

# VERMONT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL



## FAQ - All About VIF School Day

### What is the VIF ?

- Launched in 1993 by VPAL, the Vermont International Festival is an annual celebration of the many cultures that make up our community. The major elements of the festival are world crafts, performing arts, international cuisine and ethnic traditions. The festival is set in a bustling bazaar atmosphere, with two stages offering performances and music all day, a hands-on craft area, exhibits by local community organizations and a foot court offering a variety of ethnic cuisine.

### About VPAL

- The Vermont Performing Arts League, established in 1978, promotes and supports performing arts activities, particularly those involving the folk arts and international exchanges. VPALs home base are the North End Studios, a community gathering place in the heart of Burlington's Old North End. Other initiatives VPAL launched over the years are FolKids of Vermont, Interfolk Festival, and The Green Mountain Volunteers. The Vermont Performing Arts League is a non-profit organization and welcomes community and business support, volunteers and donations. Learn more at [northendstudios.org](http://northendstudios.org).

### What is VIF School Day

- VIF School Day is a program dedicated to preregistered school groups on the Friday of the festival weekend between 9 am and 3 pm. The School Day program offers a unique opportunity for students to experience and learn about cultures from around the world and participate in activities such as special games, dance, traditional crafts and other participatory activities designed to enhance the educational experience.

### When and Where

- The Vermont International Festival is held every year the weekend after Thanksgiving - this year's VIF School Day: **Friday, December 2, 2016, 9 am – 3 pm**
- The festival is held at the Champlain Valley Exposition, Route 15/Pearl Street, Essex Junction, Vermont. The building is handicapped accessible, everything is at ground level.

### How Does it Work

- Schools and home schoolers are invited to bring student groups to VIF School Day.
- Each group signs up for a **2 hour time period**.
- On VIF School Day, performances and participatory workshops in dancing, music-making and crafts are offered from 9 am to 3 pm. The majority of these activities are free with registration.
- Please visit the festival website at [www.vermontinternationalfestival.com/school.html](http://www.vermontinternationalfestival.com/school.html) for performance and activities schedules and country representation through crafts, foods, exhibits, community and non-profit groups. The schedule for each year's festival school day will be posted approximately two weeks prior to the festival. Prior to that, review the prior year's schedule available on the festival website to give you an idea of what to expect.

## What Does it Cost

- Admission is \$5 per Student. 1 Chaperone per 5 Students is free. \$5 per additional Chaperone.
- This admission fee is for the VIF School Day program attendance only, and not good for the rest of the weekend. Students who complete their Passport do receive free admission to subsequent festival days!
- On School Day, performances and participatory workshops in dancing, music-making and crafts are offered all day by area non-profit organizations. The majority of these activities are free with registration.
- Additionally, craft and gift items as well as food will be available for purchase at prices specifically designed to be affordable to students.
- Students should be aware that there are both craft activities that are free of charge, as well as craft items for sale.

## How to Sign Up

- Complete the School Reservation Form and email or mail the completed form as indicated on the form. If you don't have the form, find it on the festival website at [www.vermontinternationalfestival.com/faq.html](http://www.vermontinternationalfestival.com/faq.html) or just email your group's particulars to [vif@vpal-us.org](mailto:vif@vpal-us.org) : School name and address, contact person with phone and email, grade level of students, number of students, number of chaperones, preferred 2 hour time slot in half hour increments (indicate choice 1 and 2).
- Space is limited and to avoid overcrowding, groups will be scheduled per their choice 1 or 2 or as capacity allows. Be sure to reserve your preferred time slot early! Please note that preference for time slots will be given on a first come first served basis and preference may be given to schools that travel from afar.
- You will receive an email confirmation when we receive your reservation form or request. Detailed schedule information and instructions for the day will be emailed to you prior to the festival.

## How to Pay

- If you are including payment with your signup, please send it along with the form, checks made payable to: **Vermont Performing Arts League.**
- If you need an invoice to make your payment, please let us know and we'll email you one.
- Payment of your group's admission fee at time of signup or prior to the festival is encouraged and appreciated to facilitate speedy check-in on VIF School Day!
- You may also send the payment after signup, before the festival, or bring your payment to the festival.

## Schedule of Events

- On VIF School Day, performances and participatory workshops in dancing, music-making and crafts are offered from 9 am to 3 pm.
- Many of the performances repeat and the activities go on all day so that groups arriving at different times can experience the whole program.
- The morning period tends to be the most crowded and there may be wait times at some of the activities.
- Please visit the festival website at [www.vermontinternationalfestival.com/school.html](http://www.vermontinternationalfestival.com/school.html) for performance and activities schedules and country representation through crafts, foods, exhibits, community and non-profit groups. The schedule for each year's festival school day will be posted approximately two weeks prior to the festival. Prior to that, review the prior year's schedule available on the festival website to give you an idea of what to expect.

## On VIF School Day:

### Parking

- **Larger groups arriving by bus:**  
Have the bus follow the directions by Expo attendants. Upon arrival - **while the students wait on the bus** - group leaders check in at the admissions table. Once checked-in, the students de-board the bus, bus drivers will then be shown where to park by an Expo attendant.

- **Smaller groups arriving by personal vehicle:**

Follow the Expo signage for parking and park your car in the designated area. Upon arrival, check in at the admissions table.

## Check-in

- **If you paid in advance:**

Thank you!

- **If you are bringing your group's admission fee with you:**

Payment by check is preferred to speed check-in. Please make check payable to: Vermont Performing Arts League. If you are paying by cash, **group leaders please bring the full and exact amount for your group pre-counted and place in an envelope and write your school's name on it.** We cannot accept individual payments by students as check-in would take too long and we may not have change for many small payments available. If you need a receipt or invoice for your payment, please let us know and we will email you one after the festival.

- **At check-in** - group leaders will receive an envelope containing **Passports** and **Scavenger Hunt Questions** for the students in their group, as well as final festival program with detailed time schedules and listings for the chaperones. Please hand these out as students de-board the bus and before entering the building.

## Storage

- Because storage space is limited and unsupervised, please plan that students leave backpacks and other bags and bulky outerwear at home, at school or on the bus.

## Lunch, Food Coupons

- The Festival Food Court offers a splendid ethnic food experience. Our recommendation for lunch would be to plan \$5-10 and we encourage sharing of a selection of foods so everyone in the group can sample a variety. For a list of food offerings please visit the festival website at [www.vermontinternationalfestival.com](http://www.vermontinternationalfestival.com).
- This year, food will be purchased with coupons in \$1 or \$5 denominations that can be bought with cash, check or credit card at designated festival booths. On School Day, food vendors are encouraged to have sample-sized portions as part of their menu, priced from \$1 to \$3.
- Food coupons can be purchased at check-in. Additional food coupons can be purchased at the food court, however due to crowding it is best to plan ahead and purchase food coupons at check-in. Unused food coupons can be cashed in when you leave. A menu listing will be sent to participants a few days before the festival to help you plan your culinary journey.
- For those groups planning to bring lunch, please leave the coolers in the bus and plan to camp out in the entrance hall for lunch. A traveling musician may wander by to entertain you during your picnic!

## What to bring

- A Pencil! – students should bring a pen or pencil so they can record their answers to the Scavenger Hunt Questions.
- A Bag – we suggest to bring a few bags for the group in which students participating in crafts activities can carry their creations home.

## Activities & Games

- **Passport**

A festival school day favorite – this souvenir is completed by students "traveling from country to country" and collecting stamps or similar entries in their Passport from the various crafts people, food vendors and musicians. Completed Passport gives holder free admission on subsequent festival days!

- **Scavenger Hunt**

Students seek answers to questions with help from the various festival crafts people, food vendors, exhibitors and musicians. Festival staff will be available to help review completed forms. Students having completed their scavenger hunt questions can choose a souvenir coin.

- Both the Passport and Scavenger Hunt provide the opportunity for students to interact with the festival craft and food vendors, performers and exhibitors, not only for the passport stamp and scavenger hunt questions, but also to learn about their cultures, music, foods, programs, crafts and traditions.
- **Many other activities and games** will be offered – please visit the festival website at [www.vermontinternationalfestival.com/school.html](http://www.vermontinternationalfestival.com/school.html) for details.

### **Who are the Performers, Community Exhibitors, Craft and Food People**

- Performer, community exhibitor, craft and food vendor signup occurs in the Fall, prior to the festival. Final listings and schedule will be posted on the festival website prior to the festival. The schedule will also be emailed to VIF School Day participants prior to VIF School Day and we will have schedule print-outs for chaperones in the envelope you receive at check-in.
- Please visit the festival website at [www.vermontinternationalfestival.com/school.html](http://www.vermontinternationalfestival.com/school.html) for performance and activities schedules and country representation through crafts, foods, exhibits, community and non-profit groups. The schedule for each year's festival school day will be posted approximately two weeks prior to the festival. Prior to that, review the prior year's schedule available on the festival website to give you an idea of what to expect.

### **Will there be First Aid on-site?**

- Yes. The First Aid office near the festival entrance area will have medical staff present throughout the festival's school day.

### **More Questions?**

- Visit the festival website at [www.vermontinternationalfestival.com](http://www.vermontinternationalfestival.com) for more information and background information on performers, exhibitors, crafts etc.
- Or contact the VPAL office at [vif@vpal-us.org](mailto:vif@vpal-us.org) .

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