

36th Annual Big Island Rendezvous & Festival APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE

2022 Sept 29-30 Education Days
Oct. 1-2 Public Days

2023 Oct 5-6 Education Days
Oct 7-8 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. Call us at 1-800-658-2526 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.

In order 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, call 1-800-658-2526, e-mail pvining@smig.net or write us at:

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



General Arrival/Departure Rules

	Tues.-Wed. Sept 28-29	Thursday September 30	Friday October 1	Saturday October 2	Sunday October 3
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 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.
- Keep pets under control and on a leash at all times. 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 WRITTEN 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.

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 historic documentation for any questionable items in your area/space or on your person.***

Traders Rules*

Who are the most important people at a rendezvous? They are the participants. The second most important people are the visitors that come see what we do. If we do a good job of entertaining them, some of them will join our ranks. If we do a poor job of entertaining them, they will probably never come again.

If the visitor first sees the trinkets and inappropriate items, the mental image they get reflects on all of us. If the first thing they see is a flea market, cheap carnies, freak show then we probably will not be able to change their mind. Rarely are these items flattering to behold. On the other hand, participants purchase items from the quality traders, as do the visitors. These items are generally purchased out of necessity or pride of ownership.

Most of us that have spent a lot of our lives collecting, learning, and showing what we have accomplished by attending rendezvous and educating the public, which helps all of us. To us, rendezvous is almost a spiritual way of life. Although none of us will ever be truly period correct to the nth degree, we all fit somewhere between the visitor who is interested and the participant who really gives it his all. The last thing we want to see is some participant taking the vitality out of the event purely for the almighty dollar.

Traders rules need to encourage the good traders. Sometimes it is easier to just develop a list of unacceptable items, rather than assume good intentions. No list can be complete or appropriate for every event. Please use the following list as a possible guide. It will be enforced by a trader rule committee of impeccable personalities and disputes or discrepancies to be handled professionally, not emotionally.

Participants that receive a warning from the Trade Committee, and do not comply with their request, they will not be invited back to Big Island Rendezvous and Festival.

Here is a simple check to see if an item should be allowed or not.

Do most participants purchase this item either periodically or regularly to enhance the rendezvous experience?

If not, then it should be considered unacceptable.

General rules:

Obviously any Federal, State, Tribal, and local law must take priority even if the item is period correct. Things like eagle feathers and other sensitive artifacts will be treated with respect and total compliance with the law.

All trade goods should be of pre-1840 design and materials. Certain concessions for safety are acceptable only when a reasonable pre-1840 and pre-1880 in Pioneer town item cannot be substituted. Example (Co2 ball discharger) If the item is of a post 1840 design or pre 1880 in Pioneer Town and materials it should be discreetly offered for sale via signage but not openly displayed.

Tapes, CD's, and videos that are packaged in plastic etc. or modern glossy four-color prints should be covered at all times.

Contemporary artwork and artistic depictions of Native American and Early America subjects should be of the period, on canvas. No depictions with fluorescent, chrome, or iridescent paint should be sold or displayed.

Jewelry should be documented to the period. Cheap trinket necklaces are unacceptable. It goes without saying that plastic beads and fluorescent feathers should also not be offered for sale.

Packaging, price marking and advertising should be made of pre-1840 (pre 1880 in Pioneer town) materials like leather, wood or paper. No plastic, Styrofoam, cellophane etc is allowed to be displayed. Stock items stored in modern packaging must be kept out of sight or covered at all times (blankets, books and patterns in plastic cases.)

Whistles and toy noise makers are not appreciated by anybody.

"UNACCEPTABLE" items:

African Bead Work- Jewelry, art

Aluminum mugs

Antler Art- Chandeliers, candleholders, non-period carvings, exotic carved, etc

Artificial Sinew- Is accepted as a thread, not a decoration

Arts and Crafts animals must be from North American Continent

Audio Tapes- Not openly displayed (period books are ok)

Australian Goods- Musical instruments, cloths

Badges- Texas Ranger and Regulator Badges are acceptable in Pre-1840 area and only Pre-1880's badges in Pioneer town.

Baja pullovers with hoods or pockets

Ballpoint Pens unless disguised in a quill. No wooden body or animal heads

Bead Work- Taiwan, doll necklaces, miniature beaded moccasins, plastic, Fima, no imported finished beadwork **other than Canadian**

Belt Buckles- Any modern design

Belts- Anything modern

Bird Houses- decorated or painted gourds

Boot knives or Pakistan knives of the fantasy nature

Buckskin or cloth halter tops or dance hall dresses except in Pioneer town.

Candles- Anything modern, scented, colored

Cap Guns including pop guns rubber band guns. Any toy that shoots a projectile.

Ceramics- Modern vases, cups, pots, masks

Chinese ring neck feathers (these are late 1800's)

Cigarette Lighter Cases or Covers

Civil War Era Goods except in Civil War area

Claws and Teeth- Any illegal animal or animal not in keeping with the spirit of the rendezvous

Clothing- Non-period zippers, plastic buttons, nylon

Copper- Bracelets or other jewelry stamped with tipi or thunderbirds

Cork (Pop) Guns

Cowboy Era Goods- Clothing, riveted jeans, hats, boots except in Pioneer town

Crafts- Non-period

Crystal Ball- Necklaces, earrings (claw, hand, wizard)

Dolls- Modern porcelain, rubber, Kachina, plastic parts, etc. except "period-correct"

Dream Catchers (steel ringed and wooden rings) - Wall display, earrings, necklaces

Enamel Ware (except in Pioneer town), aluminum ware, and cast ceramics in any area

Fake fur hats and bags

Fantasy jewelry or fantasy pewter...no dragons or wizards

Fart Spoons

Fasteners- Snaps, Velcro, zippers

Feathers- Unnatural colors, illegal birds of prey, etc. (feathers dyed natural colors are ok)

Fima- Beads and jewelry

Fish Assholes- (Spaghetti O's relabeled)

Flags that are not period correct

Flutes-No bamboo or cane or tin whistles. Ceremonial Native American Pipes are acceptable

Food Items- Excluding small food items

Furs- Fake, dyed bright colors, fake coonskin caps

Fuzzy animals or dyed rabbit feet. Natural color is ok

Glasses- "John Lennon" sunglasses with plastic ear or nose pieces

God's Eyes- Or other glass objects of a modern decorative nature

Guns- Non-period revolvers and toy pop guns (cap lock rifles, Patterson ok) Pioneer town will accept firearms from pre 1880 (Henry Rifle, Spencer Rifle and Cartridge Colt Revolvers are ok)

Hangers- Modern, wire (wood with metal hooks ok)

Hat tacks, Pins, - No modern design

Hats- Non-period hatpins, tacks, fake fur hatbands

Horns- Exotic carved or raw, horns that are not native to North America

Horse Shoe Puzzles

Imported Beadwork except Canadian

Incense/Scented- Oil In modern containers

Inline ignition system firearms or those with composite materials or stainless barrels

Key Chains- Any, including Rabbit foot, turkey foot

Knives- "NON-PERIOD, folding fishing knives, plastic handles, multi-colored handles, snap sheathes, Pakistan-type with unnatural handles, boot knives, Malaysian-style kriss knives (wavy blades), Stainless Steel Knives will not be sold or displayed

Lanterns- Pakistan-type (brass with etched glass), kerosene lanterns

Magazines, Books- Not openly displayed (period books are ok)

Mandalas

Masks- Any modern design

Mexican Blankets- fluorescent colors (old colors like Rio Grande are ok)

Modern Jewelry- Rings, necklaces, earrings (excluding wedding rings)

Money Clips- Any modern design

Noise Makers- Any modern design, bamboo flutes, hand drums with two twisting beads, magnets, rotating drums. (Harmonicas and Jews harps are acceptable)

Novelty Items- Road Kill items, rubber animals that jump out of a box, rattle snake eggs
 Oval Conchos- Oval Conchos is a later period than the Fur Trade. Pioneer town will allow pre-1880 Concho designs.
 Pencil Sharpeners- No modern metal
 Pendants- No modern metal
 Photo Booths- Non-period
 Plastic- Beads, bags, hatbands, charms, canteens, buttons, harmonicas, hair pipe. There are good replicas of animal parts to replace the ones on the endangered list are acceptable.
 Quilts- Discretionary item
 Reconstituted- Antler, and bone items
 Road Kill/Joke Items- (Does not mean fox, coyote, badger, and other assorted critters found on the highway)
 Rubber- Rubber band guns, Native American items, insects or animals, yes this includes rubber snakes
 Sheepskin can cover
 Stained Glass – jewelry and novelty items
 Stainless steel items such as knife blades or cooking pans
 Stones- Polished stone jewelry, modern cut stones, onyx jewelry, Hematite, Magnetite, Zingers. Polished stones are acceptable
 T-shirts
 Turquoise and Coral- Jewelry-modern cut or production. Strung turquoise and coral beads and nuggets are acceptable
 Turquoise set in silver, including rings, pendants, and bracelets
 Utensils- chrome items with or without antler handles (ice cream scoops)
 Velcro Items
 Weber Grills and similar camp stoves with long legs...9”
 Welded Items-Unless you grind out visible welds (stoves, braziers, folding grills)
 Wooden or toys that resemble original or reproduction functional weapons
 Wooden snakes (ordinary garden snake varieties are acceptable)
 Zippers, snaps or Velcro on clothing

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 **Civil War Era Sutler? Call**
- 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 for 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. **Civil War Era Sutler? Call**

- 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, or 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 you may have regarding trade items and are the final say on any trade rules *These rules subject to change without prior notice.*

*** Trade Committee: David Johnson, and Christine Jameson**

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Amount paid _____ Check # _____ Date _____ Site _____

BIR&F 2022 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 _____

E-mail _____ CELL PHONE: _____

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

Names of family or guests participating _____

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 _____