

Call for Entries to HSV COUNTRY FAIR

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CAPTION: Exhibitors at Hancock Shaker Village's Country Fair, upcoming on the weekend of September 26 & 27, showcase handcrafted items in the beauty of the historic Village. The Village has issued a CALL FOR ENTRIES.

HSV issues a Call for Entries for Country Fair to be held Sept 26 & 27

Popular fall festival invites new and old exhibitors.

Pittsfield, MA..... Hancock Shaker Village announces a call for entries for crafts exhibitors, antiques dealers, food trucks and other exhibitors for its popular fall festival, Country Fair, to be held the weekend of Sept 26 & 27.

This will be the 18th season of Country Fair at Hancock Shaker Village, which has always featured an array of high-quality locally crafted items, a farmers market and a wide array of agricultural products.

“We have soap-makers, paper-makers, weavers, blacksmiths and metal forgers, jewelry-makers, potters and woodworkers, along with an array of fine artists,” says Linda Steigleder, HSV President and CEO. The fair is also known for exhibitors who sell farm and agricultural products, including maple candy and maple syrup, popcorn, candy and chocolates. They’re all great gift items!” she continues.

Applicants are vetted for quality and craftsmanship of the items they intend to sell.

“We’re excited to add retail stores and other purveyors of high-quality consumer products, including area food trucks and other fun options that round-out our offerings at Country Fair,” says Steigleder. “We invite anyone making great food, gift items or high-quality crafts to apply.”

Applicants need only fill out the one-page form, and email a photo of their wares,” she says. The Country Fair application can be downloaded at www.countryfair.hancockshakervillage.org. Questions, call Shawn Hartley Hancock, Director of Marketing at 413-443-0188, x 221.

About Hancock Shaker Village

From 1784 until 1959, Hancock Shaker Village was home to hundreds of Believers in Christ’s Second Appearing, a close-knit sect of Protestants originally from England. They were commonly called Shakers because of the whirling, quaking and “shaking” they exhibited during their religious services.

Since 1960, Hancock Shaker Village has been open to the public as an outdoor history museum preserving the Shaker legacy. While only a few are still living (all at Sabbathday Lake in Maine; none live at Hancock), the Shakers are best-known today for their simple and elegant furniture, many ingenious inventions, communal living and deep spirituality. “Hands to work and heart to God,” a Shaker axiom attributed to founder Mother Ann Lee, sums up their belief that hard work was a form of prayer or devotion to God.

Located on 750 acres in the beautiful Berkshires of Massachusetts, Hancock Shaker Village features a museum collection of more than 20,000 authentic Shaker artifacts and 20 authentic

historic buildings (including the majestic Round Stone Barn) in a preserved and walkable village setting, a working farm with heritage-breed livestock and extensive gardens of heirloom vegetables, flowers and herbs.

Included in general admission:

- *Heaven on Earth*, an exhibition of Shaker artifacts, textiles and furniture from the collections at Hancock, on view in the Visitor Center
- *Modern Wings & Shaker Roots*, an exhibition of contemporary large-scale sculpture exploring Shaker values and aesthetics, on view throughout the Village
- Daily interpreter's talks about Shaker life and practices, in the Brick Dwelling, at 11 am and 3 pm
- Daily Farm and Garden Tour, 12 noon
- Demonstration of the water turbine, Laundry & Machine Shop, at 1 pm
- Shaker music and dance program, in the Brick Dwelling at 1:30
- Ongoing demonstrations by craftspeople, including weavers, woodworkers, blacksmith and oval box makers, throughout the day.
- The mile-long interpreted handicapped-accessible Farm & Forest Trail makes a terrific family hike!
- Indoor and outdoor picnic areas
- A variety of special guided tours are available by advance reservation.

Hancock Shaker Village is open seven days a week, including holidays, from 10 am to 4 pm through June 28. Visitor hours are extended to 5 pm starting June 29 and will remain 10 am to 5 pm through the close of the season on November 1. The Village Harvest Café, serving lunch and snacks, and the Village Store (also online) are both open daily during visitor hours.

Adult admission is \$20 (many discounts apply), youth admission (ages 13 to 18) is \$8, and children age 12 and under are always free on family visits. Scout troops, church and school field trips enjoy reduced group rates. For more information, visit www.hancockshakervillage.org.