

Cultural and Community Activities

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Article:

Two of the most basic forms of leisure expression, which are sometimes overlooked by students of recreation and parks management, are cultural arts and community activities. These are, respectively, activities that express and explore our heritage and activities that give us a sense of community. Examples include: theater productions performed by community members for community audiences; local museums and art galleries that display exhibits making us more aware of whence we came; Fourth of July celebrations; festivals that celebrate the ethnic roots of North Carolinians; trips to the North Carolina Zoological Park; and neighborhood block parties with food, games, song, and fellowship.

Given the independent spirit of North Carolinians and the diversity of ethnic, racial, and religious groups in our state, the need for cultural events and community activities is considerable. These activities help us express what we are, what we have been, and what we want to be. They serve as a counterforce to the independent, competitive, and aggressive activities that are so much a part of our popular culture.

The personal and social benefits derived from involvement in cultural and community activities can be substantial. Examples of such benefits are enhanced self-esteem for the participants in a flower festival, cultural pride derived from visiting a historical museum, mental growth and development for the observer of a living history display, social enhancement for the revelers at a madrigal dinner, satisfying entertainment for the audience at the performance of a community brass band, and increased physical fitness for participants in a dance performance. In addition to the personal benefits, it would be hard not to argue that these activities also help make us more caring, compassionate, and tolerant as a society.

Although most people have an understanding of what is meant by community activities, the term "culture" can cause a good deal of confusion. Although culture is a broad term, in this chapter it will be used in a limited sense. We will discuss only those aspects of culture that involve bringing people together to express a shared sense of heritage and community. We will not discuss aspects of popular culture such as mass spectator sports, television, popular music, films, books, and videos.

A new study from the John Walker College of Business at Appalachian State University reveals that North Carolina's non-profit arts industry provides \$723 million annually and nearly 7,000 full-time jobs. Undoubtedly, the for-profit sector (including artists, education, the film industry, the informal arts, and festivals) will add billions of dollars to complete the picture of the economic impact of the creative industry in North Carolina. Cultural tourism is the fastest-growing segment of the tourism industry, up 13 percent between 1996 and 2002, according to the Travel Industry Association of America. In July 2003, North Carolina was named one of the top ten states for cultural and heritage tourism. In addition, more than one million North Carolinians- nearly one of every eight citizens- are active arts supporters, members, or volunteers. The economic value of cultural volunteerism is an impressive \$130 million. Meanwhile, arts funding is dynamic. Each grant dollar invested by the North Carolina Arts Council is matched by \$24 of other local funding.

Cultural activities in North Carolina provide multiple benefits to individuals, families, communities, and the economy. Park and recreation professionals should have an understanding of and appreciation for the

importance of these benefits, as well as an awareness of the resources available to provide quality programs and services.

Government Involvement

Local park and recreation agencies, as well as some state and federal agencies, play a key role in the provision of cultural and community activities. Park and recreation agencies must be aware of the resources available at the local, state, and national level in order to take advantage of the technical and financial assistance opportunities that exist.

Community Resources

Most park and recreation professionals think of municipal and county departments as the foundation for community leisure services. The extent to which these agencies provide cultural programs and resources will vary greatly across the state. Some departments provide mainly sports and athletic programs while others offer broader opportunities in cultural programs, events, festivals, and arts facilities. For example, the Cary Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department changed to its current name to recognize the strong cultural programs component that exists in its delivery of leisure services. Many park and recreation departments have cultural resource divisions and supervisors within their organizations and offer programs and instructional classes in music, dance, drama, arts and crafts, and other hobbies. They also offer festivals, concerts, and a variety of cultural events. These departments often cooperate with other local arts organizations to provide these opportunities.

Interagency Cooperation

The trend today is toward interagency cooperation. Rarely is one agency the sole sponsor for a cultural arts program or community event. Smaller communities must rely upon combining resources with other government agencies, non-profit organizations, and commercial businesses to continue providing high-quality cultural opportunities. In addition, there is considerable pressure for these programs to be financially self-sufficient; and many departments are engaging in corporate and business fund-raising to supplement departmental resources and program fees.

A major cooperating agency for many departments is the local arts council/commission. There are approximately 103 local arts councils in the state, and each is an important player in interagency cooperation. Arts councils provide a significant resource for local park and recreation departments, primarily in terms of arts expertise. Arts councils are also a good resource for technical assistance, volunteers, judges, and facilities. Many councils are also the designated local funding agency for grants for the arts. Funding opportunities are available from the North Carolina Arts Council to local arts councils, and park and recreation departments can take advantage of these matching grants and incentive programs.

An example of interagency cooperation is Silver Arts, an arts program created by North Carolina Senior Games, Inc. for adults aged 55 and better. Designed as "a celebration of the creative expression of seniors in North Carolina," this program has provided a stage for the creative talents of visual, heritage, literary, and performing artists. Silver Arts is offered through the fifty three local Senior Games held throughout the state and complements the traditional sports and athletic events.

Each local Senior Games is sanctioned by North Carolina Senior Games, Inc. (NCS(3)), and a primary requirement for sanctioning is the demonstration of interagency cooperation. The Silver Arts showcases and competitions are usually presented by a variety of agencies: park and recreation departments, senior centers, arts councils, community schools, cooperative extension, schools and universities, libraries, and local businesses. In Davie County and Winston-Salem, the park and recreation department and the local arts council are equal partners, utilizing the public library and a private art gallery for their shows. In Greenville, the community schools program and the local arts council are cooperating partners. New Hanover County and Wake County combine the resources of senior centers and park and recreation departments.

Agencies that have never worked together before are discovering that the Silver Arts program creates a spirit of cooperation and a sharing of resources beneficial to all involved. Older adults benefit by having a quality arts program, and the community and the agencies benefit by combining efforts rather than competing for resources and participants. The only program of its kind in the nation, Silver Arts is truly a model of quality arts programming.

Other cultural events and community activities are used for fund-raising for educational, charitable, health-related, and social service programs. For example, each December the Greensboro Symphony performs holiday concerts in the Triad where food donations are taken in lieu of admission fees. The food is distributed to the hungry through the Salvation Army in the Piedmont Triad. WGHP-Fox TV and WMAG Radio organize the event, which is co-sponsored by Sealy, Inc. and Old Dominion Freight Lines.

State Resources

In a previous chapter we described some of the leisure services provided by our state government. Our discussion focused on agencies involved with regulatory and land management responsibilities. In this chapter we discuss state agencies that are primarily concerned with cultural programs.

Department of Cultural Resources

The Department of Cultural Resources provides significant cultural and historical opportunities throughout the state. The mission of the Department of Cultural Resources is to "enrich the cultural, educational, and economic well-being of North Carolina's citizens and visitors. We do this by working to enhance the availability and quality of our state's historic, library and artistic resources" (<http://www.findnc.org/department/cultural.html>). This is the agency that oversees the work of the North Carolina Museum of Art, the North Carolina Museum of History, the North Carolina Symphony, the North Carolina Arts Council, the Division of Archives and History (which is responsible for the state's historic sites), and the State Library of North Carolina.

The **North Carolina Museum of Art**, located in Raleigh, receives direct funding from the legislature and has attracted the attention of individual contributors and corporate sponsors. The museum's paintings and sculpture represent more than 500 years of artistic heritage. The museum also presents changing exhibits, lectures, workshops, family festivals, films and videos, outdoor theatre, and performing arts events. In addition, the museum has established, on approximately 164 acres of land, an Art and Nature Park. The park's purpose is preserving open space, restoring various ecosystems, and introducing creative and accessible programs of art, education, and recreation to the public. Park and recreation students and faculty at North Carolina State University are collaborating with museum staff on interpretive trail design, signage, and special events. The Art and Nature Park is unique in the United States and will be a model demonstration of the blending of parks and art in nature.

The **North Carolina Museum of History**, also located in Raleigh, features exhibits on all aspects of the state's history. The North Carolina Historical Time Lines provide visitors with education and entertainment concerning the important events in North Carolina's rich history. The Sports Hall of Fame gallery is a treat for sports enthusiasts. The museum captures the cultural significance of the state's history and exhibits the music and heritage arts of our past.

Although the **North Carolina Symphony** is a private, non-profit corporation, it receives direct funding from the legislature. The sixty five member orchestra, founded in 1932 as the first state-supported symphony, uses Meymandi Center Hall (in Raleigh) as its home base but spends most of the year touring the state, providing concerts and performing for school groups.

The **North Carolina Arts Council** provides both technical and financial assistance to organizations and individual artists throughout the state. The majority (\$6.2 million) of its \$7.8 million budget is made available to local non-profit organizations through matching grants fund arts programs and events. Local parks and

recreation departments may qualify for funding under its Grass Roots Program. The impacts of the Arts Council in 2002-2003 were:

- Over 9.5 million people participated in projects funded by the Arts Council.
- Projects were funded in ninety eight counties in North Carolina.
- Grants went to 826 organizations, of which 448 were arts organizations and 334 were schools and community and civic groups. Grants also went to 145 individuals.
- Each dollar awarded by the Arts Council was matched by twenty four other dollars, many generated directly by the Council's grant.

The Department of Cultural Resources is also responsible for twenty seven state historic sites. These are special sites that have significant historical and cultural value and need to be interpreted to the public and preserved. The following are some examples:

- **Tryon Palace** in New Bern served as the capitol and the residence of Governor William Tryon when North Carolina was a colony.
- **Alamance Battleground** near Burlington was the site of a 1771 battle between Royal militia and Regulators (armed backcountry farmers).
- **Bennett Place** near Durham is where General Joseph E. Johnston and General William T. Sherman met and signed surrender papers for Confederate armies in the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida.
- **Brunswick Town** near Southport was a colonial seaport burned by British troops in 1776.
- **Fort Fisher**, located three miles south of Kure Beach, was the site of the largest land-sea battle fought during the Civil War until the fort fell in 1865.
- At **Reed Gold Mine**, located near Concord, gold was discovered in 1799. The site includes underground mine tunnels and a reconstructed ore-crushing mill.
- **Historic Bath**, located near Washington, was the first incorporated town in the colony and was the home of the pirate Blackbeard.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources administers such resources as the North Carolina Aquariums, the State Park System, and the North Carolina Zoological Park, all reflections of North Carolina's rich history and culture. The **North Carolina Aquariums**, located on Roanoke Island near Manteo, at Pine Knoll Shores, and at Fort Fisher on Kure Beach, are designed to enhance people's understanding and appreciation of North Carolina's coastal areas and marine resources. Educational opportunities allow visitors to see, touch, and experience North Carolina's unique coastal ecosystems and marine wildlife. Displays include sea turtles, horseshoe crabs, sea otters, sharks, and moray eels, to name a few. Also available are gift shops featuring items with a coastal theme and coastal craft workshops.

The mission of the **North Carolina State Park System** is "to conserve and protect representative examples of the natural beauty, ecological features and recreational resources of statewide significance; to provide outdoor recreational opportunities in a safe and healthy environment; and to provide environmental education

opportunities that promote stewardship of the state's natural heritage" (<http://ils.unc.eduiparkproject/nc-parks.html>).

The North Carolina Zoological Park, located in Asheboro, was the nation's first state-supported zoo. In addition, it is the largest walk-through natural-habitat zoo in the United States. The zoo owns an additional 900 acres of land for future development within the Uwharrie Mountains, which are considered to be one of the oldest mountain ranges in the world.

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services

The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Affairs administers the **State Fairgrounds** (site of the State Fair held each October) as well as shows, craft fairs, and concerts throughout the year. Today the State Fair educates the public on the importance of agriculture in their daily lives and in North Carolina's economy. In addition, the State Fair provides the opportunity to experience music and crafts that reflect the state's rich heritage. The **North Carolina Farmers Markets**—located in Asheville, Charlotte, the Piedmont Triad, Lumberton, and Raleigh—offer a variety of local fruits, vegetables, and flowering plants in addition to seasonal events and activities (such as pumpkin carving, spinning and weaving demonstrations, and wreath-making workshops).

The University of North Carolina System

The cultural arts and community activity contributions of the sixteen campuses of the UNC System are varied. In addition to being a major provider of sports and sports entertainment, our universities and colleges contribute significantly to the cultural life of the state. They provide concerts, plays, and art shows as well as serving as local "parks" with their gardens and walkways. The following are examples of some of the activities, events, and facilities provided by the various campuses of the University of North Carolina that enhance the cultural environment of the State:

III The Botanical Gardens, set aside by the University of North Carolina at Asheville, are ten acres of indigenous plants and trees native to the Southern Appalachian Mountains. The Botanical Gardens serve as a laboratory for students, a wildlife refuge, and source of enjoyment for visitors.

- On the campus of North Carolina A & T University, the **Mattye Reed African Heritage Center** houses one of the finest collections of African artifacts in the United States.
- At the **Morehead Planetarium and Science Center**, located on the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill campus, astronauts were once trained in celestial navigation. The planetarium offers a variety of programs, shows, and exhibits to educate the public about astronomy.
- At North Carolina State University, the **Craft Center** offers classes, materials, equipment, and work space for students and area residents. With looms, woodworking equipment, pottery wheels, a kiln, and a photographic lab, the Craft Center provides instruction for beginners and a place for advanced craftsmen to work.
- Each summer the School of Music at The University of North Carolina at Greensboro offers the largest university music camp in America. The two-week **Summer Music Camp** offers programs in band, mixed chorus, orchestra, and piano to students from around the country and world.

The North Carolina School of the Arts (NCSA) in Winston-Salem, a member of the University of North Carolina System, deserves special attention. This campus, serving both high school and college students, exists primarily for the purpose of developing artists and fostering the performing arts. To be admitted, students must pass an audition in one of the school's primary areas: dance, music, theater, or drama. The School of the Arts has a commitment to touring and outreach. Its programs enrich the cultural life of many areas of the state and the region while providing its students with valuable performance experience. Through its Community Public

Performances program, NCSA students perform at community colleges, historic sites, art museums, and other venues. NCSA has an ongoing relationship with several North Carolina communities to perform chamber music concerts. Some of these communities include: Chapel Hill, Hendersonville, Wilmington, Davidson, Raleigh, and Charlotte. NCSA's dance students tour eight to ten North Carolina schools each year to perform, its music students visit thirty elementary schools per year, and more than 100 students and faculty participate in over seventy performances during the summer at the Illuminations at Roanoke Island Festival Park in Manteo, North Carolina.

Although this section has focused primarily upon the contributions of the UNC System, a number of private universities in North Carolina also contribute to our cultural heritage and resources. For example: the internationally acclaimed **Eastern Music Festival** takes place at Guilford College in Greensboro for six weeks each summer; Mars Hill has the **Rural Life Museum** and features a fall music festival; Louisburg College annually hosts the **Franklin County Folk Festival**; and at Duke University, one can tour **Duke Chapel** and the **Sarah P. Duke Memorial Gardens**.

Federal Resources

The federal government is involved in making cultural arts and activities more widely available to millions of Americans and in preserving our cultural heritage for present and future generations. The major federal resource for cultural arts funding to the state has been the **National Endowment for the Arts** (NEA). The NEA supports and invests in hundreds of artistic endeavors in cities and towns throughout the country. The North Carolina Arts Council receives about \$702,300 from the NEA to support its Partnership Agreement activities. The NEA's Folk Arts grants support state, regional, and local folk arts positions and their related activities, including statewide apprenticeship programs, documentation initiatives, and arts learning projects. Access to Artistic Excellence grants support the creation and presentation of work in the disciplines of dance, design, folk and traditional arts, literature, local arts agencies, media arts, multidisciplinary, museums, music, musical theatre, opera, presenting, theatre, and visual arts. In 2005, nineteen North Carolina organizations were awarded \$1,114,800 in NEA grant awards.

The following sites demonstrate the federal government's contribution to our understanding and appreciation of North Carolina history, culture, and heritage:

- **Great Smoky Mountains National Park** offers a Pioneer Homestead that depicts pioneer life through reconstructed log buildings and exhibits.
- **Cape Hatteras National Seashore** on the Outer Banks includes the village of Ocracoke (where Blackbeard was slain) and the historic lighthouse.

MI Wright Brothers National Memorial (near Kitty Hawk and Kill Devil Hills) commemorates the work of Orville and Wilbur Wright, who made the first powered aircraft flight on December 17, 1903.

- **Moore's Creek National Military Park**, about twenty miles northwest of Wilmington, is the site of a battle fought in 1776 by patriots against British loyalists.
- Marching bands from **Camp Lejeune Marine Base** and **Fort Bragg Army Base** give concerts and participate in local festivals, parades, and celebrations.
- **Guilford Courthouse National Military Park** in Greensboro was the site of a pivotal Revolutionary War battle in 1781.

The Link with Commercial Recreation and Travel and Tourism

In many cases, cultural events and community activities generate revenue and are closely associated with commercial recreation. In some cases, a cultural activity is intended to serve only the local community, while in

other situations, it is intended to attract visitors from other sections of the state or nation. In this way, these events not only provide local community recreation but also support tourism. In fact, tourism dollars may provide the financial support to keep the event alive and growing. In this way, a community event and a tourist attraction become melded, thereby providing an experience for everyone.

Festivals and special events are held to celebrate many aspects of the life of a community. They may celebrate a religious or secular holiday, historic event, or person of significance in the life of that area. There may be an annual fair held as an outgrowth of agricultural harvests or to highlight local manufacturing. Events may be seasonal, perhaps tied to nearby sporting contests or hunting seasons. The event will quite likely reflect the ethnic or religious heritage of the area or celebrate its cultural diversity. Some events are created for educational or recreational purposes, the enjoyment of local citizens, or to raise money for a charitable reason. Others are intended to promote the community to people outside the area. Hosting a fair, festival, special event, or local celebration reflects the cultural face of a community and demonstrates its vitality. and livability.

While festivals and events may have been started for a number of reasons, many began as small, local celebrations and have grown to be large events attracting numerous locals and community visitors. Local communities are realizing the importance of these events and celebrations in terms of community cohesiveness, positive public relations, regional awareness, and economic impact. The number of events continues to grow each year, and at this time the events held annually in North Carolina are in the thousands. The **North Carolina Division of Tourism, Film, and Sports Development** helps to publicize such events statewide through its annual publication, *North Carolina Calendar of Events*. People can request this booklet and other travel materials by calling their toll-free number (1-800-VISITNC).

The following selective list of these events and (I activities is divided in to the following categories: local festivals, ethnic heritage programs, outdoor dramas, arts and craft.' snows, living histories, community gardens, historic preservation, and Elderhostel.

Local Festivals

- Carolina Dogwood Festival in Statesville
- Bull Durham Blues Festival in Durham
- North Carolina Strawberry Festival in Chadbourn
- Honeybee Festival in Kernersville
- Firefly Festival in Boone
- Blessing the Fleet Festival in Hobucken
- National Hollerin' Contest in Spivey's Corner
- Mayberry Days in Mount Airy
- Wright Kite Festival in Kill Devil Hills
- Azalea Festival in Wilmington
- Barbecue Festival in Lexington
- Spot Festival in Hampstead
- North Carolina Shakespeare Festival in High Point
- Riverfest in Bryson City
- Grape Escape Art & Wine Festival in North Wilksboro
- Woolly Worm Festival in Banner Elk

Ethnic Heritage Programs

- African American Heritage Festival in Sedalia
- Old Time Fiddler's & Bluegrass Festival in Union Grove
- 3 King's Day Festival (traditional Spanish celebration) in Goldsboro
- Oktoberfest in Hickory
- International Family Folk Festival in Burlington
- Native American Heritage Festival and Powwow in Charlotte

- Annual Multi-Cultural Festival in Lexington
- North Carolina Celtic Festival and Highland Games in Winston-Salem

Outdoor Dramas

- *The Lost Colony* in Manteo
- *Unto These Hills* in Cherokee
- *Horn in the West* in Boone
- *Listen and Remember* in Waxhaw
- *Worthy Is the Lamb* in Swansboro
- *From This Day Forward* in Valdese
- *First in Freedom* in Halifax

Music, Arts, and Crafts

- Annual Storytelling & Crafts Festival in Beech Mountain
- Dew in the Valley Arts and Crafts Festival in Maggie Valley
- Lazy Daze Arts & Crafts Festival in Cary
- Music of the Mountains in Lake Toxaway
- Tar Heel Craftsman's Fair in Kill Devil Hills
- Christmas Fantasia Arts and Crafts Show in Wilmington
- Flat Rock Music Festival in Flat Rock
- Arts & Crafts on the Run in Banner Elk
- Annual Gospel Singing by the Lake in Waynesville
- Art in the Park in Blowing Rock

Living Histories

- Since 1925 the **John C. Campbell Folk School**, located in Brasstown, has been teaching students about traditional folk art, music, crafts, and dance.
- Pan for gold at **Reed Gold Mine State Historic Site**, just southeast of Concord. You can also see the mine's operating ore-crushing mill and walk its underground tunnel.
- A tour on the **USS North Carolina Battleship Memorial** or attending the Battleship's summer evening light show takes one back to World War II, when the USS North Carolina proudly sailed the seas. This battleship was considered the greatest sea weapon of its day.
- In **Historic Cherokee** one can experience the culture and history of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians through their art, dances, and language.
- A living history encampment, weapons demonstrations, and skirmishing take place at the **Bentonville Battleground State Historic Site** on the anniversary of this significant Civil War battle.
- **Old Salem** is a living history restoration of the Moravian community called Salem that was started in 1766. One can tour the buildings, museums, and gardens to experience how the Moravians lived during the sixteenth century.
- **The International Civil Rights Museum**, opening in Greensboro in 2005, will feature numerous exhibits, including the lunch counter from Woolworth's where four North Carolina A&T University freshmen were refused service. Many believe the Woolworth's Sit-In launched the civil rights movement in North Carolina and was a defining moment nationally.

Community Gardens

- **Sarah P. Duke Memorial Gardens** on the west campus of Duke University provides a variety of spectacular gardens and a lily pond.
- **Elizabethan Gardens** on Roanoke Island are an imaginative recreation of a sixteenth century Elizabethan pleasure garden.
- Wilmington's **Airlie Gardens** provide the visitor with a chance to stroll around and through its spacious lawns, gardens, lakes, and centuries-old live oak trees. It is particularly magnificent during the spring when the azaleas, camellias, and dogwoods are at their peak.
- **Daniel Boone Native Gardens** in Boone offers six different garden areas with native plants and rustic architecture.
- **Tanglewood Park Arboretum and Rose Garden** in Clemmons showcases a variety of plants from around the world. It features an accredited All American Rose Garden that has 800 rose bushes. The Arboretum has audio stations to enhance the experience for individuals with visual impairments.
- **Waterworks Visual Art Center's Hamlin Sensory Garden** in Salisbury enables visitors to experience the various scents, textures, colors and shapes of plants during all four seasons of the year. Descriptions of plants are labeled in both English and Braille.

In addition to these and other formal gardens, numerous garden or house and garden tours are conducted in many communities throughout the state.

Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Heritage Programs

North Carolina has a culturally diverse population, and many groups across the state celebrate their diversity annually. Native Americans, African Americans, Moravians, Quakers, and Scottish Americans offer a variety of programs and resources designed to entertain and educate the public about their ethnic heritage. Examples of Native American offerings include:

- **Charlotte Nature Museum** in Charlotte offers collections of historic materials and an Indian Studies Program.
- **Guilford Historical Museum** in Greensboro and the **Schiele Museum** in Gastonia offer Native American artifacts, dioramas, and interpretive workshops.
- The outdoor dramas *Unto These Hills* at the Cherokee Indian Reservation.
- **Lumbee Homecoming** during the week of July 4th in Pembroke.

Examples of African American cultural attractions include:

- **St. Phillip's Church** in Winston-Salem, the oldest standing African American house of worship in North Carolina.
- **Somerset Place**, near Albermarle, where reunions are held for descendants of property owners and slaves.
- **Historic Stagville**, near Durham, preserves elaborate cabins and a mule barn built by highly skilled slave carpenters.
- **Diggs Museum**, in Winston-Salem, exhibits paintings, sculptures, photographs, and other crafts.

- **National Black Theater Festival** in Winston-Salem attracts thousands of spectators and participants from all over the world.
- **Carolina's Black Family Reunion** in Charlotte.
- **The International Civil Rights Museum** in Greensboro houses artifacts and exhibits of the civil rights movement.

Moravian history in the state is recreated in many locations, including:

- **Old Salem**, a living history village in Winston-Salem that provides tours, lectures, art exhibits, and interpretive programs in a faithfully restored eighteenth century town founded in 1776. Interpreters dressed in period costumes demonstrate historic activities and trades.
- **Bethabara Park** in Winston-Salem, the first Moravian settlement in North Carolina. This park features a museum and a reconstructed colonial community and fort. A reenactment of a Revolutionary War encampment happens here each May.

Quaker historic sites in the state include:

- **The Cane Creek Quaker Meeting** was established in Alamance County in 1751.
- **The New Garden Meeting House** in Greensboro was founded in 1754.
- **Guilford College**, founded in 1837 as a Quaker institution, houses an extensive library collection of Quaker publications and historical materials.
- **Mendenhall Plantation** near Greensboro, a restored plantation and a part of the Underground Railroad that helped slaves escape to freedom.

Scottish clans host gatherings in several parts of the state to celebrate their heritage. These include the **Highland Games and Gathering of Scottish Clans** at Grandfather Mountain near Linville in July of each year; the **Lake (Loch) Norman Games** near Charlotte; and the **Red Springs Games** in Red Springs (Robeson County). These games feature athletic events, music, and dance, all in celebration of participants' Scottish ancestry. In addition, Franklin is the home of the **Scottish Tartans Museum**, the first built outside of Scotland. In the last decade, North Carolina has seen a significant growth in the number of Asians and Hispanics/Latinos who have chosen to call North Carolina home. **The Asian Chess Tournament** held in Charlotte, the **Hung Gar Kung Fe Academy** in Mooresville, and the **Turku** (which features rhythms of cultures along Central Asia's fabled Silk Road) in Brasstown are examples of how Asians are beginning to showcase their culture within the state. Examples of Hispanic cultural opportunities include **Out of Bounds: Contemporary Hispanic & Latino Art** (held in Boone) and the **La Fiesta Del Pueblo**, North Carolina's biggest Latino festival (held on the State Fairgrounds in Raleigh).

Historic Preservation

In a number of communities throughout the state, concerned people have worked to preserve the historically and architecturally significant structures that reflect North Carolina's heritage. Some examples include Old Salem, Thalean Hall in Wilmington, historic Halifax, the Dentzel Carousel in Raleigh's Pullman Park, historic Hillsborough, Charlotte's Spirit Square, the Elizabeth City historic district, the Carolina Theatre in Greensboro, the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, and the USS North Carolina (docked at Wilmington).

Elderhostel

Elderhostel, a national non-profit organization, offers adults age 55 and older a chance to visit an educational institution for a week and take classes on a variety of topics and interests. Programs are held in classrooms, museums, environmental education centers, boats, trains, and forests. The first Elderhostel programs in North Carolina were held in 1977 at Appalachian State University, UNC-Chapel Hill, and UNC-Charlotte. Current locations include Appalachian State University, Blue Ridge Community College, College of the Albermarle, Guilford College, John C. Campbell Folk School, Lees-McRae College, Mars Hill College, Montreat Conference Center, Old Salem, Inc., Pamlico Community College, the Summit Episcopal Center, Trinity Conference Center, UNC-Wilmington, UNC-Chapel Hill, and Western Carolina University. North Carolina was the first state to offer multi-generational programs for grandparents and grandchildren and was the first state to offer programs sponsored by a craft/folk school (John C. Campbell Folk School in Brasstown, North Carolina).

Summary

Cultural and community activities help us express our heritage and feel a sense of community in a fast-paced, competitive world. Local park and recreation agencies are involved with these activities by directly providing them (direct provision approach) or by supporting the sponsoring agencies and organizations (facilitator approach).

The North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources—through the Museum of Art, the Museum of History, the North Carolina Symphony, the state Arts Council, and the state's twenty-seven historic sites—is a significant provider of historic and cultural events and facilities. It should be mentioned that many cultural or heritage events, celebrations, or attractions are offered through partnerships between public and private agencies. Many events (including craft fairs, folk music festivals, military reenactments, outdoor dramas, and contests) take place at the community level and reflect a high degree of personal involvement.