



Historical & Genealogical Society

To whom it may concern:

Mountain Craft Days is an event featuring historical crafts and trades, first person interpretation, traditional music, and country foods. The success of Mountain Craft Days has been earned through the quality and variety of its first class offerings. Mountain Craft Days was founded in 1970 to promote, preserve, demonstrate and enhance public appreciation and enjoyment of the historic crafts heritage of Somerset County and surrounding areas.

The event features over 120 juried artisans and entertainers and attracts over 8,000 visitors annually. Artisans pay 10% of their gross sales to Mountain Craft Days. Shelter in the form of a tent or wooden shed is provided along with a table and chair if requested. Artisan space may be a meadow or wooded setting. Mountain Craft Days will work with the artisan to provide a suitable location for their craft demonstration based upon the artisan's particular needs.

Artisans are required to demonstrate and interpret the main aspects of their craft for visitors, therefore it is important to have sufficient helpers to tend sales and assist with the booth. Participants are expected to interact with visitors, answer questions, and share their knowledge of the skills needed to perform their craft and its history. The PA Department of Revenue requires all selling artisans to have a sales tax number. No electricity is available for craft artisans.

Artisans portraying craft from a specific historical period are expected to have period correct historic clothing. If the craft covers a variety of time periods appropriate historic clothing for one of those periods should be worn. Rural heritage theme clothing is to be worn by all other vendors and participants (i.e. food providers, etc.).

As stewards of history, conservers of historical artifacts, and a collection-holding museum, the Somerset Historical Center and Mountain Craft Days do not permit the sale of original antiques, collectables, or architectural components on its grounds.

Food booths are reserved for non-profit organizations within the Somerset County region at this time. Foods must be recipes representative of southwestern Pennsylvania and all food items sold must be approved by the Mountain Craft Days Committee in advance. The food booth may be inspected by the Pa Department of Agriculture during the festival and the organization must have any licenses and requirements as required by that agency.

Applicants may submit a letter in writing or email stating the nature of their craft, the history of their craft as it relates to southwestern Pennsylvania, what aspects of the craft they would be demonstrating, how their booth would be set up, the historical time period in which they would be working, and items they wish to sell to the Craft Selection Committee, Mountain Craft Days, 10649 Somerset Pike, Somerset PA 15501. Photos should accompany the letter and be of sufficient quality and quantity to show the nature of the work. Artisans may be asked to supply pieces of work to the committee for further review. Emails should be directed to info@somersethistoricalcenter.org

Artists are selected by the Mountain Craft Days Committee Jury. Artisans are judged on the quality of their work, the ability of the artisan to interact with visitors, the pertinence of their craft to the Mountain Craft Days theme. Since the quality of the artisans (as opposed to the quantity) is the paramount deciding factor, there is no deadline for application to participate in the Mountain Craft Days festival.

Mountain Craft Days Committee