

Charlottesville Festival of Cultures Cultural Exhibit Project

The Charlottesville Festival of Cultures celebrates the cultural and linguistic diversity of our community in a respectful environment. It is a place where people of different cultures can meet and learn about each other.

Why: To show and teach other people about your country or culture and to create an opportunity for conversation and learning about each other in a respectful environment. In order to respect all who are here, we request that exhibits do not focus on political issues.

When and Where: You will set up and host your table at the Festival of Cultures on Saturday, May 8, 2010. The Festival runs from 10:00am – 4:00pm; you should plan to set up around 9:30am.

How to create an exhibit:

1. As soon as you decide you want to have an exhibit, turn in your application form. If and when we have the forms, the Festival organizers can help to connect people from the same country so that you can work together.
2. Write to your embassy, tourism office, or other appropriate organizations to request materials and information for an exhibit. They are usually happy to provide many things.
3. Determine who in your group will prepare each piece of the display. Also decide who will host the table at what times. Every group member should be responsible for doing and bringing something.

4. On the day of the Festival, as people approach your table, welcome them in your native language and in English, and explain your display. Ask them if they have any questions. Act as though you are welcoming them into your home in your native country; be warm and hospitable. Remember that you are educating people about your country.

5. Ideas for what to include in your exhibit:

- A map showing the location of your country (world map or your country and the bordering countries only)
- Real objects that represent various aspects of the culture (crafts, ceramics, metal craft, rugs, traditional clothing, etc.)
- The flag of your country
- Food that is traditional in your country (pictures or display only; you cannot offer food to others at the Festival because of Health Department regulations)
- Photos showing the geography or special aspects of the country
- Posters to present the culture, sports, holidays, geography, primary products, etc.
- Historical information
- A survey questionnaire about some aspects of your country or culture. People who fill it out correctly may be eligible for a small prize from your table.
- A traditional game or activity from your country.
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