



**2026**  
**FOOD VENDORS INFORMATION**  
**May 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>**

**PRICING** \*Please reference the attached flyer to determine your category. No applications will be accepted after May 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **SNACK VENDOR                      \$250\***  
Vendors who prepare, package, or offer items on-site for on-premise consumption and/or vendors who serve beverages only. Examples of this include, but are not limited to, the following: popcorn, roasted nuts, frozen desserts (e.g., ice cream, Italian ice), fresh fruit, pretzels, funnel cake, cotton candy, kettle corn, fried snack foods (e.g., Oreos, Donuts), cakes, pie or specialty sodas or flavored coffees.
- **MAIN FOOD VENDOR            \$400\***  
Vendors who prepare, package, or offer items on-site for on-premise consumption and/or vendors who serve a beverage. Examples of this include, but are not limited to, the following: fried/grilled chicken, gyros, hot dogs, hamburgers, pizza, stromboli, steaks, seafood, casseroles, pulled pork, ribs, roast beef, brisket, salads, sausage, specialty fries, stir-fry, and vegan/vegetarian.

*PLEASE NOTE:*

- If your food selections fall in both categories, then you must mark the “Main Food Category.”
- Vendors who sell ingestible items in pre-packaged, sealed wrappers/containers that are not prepared onsite may apply using the Artisan/Merchant Vendor Application. Examples of ingestible items include, but are not limited to, the following: confections, candy, chewing gum, nuts and seeds, dried fruits, freeze-dried food, baked goods, honey, dips, and sauces.
- Only 100-voltage power is available for vendors.
- Food vendors are encouraged to bring personal inverter generators, provided noise levels do not exceed 60 decibels.

**Please return pages 5-8** of the Application with check or money order made payable to **SUMTER IRIS FESTIVAL COMMISSION, Post Office Box 1802, Sumter, South Carolina 29151**. All fees are non-refundable.

*If you have any questions, contact us at 1-800-688-4748 or 803-436-2640. We look forward to your participation!*

**POLICIES FOR ALL FOOD VENDORS**

1. All exhibitors must be approved by the Commission and are responsible for obtaining their own business licenses.
2. Each space will be at least 20' x 12'. If your space requirements vary from this, you must inform us on your application.
3. All South Carolina Department of Agriculture rules must be followed.
4. Only items listed on the menu submitted with your application may be sold. Your menu with prices must be displayed at all times of the festival.
5. The Iris Festival Commission does not provide staff support for setup, breakdown, transporting items to or from vendor spaces, or other operational activities related to vendor businesses during the festival.
6. A hand truck or wagon should be brought to the Festival to transport your goods back and forth.
7. Spaces may only be occupied by the business/persons listed on the application.

8. No refunds will be given under any circumstances.
9. No pets or Emotional Support Animals are allowed in the Gardens. We welcome service animals defined by the ADA (animals specifically trained to perform tasks for an individual with a disability).
10. No smoking/vaping/drug use is allowed in the Gardens.
11. No weapons, including concealable weapons, are allowed in the Gardens.
12. No alcohol may be brought, sold, or consumed in the Gardens.
13. Vendor setup and vendor items must be contained within the contracted vendor space at all times.
14. Vendors can only sell inside their vendor space.
15. There are very few spaces with water access, please indicate if and why water is needed on your application. If water is not indicated on the application, you will NOT have water access. Once all water accessible spots have been filled, no more vendors requesting water will be accepted.
16. There is no drainage.
17. Signage can only be displayed in the designated vendor space. No banners or signage can be located in other areas of the Gardens.
18. Only one vehicle will be allowed per vendor.
19. Only one unit per vendor space. (If you have a trailer, you may not set up a tent.)
20. A full menu with prices must be displayed at all times.
21. Mobile homes (campers) or RVs will not be permitted or allowed on the premises of the Gardens or in any Festival parking area. Violators will be asked to leave the premises for the remainder of the event. Even if you use the camper to pull the vendor wagon, it is not permitted on the Gardens' grounds.
22. Generators must be inverters with no more than 60 decibels.
23. Power higher than 110V will not be available. If power is needed, it must be indicated on the submitted application.
24. Please bring your own trash bags. Trash bags should be placed in the designated food vendor trash cans. Trash will be disposed of each evening.
25. Please keep your area clean at all times, including trash/debris. All items brought into the Gardens should be taken out of the Gardens at the close of the Festival.
26. Any food trucks/vendors may not discharge waste or greywater onto the event grounds or surrounding public areas, including streets and stormwater drains. All food vendors must provide approved fire extinguisher(s). Mobile food vendors must provide an inspection report from a SC jurisdiction within the last 12 months and be prepared for a site inspection by the Sumter Fire Department upon setup.
27. Applicant hereby indemnifies the Iris Festival Commission, the City and County of Sumter, Vendor Committee and its members, subsidiaries, and their affiliates in the event of loss or damage to goods and/or personal injury.
28. The Commission reserves the right to refuse entry to any vendor.
29. The Commission reserves the right to exclude an exhibitor if this policy is violated. No refunds will be given.
30. The Iris Festival Commission assumes no responsibility for your compliance with state and federal laws.
31. Discrimination according to race, color, creed, sex, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability/chronic illness, or nationality is not tolerated, nor is disrespect or harassment towards Park and Iris Festival staff and volunteers.

### **IMPORTANT TIMES/DATES**

1. You must be set up and ready to serve your products by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. All vehicles must be out of the Gardens by 9:00 a.m. and moved to Vendor Parking. A Vendor Parking placard for your windshield will be provided at check-in. **You may not drive into the vendor location to restock anytime during the Festival.**
2. Please speak with an Iris Festival Volunteer (to coordinate) if you need to restock before the Festival opens or after the Festival closes each day. As a reminder, your car must be moved to Vendor Parking by 9:00 a.m. each morning.
3. Festival hours are from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Sunday. Breakdown is at 6:00 p.m. on Friday, 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 5:00 p.m. on Sunday.

Sunday. Vendors must be present and open for business from the opening of the Festival each morning until closing. **If this is not followed, future applications submitted for the Iris Festival will not be accepted.**

4. Premises must be vacated by 7:00 p.m. on Friday and Saturday evenings.
5. **Food vendors will have the following options for set-up:**
  - **Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.**
    - You must be out of the Gardens by 4:30 p.m.
  - **Thursday, May 14<sup>th</sup> between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.**
    - You must be out of the Gardens by 3:30 p.m.
  - Any vendor missing set-up time will forfeit their space.
  - Security will be provided each evening.
6. The Sumter Fire Department will begin inspections starting at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. **Please make sure that you or a representative from your business is at your vendor space no later than 9:00 a.m. on Friday for the inspection.**

### LICENSES/PERMITS

The South Carolina Department of Agriculture, the South Carolina Department of Revenue, and the City of Sumter Business License Department may inspect each vendor to confirm proper licensing/permits (if applicable). All vendors must be properly licensed/permitted. Please have your licenses/permits readily available at check-in, as they will be checked when you arrive.

*The Iris Festival Commission does not assist vendors in obtaining any licenses/permits or their requirements. Please contact the respective entity regarding your questions. Obtaining proper licensing/permitting is the responsibility of the vendor.*

#### **City of Sumter Business License:**

- All exhibitors are responsible for obtaining or providing their own City of Sumter Business License.
- If your business is outside of the City of Sumter, you will still need to get a City of Sumter Business License.
- If you are applying for a business license, please allow 5-7 business days for processing. Each vendor must have a Business License from the City of Sumter – fees are based on your class rate (fees start at \$30).
- ***Please do not apply for the Business License until you receive your confirmation.***
- To obtain this license, please contact the City of Sumter Business License Office (803) 774-1601 during regular business hours (Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), email [businesslicense@sumtersc.gov](mailto:businesslicense@sumtersc.gov), or visit <https://www.sumtersc.gov/business-license>.
- **The Business License Application check must be made payable to the City of Sumter; please do NOT return it with your Iris Festival Application.**

#### **South Carolina Department of Revenue (SCDOR):**

- Learn more at [dor.sc.gov/event-guide](http://dor.sc.gov/event-guide) or (803) 896-1350.

#### **South Carolina Department of Agriculture (SCDA):**

- Each vendor is responsible for complying with all applicable requirements of the SCDA and Regulation 61-25.

### VENDOR NOTICES:

#### IRIS FESTIVAL PARADE & ROAD CLOSURES:

The Iris Festival Parade will take place on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. This event will require the temporary closure of Liberty Street (in front of Swan Lake Iris Gardens) from Alice Drive to the Sumter County Civic Center, as well as Alice Drive

from Liberty Street to Miller Road. Road closures may begin as early as 9:00 AM, so vendors should plan arrival, travel, and parking accordingly. Once the parade passes the Gardens, vendors can expect a significant increase in festival attendance and foot traffic.

**VENDOR PLACEMENT:**

For the 2026 festival, due to construction limitations at the new playground at Swan Lake Iris Gardens, all vendors will have a different layout. If you have participated in the past, your regular booth space may not be available. While we will take requests for booth spaces, we cannot guarantee your location. New for 2026 is a food court located in the main parking area at Swan Lake. Limited space is also available in the grass area at the Garden Street entrance. Food vendors will be lined up in order of their arrival on the grounds. Please see notes above on check-in/setup dates and times and remember to note your preferred date and time for setup.



**2026**  
**FOOD VENDORS APPLICATION**  
**May 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>**

**Keep pages 1-4 for your information/records.**

*Please return this application, your business card, photos and/or samples of your product, menu, payment, stamped and self-addressed envelope, and the entry fee to:*

Sumter Iris Festival Commission Vendors  
Post Office Box 1802  
Sumter, South Carolina 29151-1802

Contact Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Business Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

South Carolina Retail License Number (if already obtained and applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

Website/Facebook/Instagram \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously participated in the Iris Festival? No \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ Year(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Under what business name? \_\_\_\_\_

Intended day of set up: Wednesday \_\_\_\_\_ Thursday \_\_\_\_\_ Intended time of set up: \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Type (Check One): Tent \_\_\_\_\_ Trailer \_\_\_\_\_ Food Truck \_\_\_\_\_

Dimensions of unit: \_\_\_\_\_

Which side of your trailer do you open for service? Driver's Side \_\_\_\_\_ Passenger's Side \_\_\_\_\_

**Check one of the following Vendor Categories:**

**Snack Vendor (\$250) \_\_\_\_\_**

Vendors who prepare, package, or offer items on-site for on-premise consumption and/or vendors who serve beverages only. Examples of this include, but are not limited to, the following: popcorn, roasted nuts, frozen desserts (e.g., ice cream, Italian ice), fresh fruit, pretzels, funnel cake, cotton candy, kettle corn, fried snack foods (e.g., Oreos, Donuts), cakes, pie or specialty sodas or flavored coffees.

**Main Food Vendor (\$400) \_\_\_\_\_**

Vendors who prepare, package, or offer items on-site for on-premise consumption and/or vendors who serve a beverage. Examples of this include, but are not limited to, the following: fried/grilled chicken, gyros, hot dogs, hamburgers, pizza, stromboli, steaks, seafood, pulled pork, ribs, roast beef, brisket, salads, sausage, specialty fries, stir-fry, and vegan/vegetarian.

Check/MO # \_\_\_\_\_

Vetting Information: Name, Date of Birth, Sex, and Race of each person who will work at your booth.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Electrical and Water Needs:

Personal Inverter Generator: \_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO

110v power needed: \_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_ NO

Is water needed? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, why? \_\_\_\_\_

Insurance Information:

\_\_\_\_\_ Please initial that you are properly insured.

\_\_\_\_\_ Please initial that the Iris Festival/City of Sumter is listed as an additional insured on your policy.

**ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS MUST BE PROVIDED FOR CONSIDERATION TO BECOME A FOOD VENDOR:**

1. Completed application (pages 5-8).
2. Copy of your menu with pricing.
3. Copy of business license.
4. Certificate of insurance showing policy limits and current effective dates.
5. Photograph of trailer/setup.
6. Payment in full.
7. Stamped and self-addressed envelope (for your response from the Iris Festival Commission).
8. Electrical requirements questionnaire.
9. Copy of your last fire inspection report.

*The undersigned hereby indemnifies the Sumter Iris Festival Commission, the Vendor committee and its members, the City of Sumter, Sumter County and subsidiaries, and their affiliates in the event of loss or damage to goods and/or personal injury. Undersigned also understands that there are no refunds and agrees to abide by all rules of the event.*

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Your application will not be considered without a stamped and self-addressed envelope, payment, vetting information, photos and all required documentation stated in the application.**

**FOOD VENDOR ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS/QUESTIONNAIRE**

All vendors will be required to submit the following information with their vendor application:

The name of all devices requiring electricity, along with voltage and amperage ratings. This includes, but is not limited to the following: freezers, toaster ovens, coffee pots, fans, lights, deep fryers, steamer ovens, microwaves, electric grills, sound equipment, bun warmers, hot dog machines, crock pots, warming lamps, etc. Therefore, if a device requires electricity, please complete all of the required information.

**If you have a generator, please bring it with you. We do not guarantee power at all times.**

The NEC Code requires that every piece of electrical equipment made shall have a nameplate on it with these requirements. **Failure to comply will mean no power will be furnished to the equipment.**

Vendor Name \_\_\_\_\_

Power Requested: \_\_\_\_\_ NONE (I will bring an inverter generator, producing no more than 60 decibels)

\_\_\_\_\_ 110v ONLY, for the following device(s):

<u>Electrical Device</u>	<u>Voltage</u>	<u>Amperage</u>
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____
8. _____	_____	_____
9. _____	_____	_____
10. _____	_____	_____

Notes:

1. If an item is not listed, no power will be provided for it. Our power source has its limitations and will be distributed to everyone, within reason, according to the listed item(s) only and the power available.
2. Vendors shall provide their own extension cords sized to accommodate our receptacles, as needed. Please bring your generator for backup power.
3. The City will not connect power to any homemade electrical devices.
4. All electrical panels shall be locked, and no vendor shall be allowed to enter one **for any reason!**
5. There shall be no direct connection to any breaker in any electrical panel without approval from the City's Master Electrician. Anyone doing so shall bear the liability for any and all unfavorable results that should occur from these actions.
6. Please remember to forward this form back with your application.
7. If you require an excessive amount of power, you will need to furnish your own generator. Please note this in your comments.
8. The undersigned hereby indemnifies the Sumter Iris Festival Commission, the Vendor committee and its members, the City of Sumter, Sumter County and subsidiaries, and their affiliates in the event of loss or damage to goods and/or personal injury. Undersigned also understands that there are no refunds and agrees to abide by all rules of the event.

Comments:

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Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Don't already have a license?

## HOW TO OBTAIN REQUIRED LICENSES

### CITY OF SUMTER BUSINESS LICENSE:

- All exhibitors are responsible for obtaining or providing their own City of Sumter Business License.
- If you have an existing license for City of Sumter, please have a copy for display.
- If your business is outside of the City of Sumter, you will need to get a City of Sumter Business License to participate.
- Licenses must be shown at event check-in.
- If you are applying for a business license, allow 5-7 business days for processing.

#### City of Sumter Business License Info

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 1449 Sumter, SC 29151

Physical Location: 12 W. Liberty St., Sumter, SC 29150

Phone: (803) 774-1601 Fax: (803) 774-1688

Email: [businesslicense@sumtersc.gov](mailto:businesslicense@sumtersc.gov)

<https://www.sumtersc.gov/business-license>

View application and details



### SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE LICENSE:

1. Artists and crafters participating as vendors only at craft shows and festivals more than four times in a fiscal year, where they are selling products that they have created or assembled, will need the Artist & Craftsman License (\$20) to charge and collect the 6% statewide Sales & Use Tax along with any applicable local taxes.
2. If you sell your products anywhere other than at craft shows, events, or festivals, including online sales, you will need a Retail License (\$50) as described above.

Visit SCDOR for more details and to determine the type of license you require and see chart below.

- Licenses must be shown at event check-in
- When applying, allow 5-7 business days to get license response

#### South Carolina Department of Revenue

<https://dor.sc.gov/tax-education/guides-flyers/events-festivals>

View application and details



### DATES TO KNOW:

- April 15, 2026 - Last day to reserve your vendor space.
- Wednesday, May 13, 2026 - 9 AM - 3 PM Vendor Setup
- Thursday, May 14, 2026 - 9 AM - 2 PM Vendor Setup
- Friday, May 15, 2026 - 7-9 AM Vendor Setup
- **FRIDAY, MAY 15 - SATURDAY, MAY 16 - SUNDAY, MAY 17 - EVENT DAYS**
- **ALL VENDORS MUST BE SETUP BY FRIDAY, MAY 15 BY 9AM AND MUST BE OPEN ALL THREE DAYS.**

