

Harvest Faire Rules, Policies and Information - 2011

To remain in compliance with the stated policies of Endview Plantation and established standards as put forth by Harvest Faire, we require that all attendees, staff, Performers and Merchants adhere to the policies stated below. Refusal to comply may result in expulsion from the grounds, without refund. Harvest Faire reserves the right to expel individuals without refund at any time and for any reason, though normal reasons would be disruptive, abusive, or threatening behavior. Harvest Faire is intended to be a safe, fun environment for all attendees. Please note that as of this communication, rules from Endview are not finalized, more restrictions may apply.

Q: What is a Renaissance Festival?

A: Harvest Faire is a modern interpretation of a late 15th century European fall harvest celebration and tournament. Entertainers and a market mix with the sounds of good-natured martial competition and the smells of period cooking. Watch a craftsman plying their trade, try your hand at games of chance and skill, cheer for the knight of your choice at the Field of Honors.

Q: What are the dates of the Harvest Faire?

A: October 7-9, 2011

Q: What are the event hours?

A: The event runs from 5pm to 9pm. On Saturday, hours are 9am to 9pm. On Sunday, hours are 9am to 3pm. Only pre-registered attendees, Merchants and Performers may stay overnight.

Q: Where is the event located?

A: The event takes place at Endview Plantation, 362 Yorktown Rd, Newport News, Virginia.

Q: Where do I park?

A: Parking is free and is allowed in the fields between the event entrance and the road. No parking is permitted in the curbs or on the field itself. Cars and trucks are not allowed to park in a manner that blocks flow of traffic or people. Proper parking of oversize vehicles is entirely the vehicle-owner's responsibility. Violators will be towed at the owner's expense. There will be no parking at all on the field or camping areas, since the parking at Endview is immediately adjacent to the site. RV parking is restricted as noted below. Playing of music or sound from vehicles in hearing of others is prohibited unless approved by Seneschal for performance purposes.

Q: How should we dress? Do attendees need to be "period correct"?

A: Attendees should dress casually with comfortable shoes. Shirts and shoes are required – walking without shoes is done entirely at your own risk. We do reserve the right to refuse entry to anyone who is not properly dressed or with dress that may be offensive to many other guests. Re-enactors will be in costume, as will many of the staff. "Good faith effort" at period costume is required for merchants except food merchants (fire is a concern).

Q: Are kids welcome?

A: Yes. Harvest Faire is a family event. Attending children (under 18 or otherwise dependent) are completely the responsibility of their parents or guardians – who must not allow them to damage Park, Faire or other property. Unaccompanied minors may not participate in competition events. Keep a close eye on children around swordplay, fires, archery and competition areas. The Faire does not provide any daycare or baby-sitting services – parents or guardians are responsible for minors and their actions at all times. Expect no tolerance for child abandonment.

Note: check with the program list for those performances that are not family appropriate.

Q: What is there to do?

A: Along with performances and demonstrations, the Faire includes shopping, games, dancing, archery, and volunteering. Meet new people and learn new things. There is a discounted admission to the Plantation House.

Q: What else can I do at the Plantation?

A: You can tour the Plantation itself, during regular operating hours. There is a charge for admission. Please note that the back field and surrounding woods are not part of the event area.

Q: Are there toilet facilities?

A: Yes. Portable toilets with hand-washing stations will be located at the event. No public showers or bathing facilities are provided.

Q: Is there phone service?

A: No.

Q: Is electricity provided?

A: No.

Q: Is water available?

A: Limited access should be available on-site.

Q: Is electricity provided?

A: No. There is only limited power and it is reserved for sound, lights, and operations.

Q: Is food available on site?

A: Yes. There is a food stand that typically remains operational from early morning until late evening.

Q: Can I leave the premises and re-enter without paying again?

A: Yes. Attendees will be provided with a wristband (which must be worn at all times) and showing this at the Registration Booth will verify re-entry. Wristbands must be visible at all times. Wristbands are non-transferrable. Any drinking age adult passing wristbands with a minor will be reported to the police. All wristbands are firmly applied at Registration – they do not “fall off” and cannot be taken un-affixed to other individuals away from the Registration Booth. If you feel that your sweat or other causes make your wristband at risk of falling off, you are responsible for securing it additionally to prevent this. Lost drinking age wristbands can only be replaced with non-drinking wristbands, unless the missing wristband is returned – so write your name on your wristband if you think it might come off.

Q: Is alcohol permitted?

A: Wine and beer are sold at the event for consumption in the main field. Drinkers must remain civil and orderly. Public intoxication or disorderly conduct will be grounds for immediate dismissal from the event - without refund. Underage drinking will not be tolerated. No one suspected of excessive drinking will be allowed near the open fires. The use and distribution of any illegal substances violates our Zero-Tolerance mandate and abusers will be subject to immediate arrest by city authorities.

Q: Are there “quiet hours”?

A: Yes. There is a noise curfew from 10PM to 8AM. There are private homes near the site and we must respect noise abatement standards as established by the Plantation. Loud music or other audible sounds that are in excess of the norm are prohibited during those hours. Faire & Plantation Security have final authority. Harvest Faire is a period event featuring tent camping; generators and other noise-generating equipment is only allowed in the noise zone and must be approved. RV's must be located in the area behind the barn in order to run their engines or their generators.

Q: Are weapons allowed?

A: No firearms or weapons are permitted, with the exception of period-appropriate “peace-bonded” blades and those used by re-enactors during performances in a pre-approved safety zone. Compliance is the responsibility of the wearer. Spears and lances are not permitted outside the re-enactment areas. Firearms are prohibited except for those worn by Park Rangers.

Q: Is seating provided for entertainment?

A: Some tables, chairs and haybales are provided as a courtesy, but we encourage attendees to provide their own chairs if possible to assure ample seating. Please mark your chairs with your name for ease of identification.

Q: Can I take photographs?

A: Daytime photography is allowed as long as those in the photo do not mind, however night photography in the main activity areas should be done without using the flash to avoid excessive flash pollution for attendees and performers. Staff photographers are allowed to use flash at night.

Q: Are pets allowed?

A: Yes. However, they must be restrained via leash or carrier and owners are responsible for cleaning up after them. Disregard for any inconvenience or problems caused by their presence (excessive barking, uncollected or improperly disposed of feces, damage to grounds/equipment or failure to keep leashed/contained) will be grounds for expulsion without refund. Bring pet vaccination records where applicable. Your pets attend at your liability alone. Biting incidents will be reported to animal control – if your pet bites people/animals, leave it at home.

Q: What kind of weather can I expect?

A: The weather is variable in October – come prepared with layers of clothing and a dry change of clothes.

Q: What is the site like?

A: The site is beautiful, a combination of flat and sloped areas, but amenities are rustic. There are porta-potties and hand-wash stations provided, but there is no wash facility. The camping area (for pre-registered attendees only) is partly shaded. The main access is gravel but there are no concrete walks or other paving.

Q: Is the Faire Handicapped Accessible?

A: The Faire is an outdoor event held in a natural setting. Wheelchairs and motorized chairs are welcome and handicapped parking/drop-off is available. Most of the site is level, but it is primarily a large grassy field and the grass may be long. Accessible porta-potties are provided at the main restroom location.

Q: Is security provided?

A: Harvest Faire Watch provides 24-hour security patrols. Watch members will be wearing name badges, vests or armbands for ease of identification. Attendees are responsible for securing their property, campsites and cars, though. All vehicles should be kept locked. Neither Harvest Faire nor Endview Plantation will assume responsibility for lost or missing articles or merchandise under any circumstances.

Q: Is smoking permitted?

A: Smoking is allowed in areas that are clear of and down-wind from non-smokers. Smoking is not allowed in crowds, lines, children's areas, under the tents or at the stages. Butts must be extinguished and disposed of in sand buckets or carried by the smoker – ground-tossing is NEVER permitted.

Q: Are there general restrictions on behavior?

A: Yes. Loud, rude, and lewd behavior are prohibited. No physical altercations are allowed outside of structured demonstrations in the combat areas. No interruption of performances will be tolerated except in emergency situations. All participants need to conduct themselves in a respectful manner. If there are problems that you feel need to be arbitrated, bring them to the attention of the Faire management through the Registration Booth or the Watch.

Q: Where can I stay in the area?

A: Harvest Faire does feature on-site camping for pre-registered guests, merchants and entertainers. There are also plenty of hotels in the area and alternate camp sites are further west on the Peninsula.

Q: What are the requirements for camping?

A: Camping is allowed only in designated areas and only with pre-registration. Camping does require some form of tent. Non-period tents must be shrouded or placed in the attendee camping area. Check in for camping begins at noon on Friday and registration is required before camping sites can be claimed. Camping Marshall must approve all camping layouts. No camping inside the tree-line will be permitted. Departure is required by 4pm on Sunday, extinguish fires by 1pm. If you want to arrange a larger camping area for a pre-registered group, notify webmaster@harvestfaire.org. After unloading, move vehicles to the parking area. Cars are not allowed in the camping area, violators will be towed at vehicle owner's expense. No kerosene heaters or fuel stoves can be used

inside tents. Stakes, lines and other gear must be kept within your designated site. Trash is to be kept contained and, before departure, all trash must be placed in closed bags inside the dumpsters provided.

Q: Can I bring my RV?

A: Harvest Faire is a period and primitive camping event. RVs can park in the parking field. There are no hook-ups and no dumping at the Plantation. The RV parking is outside the ABC zone and no fires are allowed in the parking field.

Q: Are campfires permitted?

A: Yes – for primitive campers in camping area. With the exception of the re-enactors' fire, all fires must be in containment vessels (grills, hibachis or fire pots with sides and bottoms) and all fires must have fire extinguishers at hand. The use of gasoline to ignite fires is prohibited. Fires may not be left unattended – not for any reason or for any amount of time. It is the responsibility of each party to completely extinguish all fires. Coals must be disposed of in marked containers only! Faire and Plantation Security have final authority where fires are concerned.

Q: Is there a lost and found?

A: Yes. All misplaced items will be turned over to staff at the Registration Booth where they can be reclaimed by anyone having an accurate description of the item in question. Those claiming items may have their ID recorded for major items in case of conflicting claims. Unclaimed items are saved until the end of the year and can be reclaimed during that period by contacting Harvest Faire, P.O. Box 2069, Newport News, VA 23609 or emailing to webmaster@harvestfaire.org – be sure to include a detailed description of the item. Any cost for mailing or retrieving the item must be paid by the claimant. Items unclaimed by December 31 of the same year will be disposed of.

Q: Is there trash removal?

A: Only from Faire receptacles. Littering is not allowed. Dumpsters are provided. All trash and garbage must be placed inside the Dumpster and bags tightly secured. Do not overload site receptacles with trash that should be placed directly in the dumpsters.

Bonfire Etiquette

1. Only the Fire Keeper is allowed to feed the fire. Do not throw trash in fire. Risky behavior with regards to the fire (jumping over it or other antics) is absolutely prohibited and will lead to expulsion.
2. Drumming Leaders control the energy and volume at the circle. All drummers are expected to stay aware of the rhythm and tempo. No announcements or requests are to be made without waiting for the breaks – see Drum Leader.
3. Drummers must be spaced to allow dancers plenty of room to enter and exit the circle at will.
4. Family Time at the Fire Circle will last until 9PM. Children may attend with a parent and may drum and dance with adequate supervision. Special care is required with regard to adult language and behavior.
5. Smoking is only allowed well away and down wind from the circle and audience. No ground-tossing of butts will be permitted.
6. Dancers are not permitted to go inside the fire ring protection circle and drummers are not permitted to encroach on the dance circle.
7. Anyone appearing to be intoxicated will be removed from the area.
8. Standing inside the dancing or drumming circle to warm yourself is not permitted.
9. Water is to be freely offered to dancers and drummers – do not become dehydrated.
10. NO GLASS is allowed at the fire circle or the vicinity at any time during the Faire due to the danger glass poses to bare feet.
11. You may bring personal chairs to drum circle, but remove them when you leave.