

Pride in America's Cultural Diversity by William Penn Mott, Jr. Director, National Park Service

The National Park Service welcomes you to share the historical, cultural and culinary exhibition of diverse life styles at the 1986, 20th anniversary, Festival of American Folklife on the National Mall. The Festival—traditionally held amidst picturesque museums, galleries, monuments and memorials in Washington, D.C.—culminates yearlong efforts of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Park Service to produce a unique cultural display for your enjoyment.

This annual event embodies the national theme of "Taking Pride In America," developed by the Department of the Interior and other government agencies. It expresses achievements which make possible living displays of social institutions, crafts, foodways and musical traditions found in many of America's ethnic and cultural communities. The Festival brings you closer to understanding the variety of life styles found in our great country—particularly this year from the state of Tennessee. American traditions originating in foreign countries are portrayed in the music, food, crafts and other mediums to enhance your appreciation of our national diversity.

Japan is the featured foreign country at this year's Festival. More than 50 Japanese and Japanese-Americans will be demonstrating the cultivation and myriad uses of rice found in the traditional folk culture abroad and how many of them have been retained here at home.

The 1986 Festival of American Folklife is but a small taste of America's vast cultural, ethnic and natural beauty. Come see and enjoy it! We welcome you to our Festival, our Nation's Capital and our national parks.