



84th North Carolina Gourd Arts & Crafts Festival

VENDOR APPLICATION 2026

Hello fellow Gourders!

We are excited about this year's festival being in a new location! We hope you will be able to sell your wares at our upcoming festival. The theme for this year's festival is "Down on the Farm." Please complete the vendor application as soon as possible so we can let folks know you'll be coming with this tight turn-around in a new facility.

You may apply online on our website OR download and print an application and class description forms on our website (<https://ncgourdsociety.org/>). Please supply:

Please allow 48 hours for a confirmation of your application. The festival committee will review your application and let you know if it has been accepted.

APPLICATION DEADLINE

Please submit your application as quick as you can as we are running on a very short turn-around to get students signed up for you classes. We ask that it be absolutely no later than July 15th so that we can get them online and have enough time for students to sign up.

NOTE CHANGE IN LOCATION:

Bethesda Ruritan Community Center
2001 S. Miami Blvd., Durham, NC 27703

EVENT DATES AND TIMES

Saturday, August 29th CLASSES are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (public times are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
Sunday, August 30th CLASSES ARE from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. (public times are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.)

SETUP & BREAKDOWN TIMES

Setup: We will be allowed to use the facility for set up all day Friday, August 28th this year!!
Friday August 28th from 9 a.m. - 7 p.m. or Saturday and Sunday mornings from 7:30 a.m. to 8 am.

Breakdown: Must be complete by Sunday August 30th from 5 - 7:30 p.m.

BOOTH FEES

- The cost of each 12' x 12' vendor booth space is \$75.
- If electricity is required, we must know in advance to ensure there are enough for all vendors as the new location has very few outlets. The vendors must bring their own heavy-duty 25' extension cord and power strips labeled with their names.

TABLE AND CHAIRS

At this new facility, we have to have a rental company deliver and pick up all tables and chairs, so we encourage you to bring your own. If you need to rent them, the charge is \$12 per table and \$3 per chair

Electricity is very limited in this building and we will be setting up the classes where there is access to the two outlets per wall in the building. If you need power, it is available for an additional \$25. If electricity is required, we must know in advance and vendors must bring their own heavy-duty extension cord and power strip labeled with their names.

NOTES:

- Power cutting or carving demonstrations **must** be done outside the building, not inside the building. Use of hand tools, such as chisels or knives, is still permissible inside the festival building.
- All vendors and instructors at the North Carolina Gourd Society festival must adhere to North Carolina laws pertaining to sales of wildlife parts such as antlers and feathers. For more information, contact the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at: <https://www.ncwildlife.org>
- We ask that you send us a photo of your booth/wares and encouraged to post additional photos and details about the what you sell on the NCGS Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/396058368862686> and your own social media .

COMPETITION ENTRY

As part of the festival's goals of both entertaining and educating the public, each vendor is expected to enter at least one competitive category. This helps show the public what can be accomplished with gourds and provides additional exposure for your skills. Note that you may sell competition entries. See the competition information packet for details.

RAFFLE CONTRIBUTIONS

The festival will feature two raffles, one on Saturday and one on Sunday. This event can only take place with your help. Every vendor is required to contribute at least one item to the raffle. The North Carolina Gourd Society is grateful for each contribution, as are the lucky winners. Please bring your contributions to the raffle table during setup hours, fill out the donation form, and include your business card. The North Carolina Gourd Society is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

NCGS FALL QUARTERLY MEETING & BEST OF SHOW AWARDS

You are invited to attend our meeting on Saturday, August 29, 2026 at 5:30 pm in the Festival building after the festival closes on Saturday. A simple dinner of pizza and wings will be provided. This meeting will include several demonstrations and a comparison of QuikWood replacements.

GOURD SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP

Vendors are encouraged to be members of the North Carolina Gourd Society, the American Gourd Society, or any American Gourd Society state chapter. NCGS membership signup is offered on the vendor application or at <https://ncgourdsociety.org/about/pay-your-dues/>

BEST OF SHOW VENDOR CATEGORY

Vendors are encouraged to bring additional displays and table skirting to compete in the Best of Show.

LOCAL HOTEL & RV ACCOMMODATIONS

There are MANY hotels within easy driving distance to our new location. Here are just a few:

Holiday Inn Express & Suites Durham - I-40 (Exit 281) at 4912 South Miami Blvd.

Hilton Garden Inn Research Triangle Park Durham - I-40 (Exit 281) at 4620 South Miami Blvd.

Marriott Hotel Research Triangle Park Durham - I-40 (Exit 281) at 4700 Guardian Drive

Sleep Inn Durham - I-40 (Exit 282) at 5208 Page Road

The closest RV parking is at the NC State Fairgrounds for \$45 a night. To sign up, go to

<https://app.fireflyreservations.com/reserve/property/NCStateFairCampground>.

MEALS

We offer a sandwich combo lunch Saturday and Sunday for \$12 each day which includes a choice of hoagie, a packet of chips, a cookie and a bottle of water. You may order lunch when you apply. There are also several local restaurants within easy driving distance from our new location!

LIABILITY

The North Carolina Gourd Society is not responsible for accidents, loss, theft, or breakage.

NOTE: We continue to allow vendors to share a booth. One person pays the fee but can share with another vendor of their choice. Both vendors must comply with the rules in the vendor information. Vendor fees are not refundable after the August 15th payment deadline unless the Festival Coordinator is able to rent that booth to another vendor.

SALES ITEMS

Most of our vendors sell gourds and arts/crafts made from gourds and/or gourd related items. We will allow vendors of compatible items such as wood burning, baskets, paintings, and polished stones. The Festival Coordinator must approve in advance any sales items that are not gourd related. A detailed description of such non-gourd items must be included on your application. Non-gourd items not approved in advance by the Festival Coordinator may be removed from the vendor's table.

TAXES

Vendors are responsible for North Carolina state sales tax as well as all applicable federal taxes and should have their own tax ID numbers. See <https://www.ncdor.gov/taxes-forms/sales-and-use-tax> for more information.

WILDLIFE

All vendors and instructors at the North Carolina Gourd Society festival must adhere to North Carolina laws pertaining to sales of wildlife parts such as antlers and feathers. For more information, contact the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission at <https://www.ncwildlife.org>

BOOTH COVERAGE

Please plan to have an assistant so you can take a break. Customers can't buy things if there is no one to pay! If we find an unattended booth, we will cover your merchandise with tablecloths and a sign saying "Closed temporarily – returning soon." Please do not ask neighboring vendors to make sales in your booth unless you arrange it with them in advance.

PHOTOGRAPHY

The purpose of the Gourd Festival is to educate and entertain the public about gourds and, accordingly, photography is encouraged. However, if a vendor does not wish to have their items photographed, they can post a clearly visible sign noting "No Photos Please."

DEMONSTRATIONS

The North Carolina Gourd Society encourages vendors to do demonstrations in their booths.

CONTACT US WITH QUESTIONS

Contact us at fleminggourds@yahoo.com or call Judi Fleming at 336-908-6341.

We look forward to receiving your application no later than July 15, 2026. You will be notified within 48 hours of receipt. We hope to see you at the festival in our new location!

Judi Fleming, NCGS Festival Chair
PO Box 279
Summerfield, NC 27358

Thank you for applying to vend at the North Carolina Gourd Arts & Crafts Festival!

Festival Vendor Application

Vendor name (First and Last) _____

Business Name and Website _____

Email: _____

Cell phone: (____) _____

Additional name tags needed: [List each name]

Mailing Address

City, state, zip code:

Product Descriptions

Do you need electricity for your booth? Yes No

NOTE: There are only a few outlets PER WALL in the new facility so please consider the power draw for using multiple heat guns, etc. which may flip the breakers for the whole wall or building!

All vendors MUST bring their own 25' extension cords and power strips.

Any additional comments or requests?

Rental Fees:

Booth space(s) ____ x \$75

Additional 8' tables at \$12 each: ____ tables.

Additional chairs at \$3 each: ____ chairs

This year we are hoping to have a food truck on site! There are also several very close restaurants! Ordering lunch is optional. You may preorder lunches and add them to your payment. The cost is \$12 for each combo (a sandwich, chips, cookie and water). Specify the number of combos each day:

Saturday: Ham ____ Club ____ Veggie ____

Sunday: Turkey ____ Roast Beef ____ Veggie ____

Total: _____

I agree to the terms set out in the 2026 NCGS Festival Vendor Application in this document and on the NCGS website

Date: _____ Signature: _____