

Folklife Festival Shows America's Great Inheritance

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The Festival of American Folklife has become a tradition in the Nation's Capital that captures the essence of the diversified cultures comprising our great American society. Through its fifteen year history, the festival has been a "real people" program, telling the stories of this country's people and her heritage.

Every American citizen possesses a unique inheritance, and this cherished inheritance is colorfully declared and celebrated during the festival. The National Park Service, which cares for more than 300 areas across our nation, is pleased to co-sponsor this annual celebration with the Smithsonian Institution.

Visitors to the Festival can readily enjoy a glimpse of some of the events and customs that help make the American story. Every day programs are featured that provide an educational and entertaining insight into the heritage that makes America great – an insight into the many cultures that have come together throughout our 200 years of history and that make America proud and strong.

New this year is the salute to the International Year of Disabled Persons. The National Park Service is particularly pleased to welcome the special program on the Folklore and Folklife of the Deaf, whose participants will present workshops on signing, storytelling, objects adapted for use by deaf people, and the experiences of interpreters.

Children's folklore, of course, has not been overlooked, and you may witness and enjoy their games, rhymes, and songs. Southerners will demonstrate their pottery, corn cob dolls, and baskets.

We hope you will be equally dazzled by the Kingbird Singers of Red Lake Reservation in Minnesota and by the musicians and dancers who will share with you their traditional South Slavic customs and dishes.

Other groups fill each day's programs and each brings with it a glimpse of America's heritage. Indeed, the 1981 Festival promises to be another milestone in its history – another chapter in the American story that is your inheritance.

Welcome to the 1981 Festival.

