

Takoma Park Folk Festival

Sunday, September 11, 2005

Fact Sheet

The Takoma Park Folk Festival is an annual, one-day event celebrating the folk arts and the Takoma Park-Silver Spring community. The event features 7 stages of folk music and dance, a juried crafts show, children's activities, international food, and community-group tables. The 28th annual FREE Festival will be held on Sunday, September 11, at the Takoma Park Middle School, 7611 Piney Branch Rd, Takoma Park, Md.

Over 27 years, TPFf has become one of the signature events of the year in Takoma Park. The festival attracts 6,000-8,000 attendees from the local and regional communities.

The Festival is a multicultural event. We have musicians, dancers, and storytellers performers from (or performing in the traditions of) South America, Latin America, Africa, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, and Asia. Go to www.tpff.org to learn more about our performers.

We are also alcohol-free and family-friendly. Our Grassy Nook Stage is the mecca for young families—as we offer high-energy, interactive children's performers all day. Next to this stage is a shaded area for children's games that is organized and operated by local Cub Scouts.

The Festival performers, volunteers, and attendees mirror the cultural diversity of the Takoma Park and Silver Spring neighborhoods.

TPFF, Inc. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization (Federal tax ID #52-1592405) comprised of local citizens. A portion of our proceeds from the sale of food, booth space, and children's games is given to organizations and programs that support local youth and that have applied to the Festival to be official beneficiaries. These groups (PTAs, high-school clubs, sports leagues, day-care centers, etc.) supply roughly half of the 240 volunteers on Festival Day.

The performers at the Festival are not paid; neither are any members of our Board of Directors nor committees. However, it costs more every year for site and tent rental, shuttle buses, publicity, Web-site design, and professional-quality sound. Sponsorships and grants are needed to maintain and improve the quality of the event.

For several years, TPFf has received grants from the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County and the Maryland State Arts Council. Supporters and sponsors in 2004 included *The Washington Post*, Washington Adventist Hospital, Takoma Park Street Festival, Long & Foster Realtors/Takoma Park, Columbia Union College, Strayer University, American Express Financial Advisors, Starpower, and WETA-FM 90.9. The Festival received in-kind support from the City of Takoma Park, Montgomery County Recreation Department, Class Acts Arts, Sign Language Associates, Chevy Chase Bank, Washington Adventist Hospital, Jordan Kitts Music, the *Gazette*, the *Takoma/Silver Spring Voice*, the Institute of Musical Traditions, and the Folklore Society of Greater Washington.