

# St. George Annual International Festival

Saturday, Dec 9, 2023

10:00am-4:00pm

## Embrace a World of Flavors and Cultures

St. George Orthodox Church in Pharr, Texas, invites you to a cultural extravaganza like no other! Saturday, December 9, 2023, we will host our Annual International Festival, promising a delightful journey through diverse cultures, flavors, and entertainment.

## A Culinary Odyssey

One of the highlights of the festival is undoubtedly the culinary experience it offers. Food enthusiasts and explorers of all palates will find themselves immersed in a tantalizing array of cuisines from around the world. Here are just some of the cultural delights awaiting your taste buds:

- 1. Greek Delights:** Indulge in the authentic flavors of Greece with dishes like baklava, pastitsio, and dolmades.
- 2. Romanian Treasures:** Savor traditional dishes that will transport you to the heart of Eastern Europe, including our homemade meat-rolls and stuffed cabbage.
- 3. Hungarian Delicacies:** Experience the hearty and flavorful Hungarian cuisine, such as goulash and paprikash.
- 4. Turkish Temptations:** Discover the intricate flavors of Turkish cuisine, including Turkish coffee.
- 5. Russian Comfort:** Warm up with Russian comfort food classics.
- 6. Ukrainian Comfort:** Ukrainian cuisine brings hearty comfort foods like pierogies and borscht to the forefront.

## A Feast for the Senses

Beyond the delectable food offerings, the festival promises a day filled with family-friendly entertainment. From live performances that celebrate the diversity of cultures and lovely holiday-themed music and activities, we also have regional booths with a vast selection of local gifts for your shopping pleasure and informational tables to learn more about our area. There's something for everyone to enjoy!

## Get Involved

The St. George Orthodox Church Annual International Festival is not just an opportunity to savor global flavors but also a chance to give back and be part of a vibrant community event. The organizers are seeking volunteers to assist with various aspects of the festival, from cooking food to hosting booths and performing. If you're interested in showcasing your culinary skills, cultural talents, or want to contribute your time to this wonderful event, booth rentals and volunteer opportunities are available. For more information on reserving booth space, performing, or volunteering, don't hesitate to contact St. George at: [StGeorgePharrTX@Gmail.com](mailto:StGeorgePharrTX@Gmail.com).

## VOLUNTEER FAQ

We're thrilled that you're interested in getting involved and making this year's festival a memorable experience. Below, we've answered some of the most common questions to help you get started.

### 1. What is the St. George International Festival?

The St. George International Festival is an annual festival hosted by St. George Orthodox Church, in Pharr Texas. The festival has been held annually each December since the 1980's. Members of St. George are multicultural and offer the local community a vibrant celebration of cultures from around the world. It's a day filled with delicious food, lively music, colorful performances, local vendors selling holiday items for yourself or gifts.

This is the largest fundraiser for the church each year, and funds ongoing parish needs, improvement projects and ministries.

### 2. How can I volunteer for the festival?

There are several ways to get involved! You can:

- **Sponsor a Food Table:** Donate ingredients for a specific booth's cuisine. Contact the festival committee to donate!
- **Get Cooking:** We need many hands in the kitchen to assist with food preparation.
- **Host a Table:** On the day of the festival, be the smiling face behind a food table, serving **and sharing your love for a specific culture's dishes.**
- **Volunteer for other needs:** such as cleaning and selling at other tables
- **Donate to the event:** Tent rental, tables and chairs rentals, performance stage rentals, etc.

### 3. Do I need any special skills to volunteer?

No special skills are required! Just bring your enthusiasm, a willingness to learn, and a love for cultural diversity. We'll provide training and guidance as needed.

### 4. How can I sponsor a food table?

To sponsor a food table, simply sign up with the festival committee and choose the country or culture you'd like to support. You'll receive information about the ingredients needed, and you can contribute what you can.

### 5. Can I volunteer with friends or family?

Absolutely! Volunteering with friends and family can make the experience even more enjoyable. You can choose to work together on the same task or even represent different countries and share your experiences afterward.

### 6. What's the time commitment for volunteering?



The time commitment varies based on your chosen role. Cooking and food preparation might require a few hours leading up to the festival, while hosting a table will be during the festival itself, typically a half-day shift.

### **7. I don't have time to volunteer in person, but I want to help bake. Can I bake items at home?**

Yes! We understand that not everyone has the time to volunteer in person, and we greatly appreciate your willingness to contribute in other ways. Baking bread or cookies at home and donating them to the Annual International Festival is greatly appreciated.

- Select a bread or cookie recipe that represents a specific culture or country. Traditional recipes are encouraged, but creative interpretations are also welcome.
- Make sure to prepare a reasonable quantity, as your goodies will be shared with festival attendees.
- If you can, please package your baked goods in a way that keeps them fresh and presentable. You can use decorative containers, bags, or boxes.
- Include a note or label with a brief description of the ingredients and the cultural significance of your baked goods. Share a fun fact or story about the recipe or the country it represents!

### **8. What's in it for me?**

Volunteering at the Annual International Festival is not only a great way to give back to your community but also an opportunity to learn about different cultures, make new friends, and have fun while doing it. Plus, you get to enjoy some amazing food!

### **9. How do I sign up to volunteer?**

Signing up is easy! Complete the volunteer form in the St. George Hall, the online form: <https://forms.gle/eRjm8jeWaxDgRLd89> or send an email to [StGeorgePharrTX@gmail.com](mailto:StGeorgePharrTX@gmail.com)

### **10. Is there anything else I should know?**

Just volunteer with a positive attitude, wear your favorite culturally expressive clothing, flag, or color, and be ready to have a blast while contributing to the success of the St. George Annual International Festival. Yet, be mindful that the following are not acceptable: flags or other symbols of political parties, movements, or organizations, flags or other symbols of political alliances, nationalistic slogans, any photos or messages of a sexual nature, etc.

## Festival Details

### 1. Is there an admission fee to enter the festival?

No, the St. George International Festival is free to attend! Food and drinks are available to purchase, but our church tours, vendor booths and entertainment are all free for the community to enjoy.

### 2. How do I know the prices for meals at the food booths?

Each food booth will have clear pricing displayed for their meals as well as a full menu of all the food menu offerings at the Information and Ticket Desk. Prices are typically indicated for individual dishes or combo meals.



### 3. Can I purchase meal tickets in advance to save time at the festival?

Yes, we highly encourage attendees to purchase meal tickets at the ticket booth to expedite the ordering process. This can help you skip the line and enjoy your food faster.



### 4. Where can I buy meal tickets?

Meal tickets can be purchased at the festival's Information Booth, conveniently located near the entrance. Look for the booth with the "Meal Tickets" sign.

### 5. What are the benefits of buying meal tickets in advance?

Buying meal tickets in advance ensures you have a seamless experience at the festival. You won't need to worry about carrying cash to each booth and you can go directly to the food booths with your ticket.



### 6. Do I need to use meal tickets for every food booth, or can I pay with cash or card directly?

While meal tickets are the preferred method of payment, some food booths may also accept cash or card payments. However, using meal tickets is more convenient and helps support the festival's operations, and avoid delays.

### 8. What if I have leftover meal tickets after the festival?

Meal tickets are non-refundable, so be sure to purchase only what you plan to use. Your contribution goes towards supporting the festival church initiatives.

## Entertainment Guidelines - Annual International Festival

At the Annual International Festival, we believe that entertainment should reflect the rich tapestry of cultures and traditions from around the world. Here are some guidelines and information about our entertainment selection process:

### 1. Cultural Diversity and Holiday Themes:

We encourage entertainers to showcase their cultural diversity or offer performances related to holidays from various cultures. This adds depth to our celebration and allows attendees to experience the global mosaic of traditions.

### 2. Family-Friendly Performances:

Our festival is a family-friendly event, and we aim to provide entertainment that is

suitable for all ages. Performances should be engaging, enjoyable, and free from explicit content.

### 3. Entertainment Selection Process:

Our Festival Committee carefully reviews each performer's act to ensure it aligns with our guidelines. We consider factors such as cultural authenticity, appropriateness for a family audience, and the potential to enhance the festival's atmosphere.



### 4. Embracing our Diverse Cultures:

We value and celebrate diversity in all its forms. Performers from various cultural backgrounds are encouraged to share their talents and traditions, fostering a sense of unity and understanding among festival attendees.

### 6. How to Apply as an Entertainer:

If you are an entertainer interested in performing at our festival, please submit your act for consideration to our Festival Committee, via the online form: <https://forms.gle/5YqDoo8HnZkCCBd66> or via email to [StGeorgePharrTX@gmail.com](mailto:StGeorgePharrTX@gmail.com)



We believe that entertainment is an integral part of the Annual International Festival, and we're excited to showcase the talents and traditions of performers who help make our event a memorable experience. Thank you for contributing to the vibrant cultural tapestry of our festival!

# Vendor Guidelines - Annual International Festival

Below are the steps to apply as a vendor:

## 1. Review our Guidelines:

Vendors should be family-friendly, feature holiday themes or cultural diversity, and sell items that are appropriate for our diverse audience. We kindly request that vendors do **not** sell hot food items or beverages.

## 2. Submit Your Application:

Complete the [online application](#) that includes the following information:

- Your business name and contact information.
- A description of your products or services, emphasizing their cultural or holiday relevance.
- Application Link: <https://forms.gle/XWME5LD4DoUz1JwY9>

## 3. Application Review:

Our Festival Committee will review all vendor applications to ensure they meet our guidelines and align with the spirit of the event. We prioritize diversity and cultural representation in our vendor selection process.

## 4. Confirmation and Payment:

If your application is approved, you will receive confirmation and payment details. Vendor fees are \$50 per booth for vendors that are selling items. Non-profit booths do not incur a vendor fee. Payment instructions will be provided once approved.



## 5. Prepare for the Festival:

Once your vendor space is confirmed, start preparing your booth or exhibit for the festival. Consider how to make your display engaging, culturally relevant, and family-friendly.

## 6. Festival Day:

Arrive at the festival before 9:00 a.m. on the day of the festival with time to prepare your booth. All booths are located in our parking lot, so please park your cars in the grass behind your booth, or in the parking lots next door. Our festival staff will be available to assist with any questions or concerns.

## 7. Engage with Attendees and Enjoy the Festival:

On the day of the festival, interact with attendees, share the cultural or holiday significance of your products, and create a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere.

We appreciate your commitment to making the Annual International Festival a vibrant and culturally enriching experience for all. If you have any questions or need further assistance during the application process, please don't hesitate to contact us at [vendor.email@email.com] or [phone number].

Thank you for being a part of our celebration of diversity and unity through culture and community! We look forward to having you as a vendor at our festival.

## Festival Location and Setup

Here is a map of the venue! The locations marked "parking" will offer free parking for the duration of the festival, due to the kindness of our neighbors. Please be respectful of their help and leave the parking lots free of litter!

