

# 39th Annual Big Island Rendezvous & Festival APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE

2025 Oct 2-3 Education Days  
2026 Oct 1-2 Education Days

Oct 4-5 Public Days  
Oct 3-4 Public Days

## Who we are.

We are the Midwest's largest early American history event. Our timeline goes from 1650 to 1880's. Our focus is experiential (hands-on) education and entertainment for all ages. The event is held at Bancroft Bay City Park in Albert Lea, MN. This is a beautiful peninsula that extends into Fountain Lake and features both wooded and open areas.

## New to the event?

Traders and Interpreters wanting to become part of this event are asked to contact us for application. We are continuously looking for new interpreters, demonstrators, traders, food vendors, entertainers, and families. Fill out the attached registration form. Email us if you have questions. **NO PARTICIPANTS ARE ALLOWED TO SET UP PRIOR TO TUESDAY BEFORE THE EVENT UNLESS YOU ARE VOLUNTEERING TO HELP WITH THE FESTIVAL.**

(If setup is required prior to Tuesday, please call, write or e-mail)

## Early registration.

There are benefits to early registration. You will save money and secure a site. See the registration form for our fees and dates.

## Event rules.

To maintain a high-quality event, we must maintain a strict set of rules. **The entire responsibility of this festival AND ALL PARTICIPANTS is to educate our visitors either directly or indirectly.** These include set-up times, quiet hours. Please take time to review the general festival rules as well as those applicable to families, interpreters, traders, etc.

## Questions?

If you have questions that are not answered in this packet, e-mail [Bigislandfestival@gmail.com](mailto:Bigislandfestival@gmail.com) or write us at:

Big Island Rendezvous & Festival, Inc., 132 North Broadway, Albert Lea, Minnesota 56007.



## General Arrival/Departure Rules

	Tues.-Wed. October 1 4	Thursday October 2	Friday October 3	Saturday October 4	Sunday October 5
Times vehicles allowed on site	8:00 AM on	6:00 to 7:30 AM. 4:00 to 8:00 PM	6:00 to 7:30 AM after 4:00 PM	No Time	After 5:00 PM (approx.)

### Arrival/set-up

- Set up only in space designated **AND DO NOT ARRIVE PRIOR TO TUESDAY UNLESS VOLUNTEERING TO HELP.**
- No set-up during event hours, after 10 PM or before 6:00 AM.
- Unload A.S.A.P. and remove vehicle and park in designated area.
- Keep tent ropes out of traffic patterns and service roads.
- Do not dig trenches in or around your camp.
- Fire pits are allowed - when you leave, replace the plug and water it.
- All tents and displayed items must be historically accurate. \*

### During event hours

**The entire responsibility of this festival AND ALL PARTICIPANTS is to educate visitors directly or indirectly.**

- Use only period-correct drinking and eating ware. \*
- Each family is asked to educate the visitors.
- No smoking of non-period cigarettes, cigars, pipes, etc. in public view. \*
- Keep ALL modern (non-period) conveniences out of sight - including enamelware (except in Pioneer Town). \*
- Remain in full period dress (including shoes, coats, eyewear etc.) - let us know if medical problems impact this and we will try to work with you. \*

### At all times

- No fighting or other disturbances.
- Never carry a loaded firearm on site or shoot in unauthorized areas or at unauthorized times. No inline, composite-stocked, or stainless-steel muzzleloaders allowed.
- Keep your fire under control and do not leave it unattended.
- Always keep pets under control and on a leash. Clean up after your pets.
- No gas, electric or battery-powered lanterns.

### Quiet hours

In respect for those who must work, educate and entertain the public during this event, the following quiet hours will be enforced.

- Wednesday - Friday 10:30 PM to 6:00 AM    Saturday – 11:00 PM to 6:00 AM

### When you leave

**NO TEARING DOWN PRIOR TO 4:00 PM WITHOUT PERMISSION FROM STAFF  
PACK UP EVERYTHING PRIOR TO GETTING YOUR VEHICLE.**

- Pick up all garbage around your site.
- Replace plug in fire pit and water it.
- Return all unused firewood to where you originally picked it up.
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## **PENALTIES**

All rules will be strictly enforced. Non-compliance may bring immediate removal from the event. Anyone blatantly disobeying the rules will not be invited back to the event.

***\*It will be YOUR responsibility to provide proper historical documentation for any questionable items in your area/space or on yourself.***

**General** All traders must maintain themselves in a courteous and professional way. Those who do not, or who show blatant disregard for the rules of the festival may be asked to leave the event immediately and not be invited back.

- No sticky tags, rubber bands or plastic bags should be used in display of merchandise. Use canvas or leather scraps.
- No tailgate sales; no basket sales; all traders will pay a fee.
- All items offered for sale must be pre-1840 era, and pre 1880 in Pioneer town area only.
- All tentage, signage, displays racks, shelving must be pre-1840 style, and pre 1880 Pioneer town.
- Credit card signs must be of pre-1840 style and material and pre 1880 in Pioneer town.
- Customers must be 18 years or older to purchase or trade knives, tomahawks, blades, firearms, clay pipes, tobacco, or other smoking-related items.
- Tapes & CDs are allowed, but you must keep them covered with a sign saying the items available. The sign must be pre-1840 style and pre 1880 in Pioneer town.
- No vehicles, trailers or modern vehicles or trailers can be hidden inside tents or lodges.
- Health laws prohibit the sale of some food items that are not packaged. This is admissible. If you use plastic or plastic packaging, contact us and we will address this on an individual basis.
- No screw lid jars or bottles unless they are covered in fabric.

Whips, toy bows and arrows and sling shots cannot be sold.

- Wooden or other toys such as guns, knives, tomahawks, weapons, magnifying glasses, canes containing swords in general **cannot be displayed or sold on education days.**

**Our Trade Committee has set these rules with input from traders, campers, and interpreters. The Trade Committee will address questions regarding trade items.**

Amount paid \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Site \_\_\_\_\_

**BIR&F 2025 Registration Form**

**CHECK HERE IF NEW PARTICIPANT AT BIR \_\_\_\_\_**

Print Name Legibly \_\_\_\_\_ Please check: EMT/RN \_\_\_\_\_ or Dr. \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Day Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Eve. Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of year(s) you have a camp at BIR \_\_\_\_\_ First year you camped \_\_\_\_\_ (1987-2025)

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ CELL PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

License plate numbers & State of all vehicles coming to Event: \_\_\_\_\_

List appropriate Number(s) of vehicles: \_\_\_\_\_ car(s) only \_\_\_\_\_ car(s) and trailer(s)

Approximate date and time of arrival \_\_\_\_\_

(No set-up during event hours or after 10 PM or before 6:00 AM)

SITES ARE APPROXIMATELY 28' x 28' PLEASE PLAN ACCORDINGLY.

**FEES: Pre-registered before July 1st**

- Family Registration \$70.00 + \$5.00/person over 4 people
- Blanket Trader \$80.00 + \$5.00/person over 4 people
- Merchant Trader \$110.00 + \$5.00/person over 4 people

**Registered July 1st-August 31st**

- Family Registration \$80.00 + \$5.00/person over 4 people
- Blanket Trader \$100.00 + \$5.00/person over 4 people
- Merchant Trader \$130.00 + \$5.00/person over 4 people

**Registered after August 31st**

- Family Registration \$100.00 + \$5.00/person over 4 people
- Blanket Trader \$125.00 + \$5.00/person over 4 people
- Merchant Trader \$175.00 + \$5.00/person over 4 people

**TYPE:**  Marquee/Wall  Tipi  One Pole  Wedge  Canoe  Other

**SIZE** of Lodge plus awning etc.: \_\_\_\_\_

*Each adult or family unit must complete a form. If you are staying in another person's camp or want to camp next to a specific person, make note on this form.*

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO BIG ISLAND RENDEZVOUS.

Big Island Rendezvous & Festival, Inc., 132 North Broadway, Albert Lea, MN 56007.

**ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE SIGNED IN ORDER TO BE PROCESSED**

I have read the rules and agree to abide by them. I agree that Big Island Rendezvous & Festival, Inc. is not liable for loss, damage or injury to me, family, guests, property or anyone else under my care before, after or during the course of the event. I will hold harmless, Big Island Rendezvous & Festival, Inc., and any representatives, volunteers, staff or otherwise, for losses resulting from acts or omissions or those of my minor children or guest's children. I also agree that any images or recordings of family, guests, property or I may be used to market and promote Big Island Rendezvous & Festival, Inc. at no cost.

Print Name Legibly \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_