

# 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

## Hay Creek Festival 2026

September 11<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026 / 10 AM to 5 PM Daily



### Historic Interpreter, Civil War Reenactor & Early American Craft Demonstrator Application

February 2, 2026

Dear Early American Craft Demonstrator, History Interpreter & Civil War Reenactors:

The Hay Creek Valley Historical Association invites you to participate at the **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Hay Creek Festival** as a volunteer HISTORIC INTERPRETER, CIVIL WAR REENATOR and DEMONSTRATOR. This year's festivities will take place **September 11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> at Historic Joanna Furnace, an 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> Century Ironmaking Community**. This longstanding community event attracts 10,000 visitors each year and offers something for the entire family, including; early American and home crafts, antique cars & tractors, military encampments, period musical entertainment, numerous children's hands-on activities and so much more. The eight restored iron furnace buildings will be open during the three-day festival and offer special displays and interpretive presentations.

Keep in mind there is NO CHARGE for you to participate in this area of our festival. HOWEVER; we do expect that you follow our Interpreter and demonstrator guidelines which include demonstrating your craft/trade to the public and keeping your booth pure to the time that you represent. In addition, please remember that our event is run by volunteers so we greatly appreciate your help in keeping our site clean and respecting the Hay Creek Festival & Joanna Furnace property.

Attached you will find this year's registration form. **Registration deadline is April 1, 2026.** If you have any questions you can contact us at the phone number or email listed below.

Sincerely,

Mark Zerr  
Executive Director  
610-286-0388  
[mzerr@haycreek.org](mailto:mzerr@haycreek.org)

Susan Gibble  
Early American Craft Chairman  
610-286-6187  
[sqibble120@gmail.com](mailto:sqibble120@gmail.com)



# HAY CREEK FESTIVAL EARLY AMERICAN CRAFTSMEN, CIVIL WAR REENACTOR AND HISTORIC INTERPRETERS RULES

The following items are to be considered REQUIREMENTS AND NOT SUGGESTIONS for anyone invited to participate in the **Joanna Furnace Iron Works & Community** area of the Hay Creek Festival. Your signature on the registration form implies your understanding and compliance with these requirements set forth by the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association.

1. There is no fee to participate as an Early American Craftsmen, Civil War Reenactor or Historic Interpreter in the **Joanna Furnace Iron Works & Community** section of the Hay Creek Festival.
2. All applicants will be juried. New applicants should submit this application along with three photos of your "craft" and short bio to [info@haycreek.org](mailto:info@haycreek.org). NOTE: Pictures and bios may be used for Hay Creek Festival advertising. Returning vendors do not have to be re-juried; however, these participants do have to submit photos of new items in which they are selling.
3. All applicants **MUST DEMONSTRATE** and **INTERPRET** a period craft and/or trade to be eligible for this area of our festival. Sales of items are permitted. However, craftsmen who are selling items should consider a monetary donation after the event or donating an item to our annual festival raffle.
4. Appropriate **PERIOD CLOTHING IS REQUIRED** by all participants, vendors and demonstrators alike. This requirement is designed to maintain the integrity and public appeal of recreating the early American life in the Hay Creek Valley from 1791 to 1898. Please contact Hay Creek for more information on acquiring appropriate clothing. You can also check with James Townsend & Sons for 18th century clothing and supplies. Website: <http://www.townsend.us/>. Remember to always wear the clothing the way it was meant to be worn.
5. **NO ALUMINUM CHAIRS AND TABLES, RADIOS, IPHONES, PLASTIC BUCKETS OR ANY SUCH ITEM ARE PERMITTED IN THIS AREA. ALL ITEMS VISIBLE TO THE PUBLIC SHOULD BE IN CHARACTER WITH THE TIME PERIOD AND RELATE TO THE CRAFT FOR WHICH YOU WERE JURIED.** (Keep your Dunkin Donuts coffee and water in a period cup please.) Interpreters should not be talking on the phone and/or texting while working at their demonstration area.
6. Smoking is not permitted in the **Joanna Furnace Iron Works & Community** area.
7. **NO PETS** of any type are allowed, with the exception of those animals specifically designated for exhibit and historic interpretation.
8. Interpreters may erect a period fly (canvas canopy with wooden poles) over booth area. Pop-up craft tents with metal poles are not permitted in the **Joanna Furnace Iron Works & Community** area of the festival. Note: we allow these tents to not only to protect you and your items but also to allow our festival to continue in the event of light rain. Visitors who attend our festival and pay the admission price expect to see your booth at least partially open in the event of inclement weather. Please indicate on the registration if you do not have a tent and want to be placed under one of our sheltered areas/
9. **Festival hours: 10 am to 5 pm daily. Keep in mind we have visitors paying admission until 4 pm so we expect that you keep your booth open to 5 pm.**
10. Booth setup must be completed by 9:30 am each day. Booth setup also takes place on Thursday, Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to 6 pm. The organization provides lunch on Thursday to its festival volunteers for a donation.
11. All vehicles **MUST** be removed from the exhibit area of the festival by 9:30 am each day and parked in the Mule Stable field. Due to the authentic nature of the Hay Creek Festival and for visitor safety, vehicles are not allowed on the festival grounds during the event hours. **Cars should not interfere with photo ops by the public.**
12. Upon arrival to the festival please present event pass to gate attendants upon entering the site. **INDIVIDUALS WITHOUT A PASS WILL BE REQUIRED TO PAY THE ADMISSION PRICE UPON ENTRY TO THE FESTIVAL. Please note that our gate attendants are volunteers like you so please be courtesy and respectful.** Event Passes and Map will be mailed in August.
13. The Hay Creek Festival is a family-friendly event. We expect that participants maintain a positive atmosphere at our festival and greet each visitor, volunteer, and vendor in a professional manner.
14. Please respect our Joanna Furnace property and make sure all your trash is placed in our trash cans or dumpster at the conclusion of our event.
15. The Hay Creek Festival is an educational event that supports the mission of the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association and the restoration of the historic Joanna Furnace property. It is not our policy to offer financial compensation to demonstrators or interpreters to be a part of our fundraising event. We hope that your passion for your early American Craft / Trade is what drives you to be a part of our festival and to teach your love for history to the next generation.
16. **Registration deadline – April 1, 2026. Please note: due to our jurying policy we do not accept walk-ons at the event.**

# Joanna Furnace Iron Works & Community REGISTRATION FORM

The Hay Creek Valley Historical Association requires the following information to register as a participant in the **Joanna Furnace Iron Works & Community** area of the annual Hay Creek Festival. Anyone who is a vendor (intends to sell craft products or services), a volunteer or demonstrator **MUST** complete this form.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact Name and Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Craft / Interpretation Area (briefly describe your exhibit and/or demonstration area):

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Check One: \_\_\_\_\_ Returning Participant \_\_\_\_\_ New Participant

Approximate space requirement for booth \_\_\_\_\_

Other booth needs/ requests \_\_\_\_\_

- A limited number of wood tables, wood benches, fire wood and straw bales available for demonstrators to use at our event. We give priority of these items to Hay Creek members who demonstrate the organizations crafts. If you are in need of any of these items please indicate below:

Wood Tables # \_\_\_\_\_ / approx. size? \_\_\_\_\_ Wood Benches # \_\_\_\_\_

Fire Wood \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Water access is available at several locations on the festival grounds.

- If you plan to do a special presentation and/or demonstration at the event and would like to **be listed on the daily event schedule** please list the activity and time of presentation below. Remember special presentations help to drive the public to your booth.

\_\_\_\_\_

- **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED** -- Would you like to be a part of the children's activities sheet at the festival? Children are required to complete a series of old-time "chores" and in return will receive a free wagon ride after these items are completed. To participate please check Yes \_\_\_\_\_ / No \_\_\_\_\_. Please write question(s) below:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Example questions for the children's chore list:

*Stop by the post office to cancel a letter before it gets delivered.*

*Be an apprentice pipe driller and help to make a wooden water pipe.*

*Register as a Civil War soldier and take part in drilling & training actions.*

*Turn the drum card to card wool at Mrs. Cindy and Mr. Jack's booth.*

Note: Questions and activities should be kept fairly simple as you may have 10 - 50 children at your booth at one time.

- Number of Volunteer Passes requested for your booth \_\_\_\_\_ Please write name(s) below for the volunteers you are requesting passes for. Each pass that you receive will also entitle the holder a parking spot on our festival grounds. Passes should be secured for all volunteers who are 12 years old and up. Note: Hay Creek Craftsmen or Civil War Groups overseeing impressions with 10 or more volunteers can submit a separate list by August 1<sup>st</sup> to request passes for their volunteers

---

---

- **This year we are asking our Early American Craft Demonstrators to donate an item for our 50<sup>th</sup> Early American Craft / Quilt Raffle? Please indicate the item that you would donate and the approximate value of the item:**

---

- Interested in being a part of the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association? Consider a membership to our volunteer organization and receive special information throughout the year about the Association and its activities. Your membership will support the restoration and preservation of the 26-acre Joanna Furnace site. Memberships are \$25 for individuals and \$40 for a family.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes, sign me up.... I am including a check with my registration to become a Hay Creek Valley Historical Association member!

AND / OR

\_\_\_\_\_ I would like to give the organization a Birthday Gift of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to commemorate 50 years of history, education and community fun!

---

**By signing this application, I acknowledge that I will be a part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Hay Creek Festival and abide by all festival guidelines as outlined above for Interpreters and Demonstrators.**

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Hay Creek Festival Photo / Video Release**

As a participant in this year's Hay Creek Festival, I hereby give the Hay Creek Valley Historical Association permission to use any photographs or video taken of me by representatives of Hay Creek for promotion and/or advertising.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration Deadline: April 1, 2026**

HAY CREEK VALLEY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, PO BOX 36, GEIGERTOWN, PA 19523 / PHONE: 610-286-0388

Email: [Info@haycreek.org](mailto:Info@haycreek.org)