.**

- No cooking will be permitted under tents or canvas tops. Cooking is primarily defined as any initial cooking that involves fats and oils. This includes things like kettle corn, grilling, deep frying, etc. All cooking equipment must be located a minimum of 1 foot outside the tent and be roped off to keep patrons away from hot surfaces. Any vendor cooking with oils or fats must have a current tagged K class fire extinguisher and a 10 lb. 2A10BC fire extinguisher per NFPA 10. Please specify on your vendor application how much space is required outside your tent for these cooking operations and the festival will set aside adequate space adjacent to your tent. You may reheat already cooked food under your tent, or cook items that do not have the potential to create grease laden vapors (i.e., boiling water, heating soups, etc.)
- Cooking equipment used in fixed, mobile, or temporary concessions, such as trucks, busses, trailers, pavilions, tents, or any form of roofed enclosure shall comply with NFPA 96, requiring a kitchen and a fire suppression system, complying with UL300, and a current state tag. All pressure cylinders must be securely chained.
- All food vendors are required to sign the FLORIDA STATE STATUTE 633.0215, FLORIDA FIRE PREVENTION CODE acknowledgment form and submit it with the vendor application. The form is available for download from the vendor page of the **Native Rhythms Festival** website.
- Access to running water is limited. Food vendors needing access to water must document this in their vendor application so that booths can be located appropriately.
- All sites will have access to standard 110v electrical outlets. There is no access to 220v in the vendor area. There are 2 120v 30 Amp outlets with receptacles as shown in the photo. Need to access these outlets must be identified in the vendor application. **All food vendors are encouraged to use the provided power.** Only where necessary, generators must be the “ultra-quiet” type that will not disturb others.

