

Bacchanalians, Blackfryars and Independents - Oh My!

August 1 marks two weeks to Opening Day, and the hubbub and busy-ness onsite are increasing daily. While we all know the best part of every Faire Day is the carefully curated and hand-crafted wares on offer in the 114 Merchant shoppes and by the specially selected Guest Merchants across the shire, we mustn't ignore the contributions of the entertainers of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire. The cast has arrived and they are in full rehearsal mode around the grounds. They can be found on various stages and in the lanes working to create their characters, learning lines and music, and generally preparing for the fun and fantasy of the first days of Faire.

The full-time, professional Bacchanalian Acting Company consists of actors, singers and dancers from across the country who portray historical and iconic and archetypal Elizabethan characters. The Bacchanalians perform swashbuckling swordplay shows, Shakespearean dramas, interactive improvised scenarios, and rollicking music and dance numbers.

The Blackfryar Acting Company is comprised of part-time experienced actors, enthusiastic novices with no prior theatre experience, college students, senior citizens and everyone in between! This cast is primarily responsible for bringing the working Tudor village to life by creating interesting and fun 16th century characters.

The stages of the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire come to life with scores of unique independent entertainers, including musicians, magicians, jugglers, fire-performers, comedy acts, and more. These itinerant performing acts come and go throughout the Faire season, providing variety and spice to the daily life of Mt. Hope.



MERCHANT COORDINATOR ONSITE HOURS

Through Aug 7	M-F 8:15a -4:15p
August 8-9	9:30a-6:00p
During Run of Faire	W-F 9:00a-5:00p
Faire Days	8:00a-9:00p

Shirewide News & Updates

The roster of Merchants of the Realm and Guest Merchants has been updated on the website. Visit parenfaire.com and browse to the Faire page. Use the dropdown menu featured at the top to jump to the Merchant segment. If, as a Guest Merchant are not listed, please let your Merchant Coordinator know - you will be added to the list as long as your invoice is paid in full for the season.

Tent Set-up Begins August 8 for Opening Weekend

Schedule your Check-in and Set-up Date and Time

MERCHANTS OF THE SHIRE utilizing **TEMPORARY STRUCTURES** and **ALL GUEST MERCHANTS** who are participating in Opening Weekend may begin **Set-up Saturday, August 8.**

Without exception, **ALL MERCHANTS** setting up a **TEMPORARY STRUCTURE**, absolutely must **Check-In** with the **Merchant Coordinator** to be shown to your spot and receive your Merchant Packet. This means you **MUST make an appointment with your Merchant Coordinator IN ADVANCE** of your arrival on site for set-up.

If you are found to have set-up without checking in, you could be asked to strike your set-up and begin again, if you aren't in the correct location or within boundaries of your assigned spot.

Please use the QR CODE to schedule your set-up date and time.

There will be **NO SATURDAY SET-UPS**
as of Opening Day, Saturday, August 15.
Do Not Ask for an Exception.
NO EXCEPTIONS for Saturday Set up.
Period.



MERCHANTS OF THE SHIRE with PERMANENT STRUCTURES

Merchant Packets are available as of August 3.
Contact your Merchant Coordinator by text 813.760.1469 or email
r.harrison@parenfaire.com to arrange to receive your Packet.

When does your Certificate of Insurance expire? If you answered "In August 2026" or "Ooops, it's already expired!" please get it renewed and deliver an updated copy to your Merchant Coordinator before Opening Day. An emailed PDF is the perfect format, though a paper copy will suffice.

Once again, **please welcome** to Mt. Hope these ten new full-time, permanent Merchants of the Shire:

Emerald Music (I & III)
Lady Adia Creations
Norsskal
Rabenwald Metalsmything
Rigr Crafts & Viking Jerks Beard Care
Sunfeather Studio
Sweet Eloise
The BardWare Store
The Motley Line
Vildnfri Artisans - the Viking Encampment

These savvy businessfolk have taken on the fulltime commitment to the Pennsylvania Renaissance Faire and its Festival season at Mt. Hope and we are pleased to have them join us on a permanent basis.

Passes, Parking & Camping

Merchant Business Owners MUST secure Participant Passes and Parking Passes for their employees.

All Faire Participants must enter the Faire grounds from Participant Parking located in the "Back 40" through the Participant Access Gate at the Joust. This gate will be staffed by PRF Security prior to and during operational hours.

The Main Gate is not available for Participant Entry prior to 11:00am on a Faire day. Drop offs should occur at the Participant Parking area.

Anyone **driving** onto the Faire grounds should expect to be asked to show their Participant Pass at the Joust Gate on Faire Days.

- ALL Participants MUST show their **Participant Pass** for entry onto the Faire grounds and should carry their Pass at all times while working onsite.
- ALL vehicles parking in Participant Parking MUST display a **Parking Pass**.

As of August 15, Trailers must be parked at The Farm. Please make arrangements for Weekend Parking or Seasonal Parking.

Overnight Parking is not available to Participants unless booth camping has been approved for the merchant's booth, or under certain conditions.

Booth Camping must be registered with the Merchant Coordinator, and is available only to permanent structures with appropriate facilities.

There is no onsite camping permitted for Guest Merchants. Please secure overnight accommodations offsite.



MERCHANT PORTAL

Find a myriad of information on the day-to-day business of being a Mt.

Hope Merchant by visiting:

parenfaire.com/merchantportal

The portal includes forms for Participant Pass and Parking Pass Requests, Trailer Parking info and Agreement Paperwork, as well as the updated Merchant Handbook, Guest Merchant Handbook and Handbook Acknowledgement forms.

Merchant Check-list

Important Items To Do Before Opening Weekend...

- ☐ Pay Invoice for Booth Fees
- ☐ Request Participant Passes
- ☐ Request Parking Passes
- ☐ Send updated COI (if expires in August) to Merchant Coordinator
- ☐ Sign up for Set-up Date & Time (if Guest or Temp Structure)
- ☐ Check-in with Merchant Coordinator for Merchant Packet Pick-up
- ☐ Review Merchant Handbook
- ☐ Sign Handbook Acknowledgement
- ☐ Confirm Booth Camping with Merchant Coordinator
- ☐ Arrange Trailer Parking - Weekend or Seasonal Storage



Complimentary Ticket Update

Complimentary Tickets for Faire will now be delivered as **paper tickets** rather than as a ticket link and code, as previously noted in this newsletter. They will be

A link to purchase a limited number of additional tickets at a discounted rate, will soon be provided for all Faire Merchants.

The Complimentary Ticket Policy has been updated as of June 15, 2026.

- Full-time Merchants will receive four (4) comp tickets per booth for the Faire.
- Guest Merchants who participate in four (4) or more weekends of the Faire will receive four (4) comp tickets to the Faire.
- Guest Merchants who participate in fewer than four weekends will receive two (2) comp tickets to the Faire.



Discount Ticket Procedure

Discount Price:

Aug 15-Sept 13 - \$31.95

Sept 19-Oct 25 - \$36.95

\$3.00 per ticket service fee applies.

Four tickets per Merchant

Discount Ticket requests must be submitted by the Monday at Noon prior to the date being requested.

Approved tickets will be processed in the Faire's Box Office System and placed On Hold. An email will be sent to the requesting individual containing a payment link. Holds must be claimed online through their Box Office account by entering their payment. This is the only method of payment permitted.

Once payment is received, an order confirmation email with ticket links will be sent.

Ticket holds will expire at 4PM on Friday prior to the ticketed weekend and tickets will be returned to public inventory at that time.

Visit the MERCHANT PORTAL to find the DISCOUNT TICKETS LINK

By the Numbers

Guest Merchants onsite for Week One: 33

New Full-time Merchants of the Shire: 10

Merchant of the Shire booths: 114

Bacchanalian Acting Co. Members: 26

Blackfryar Acting Co. Members: 43

Independent Acts : 65+

