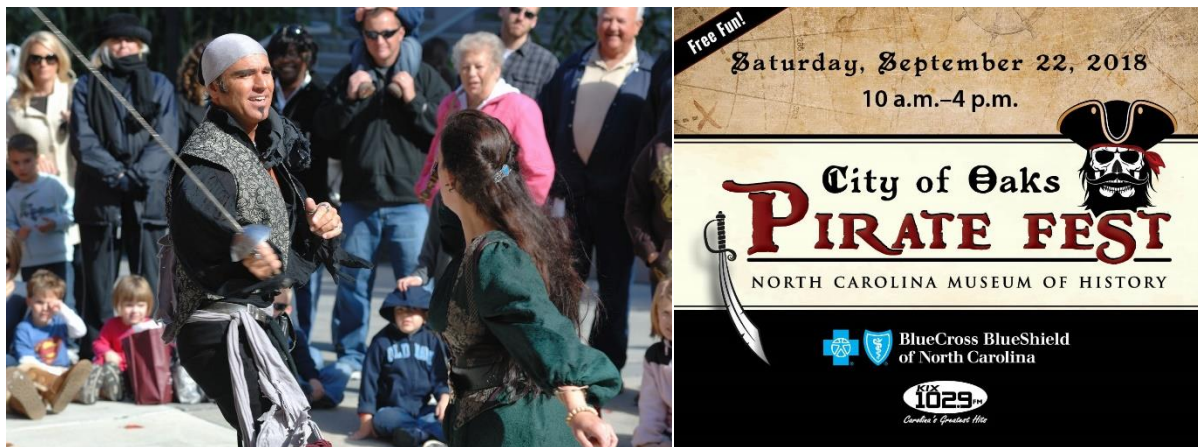


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COME ABOARD FOR THE CITY OF OAKS PIRATE FEST

Saturday, September 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

RALEIGH, N.C. — Avast ye landlubbers! ‘Tis been 300 years since the notorious pirate Captain Blackbeard met his end in the Carolina coast at the hands of the Royal Navy. To mark the tricentennial, the North Carolina Museum of History is introducing the **City of Oaks Pirate Fest**.

This engaging and educational event will invade the Bicentennial Plaza in downtown Raleigh on **Saturday, September 22 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** Pirate Fest will feature dozens of regionally known reenactors, musicians, crafters, and other “old salts,” who will share piratical mischief and maritime history through hands-on activities and live performances. *Parking and admission to the museum and event are FREE.*

Excitement builds throughout the day as pirate bands, reenactors, living history performers, and other presenters fill the museum and Bicentennial Plaza. Children will be busy with crafts and hands-on activities that include balloon artists, face painters, telescope and pirate hat making activities and much more. Throughout the festival, food and beverages will be available on-site from ten local food trucks and Pharaoh’s at the museum.

“The museum is excited to bring one of North Carolina’s most notorious characters to life,” said Ken Howard, director of the North Carolina Museum of History. “The City of Oaks Pirate Fest commemorates 300 years since Blackbeard roamed the Carolina coast and lost his life – and his

head – in a fight with British soldiers. We look forward to treating attendees to a day full of educational activities combined with music, food and fun.”

The festival will kick off at 10 a.m. on Bicentennial Plaza with a performance by the Rusty Cutlass pirate band. During the day, take advantage of many opportunities to learn about the history of pirates in North Carolina. **Here’s a sampling of what you can experience:**

- Sea chanties with pirate bands, including The Motley Tones and the Magic Kingdom’s own Rusty Cutlass.
- Sword fights and swashbuckling games with the Shadow Players Stage Combat Group and the Sword Conservatory.
- Meet Captain Blackbeard and other professional living history performers from up and down the East Coast, including the Colonial Seaport Foundation, the Cannon Crew, and Presenting the Past.
- Hands-on demonstrations with authentic Pirate artifacts.
- Engaging activities, including face painting, pirate trivia, and making your own pirate hats, flags, and telescopes.
- Feasting at 10 local food trucks.

So, mark your calendars for the **City of Oaks Pirate Fest**. For a **full schedule** of all **performances and presentations**, visit NCMOH-programs.com or call 919-807-7900.

This event is supported by, in part, [BlueCross and BlueShield of North Carolina](#) and [KIX 102.9 FM, Carolina’s Greatest Hits](#).

IMAGES: Dropbox link and Credit

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Images courtesy of North Carolina Museum of History

For information about the NC Museum of History, call 919-807-7900 or access ncmuseumofhistory.org or follow on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [Google+](#) or [YouTube](#).

About the N.C. Museum of History

The N.C. Museum of History is located at 5 E. Edenton Street in downtown Raleigh. Hours are Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, noon to 5 p.m. The museum collects and preserves artifacts of North Carolina history and educates the public on the history of the state and the nation through exhibits and educational programs. Each year more than 400,000 people visit the museum to see some of the 150,000 artifacts in the museum collection. The Museum of History, within the Division of State History Museums, is part of the N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.

About the North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources

The N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (NCDNCR) is the state agency with a vision to be the leader in using the state's natural and cultural resources to build the social, cultural, educational and economic future of North Carolina. NCDNCR's mission is to improve the quality of life in our state by creating opportunities to experience excellence in the arts, history, libraries and nature in North Carolina by stimulating learning, inspiring creativity, preserving the state's history, conserving the state's natural heritage, encouraging recreation and cultural tourism, and promoting economic development.

NCDNCR includes 27 historic sites, seven history museums, two art museums, two science museums, three aquariums and Jennette's Pier, 39 state parks and recreation areas, the N.C. Zoo, the nation's first state-supported Symphony Orchestra, the State Library, the State Archives, the N.C. Arts Council, State Preservation Office and the Office of State Archaeology, along with the Division of Land and Water Stewardship. For more information, please call 919-807-7300 or visit ncdcr.gov.

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