

Greetings, Everyone!

Mountain Gateway Museum (MGM) in Old Fort, NC, started a small, outdoor farmers' market on the museum's grounds last year and is seeking your help to expand that market in 2020.

We are contacting as many area farmers, ranchers, orchardists, gardeners, nursery owners, beekeepers, etc., as possible to inform you about our farmers' market and invite you to participate in it. A limited number of craftspeople also are being invited.

Our market will be held from **3 p.m. to 7 p.m. every Thursday, beginning May 7** and tentatively ending on October 1. If there is enough interest in the market, we might decide to extend it for another two or three weeks in the fall. Vendor set-up time will begin at 2:00 p.m., and the final departure time will be at 8:00 p.m. To help you keep your costs down, we are offering our vendor spaces for **FREE!** And you can choose to sell in one of three ways: (1) from the tailgate of your truck parked in one of the spaces along Water Street; (2) in a 12x12 tent space alongside the split-rail fence that parallels Water Street (you provide the tent, table(s) and chair(s) needed; or (3) on the porch of the museum's two late-1800s log cabins.

As founding members of the MGM Farmers' Market, last year's vendors will keep their same spaces in 2020. All new members will be assigned spaces on a first-come, first-serve basis. Vendors will be required to sign a contract to ensure maximum attendance, as well as adherence to all rules and regulations, including those set by the McDowell County Health Department and the NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services. On market days, Mountain Gateway Museum will remain open until 8 p.m., so visitors and vendors can have access to public restrooms and a water fountain inside the museum. Marketgoers also will be able to freely use the museum's outdoor picnic tables and enjoy its free indoor exhibits.

Also, market visitors can fish for free in Mill Creek, which runs through the museum's property. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission has designated Mill Creek as a Heritage Trout Waters area. That means state wildlife rangers regularly stock the creek with trout. As part of the commission's Tackle Loaner Program, anglers can borrow a rod & reel and some lures at the museum's gift shop and spend the day fishing. They just need to leave their driver's license or car keys, etc., as collateral until they return their equipment.

Finally, in addition to promoting the 2020 MGM Farmers' Market, Mountain Gateway Museum will strive to offer free programs or classes on some market days. These will be held either inside one of the museum's log cabins or inside an enclosed tent on the museum's grounds. Program and/or class topics may range from cooking and/or craft demonstrations to proper food preparation to canning techniques. Music may also be provided on some occasions.

If you are interested in participating in the 2020 MGM Farmers' Market, please complete the enclosed application form and either e-mail it to roann.bishop@ncdcr.gov; mail it to Mountain Gateway Museum at P.O. Box 1286, Old Fort, NC 28762; or drop it by the museum at 24 Water Street in Old Fort between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

We here at Mountain Gateway Museum look forward to working with you in this community endeavor. If you have questions about anything, please call the museum at 828-668-9259 and ask for RoAnn.

Best regards,

RoAnn Bishop

Director, Mountain Gateway Museum

Mountain Gateway Museum's



2020 Vendor Application

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE #: _____ E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____

TYPE OF FOOD ITEMS TO BE SOLD: _____

TYPE OF CRAFT ITEMS TO BE SOLD: _____

PREFERRED LOCATION: _____ Parking Space along Water Street (for Tailgaters); _____ Booth Space

for 12x12 Tent (you provide tent); _____ Space on Log Cabin Porch (available first-come, first serve)

ELECTRICITY NEEDED: _____ Yes (a monthly \$5 fee is charged); _____ No

NOTE: *Submission of this form does not guarantee you will be accepted as a market vendor, nor does it guarantee you will receive your preferred space. However, we will do our best to accommodate you. Vendors should expect a response within 10 days of the market manager's receipt of this application.*

Also, please know that if you are accepted as a vendor, you will be asked to sign a simple contract, agreeing to abide by all market rules and regulations and to participate in it on a regular basis.