



WILD AMERICA
NATURE FESTIVAL

LOCAL FOOD COOK-OFF PROSPECTUS
JULY 29 & 30, 2023

THE FESTIVAL

The Wild America Nature Festival is hosted by Panama Rocks Scenic Park. The festival's mission is to raise awareness of wild America through education and art, encourage sustainable enjoyment of the environment, and promote conservation of our natural world.

The Local Food Cook-Off at the Wild America Nature Festival is intended to highlight local, sustainably grown food and the farms that they come from. Vendors will be able to sell food at the festival as well as have one competition dish that will be entered and judged in the competition.

We restrict the number of food vendors to ensure that all vendors have the opportunity to enjoy strong sales.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

Restaurateurs, caterers, and individuals who create ***at least one original dish with food using at least 75% local ingredients*** and who agree to be present to sell that food may apply. **Vendors may sell other food items that do not use local food**; however, vendors may not sell pre-made commercially available food (with the exception of beverages and/or chips).

FOOD VENDING DETAILS

Vendor spaces are located on the grounds of Panama Rocks Scenic Park, a unique natural environment in Chautauqua County. Vendor spaces 10' x 10' are available for \$150 – a few spaces 20' (wide) and 10' (deep) are available on a limited basis. If you require additional space please contact the festival to discuss options. Vendors must provide ALL of their materials. No kitchen space, tables, chairs, floor surfaces, or tents are provided. This is an outdoor festival, please plan accordingly.

We ask that you use recyclable or biodegradable plates and utensils.

Please list on application contract ALL electric items you intend to use and the amps/wattage they use. Please conserve energy; if your needs exceed our supply, we reserve the right to ask you to unplug appliances.

Your vending space must demonstrate a high level of professionalism. No messy backspace storage will be tolerated. Exhibitors will be assigned a specific set up time that they must honor. Unloading may occur at or near the assigned space but parking is away from the exhibit area. Pets are NOT allowed on premises.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE, FEE AND CONTRACT

You must fully and accurately represent the complete range of food that you wish to sell.

Applicants must separately send by US Mail **ONLY** a signed show contract and a festival fee check. Applications will become complete only upon receipt of the Show Contract and Show Fee check. Checks should be made out to Panama Rocks, please write "Wild America Nature Festival Application" in the note section of your check. **The deadline for receipt of the contract and show fee is April 30th.** There is no refund for festival fees. No post-dated checks will be accepted. Bounced show fee checks may result in automatic disqualification.

Vendors participating in the Local Food Cook-off at the Wild America Nature Festival will receive two (2) Adult Weekend Passes and two (2) Youth Weekend Passes to the Wild America Nature Festival, a \$45 value.

The festival will notify applicants of their status via E-MAIL. Be sure the e-mail address you provide is the one you check most often. Show fee checks from declined applicants will be returned.

FOOD COOK-OFF

Vendors participating in the local food cook-off competition must create one dish (made up of one entree and at least one side) that features 75% locally produced food to be entered into a food cook-off competition.

Vendors **MUST** provide small tasting plates of their competition dish for festival guests that are to be sold for \$1.00 to \$6.00 per sample. Vendors are strongly encouraged sell larger versions of their competition dish (full meals) and sell other meals as well.

Two awards will be given to one or more vendor(s):

- 1) Wild America Local Food Cook Off Champion
- 2) People's Choice Award

The winner of the Wild America Local Food Cook Off Champion award will be determined by a panel of judges who will taste a sample of each competition dish, discuss the dish with the food vendor, and select winners based on taste, presentation, and amount of food in the dish that is local and sustainably produced (certified organic food is preferred).

Festival guests will have the opportunity to vote for the winner of the People's Choice Award.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Education through classes and workshops is an integral part of the Wild America Nature Festival. Participating vendors are encouraged teach workshops or classes at the festival by separate application.

SALES TAX COMPLIANCE

Vendors are individually responsible for collecting and reporting New York State Sales Tax if applicable. Most food items for human consumption are not subject to sales tax in New York State. The best way to secure your NYS Tax Certificate, if required, is to go online and we urge you to allow plenty of time for processing. Go to: www.nys-permits.org. Note that the State requires you to apply no sooner than 90 days and no later than 20 days prior to the event.

FOOD PERMITS

Food vendors **MUST** have a food permit. Vendors can obtain a Temporary Food Permit from the Chautauqua County Department of Health. The Wild America Nature Festival will take place outside and we will not provide vendors with kitchen space but we will have sinks available for washing. Please plan accordingly.

We recommend that food vendors prepare cook-to-serve meals (ie: meals that are not pre-cooked, refrigerated, and re-heated – excluding baked goods like breads, cakes, and pastries) unless you have a mobile kitchen (or food truck). Vendors are required to meet all permitting requirements of Chautauqua County with their own materials and supplies. Please call the Chautauqua County Department of Health AS SOON AS POSSIBLE if you have any questions or concerns about their permitting process.

DO NOT arrive at the festival without completing the permitting process. The Health Department will not allow you sell anything without a permit and they will inspect all vendors! Fees double if not processed one week in advance. The phone number for the Chautauqua County Department of Health is 716-753-4481.

INSURANCE COMPLIANCE

Food vendors will be required to have their insurance agent mail/email/fax a certificate of insurance to us, *AFTER you are accepted by the festival.* **If we do not receive your certificate by June 30th we reserve the right to give your space to another vendor.**

OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS

We consider your application a commitment to attend and participate if you are selected. Accepted applicants are expected to participate with the full understanding of all the terms and conditions listed.

Additional festival information will be sent via e-mail to accepted applicants at least one month prior to the festival date. Applicants are urged to print hard copies of both the Prospectus and Contract and retain one copy of the Contract for their own files.

WAIVER OF LIABILITY

By submitting this application, you agree to take full legal liability and responsibility for the safety of yourself, your property, your employees and/or assistants, and all festival guests and their property due to your involvement in the festival. You release from any and all legal liability and agree not to sue or make a claim against, and to indemnify, defend and hold harmless the Wild America Nature Festival and Camp-At-The-Rocks LTD (Panama Rocks), and all owners, officers, members, agents and employees, lessors and

lessees of these organizations for any and all claims for damage, injuries, death to myself or any person or property, including all defense costs, attorney's fees, and other expenses of any type, without limitations, caused by or resulting from ordinary negligence of Camp-At-The-Rocks LTD (Panama Rocks) and from your actions or presence at the Wild America Nature Festival and Panama Rocks Scenic Park. By submitting a contract to the festival, you acknowledge that you have carefully read this agreement and fully understand its contents and the terms. This contract shall be legally binding upon you, your heirs, your estate, assigns, legal guardians, and your personal representatives. Any legal action relating to the Wild America Nature Festival or Camp at the Rocks LTD will be brought in the New York State Supreme Court, County of Chautauqua, or the United States District Court for the Western District of New York.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Exhibitors and vendors can enjoy the many wonderful local accommodations that Chautauqua County has to offer. The Chautauqua County Visitor's Bureau lists local accommodations at www.tourchautauqua.com.

QUESTIONS MAY BE ADDRESSED TO:	MAIL YOUR CONTRACT AND FEE(S) TO:
Jonathan Weston Owner and Manager, Panama Rocks Scenic Park jonathan@panamarocks.com	Wild America Nature Festival Panama Rocks Scenic Park PO Box 219 Panama, NY 14767