

# EXPERIENCE LOUISIANA FESTIVAL

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Experience Louisiana Festival, folklife

**Eunice, LA, September 12, 2016** — The city of Eunice is preparing to host Louisiana's newest festival. On October 22 & 23, the Experience Louisiana Festival will debut on the campus of LSU Eunice, and it will be an opportunity to get up close and personal with folk demonstrators who will share a variety of meaningful cultural traditions.

The National Park Service is a key partner in the staging of the festival, and in particular the Folklife Village. A large park service tent will serve as the hub of the folk area with a staff of rangers present to facilitate the folk area. Festival guests will have the privilege of witnessing first hand a variety of art forms and traditions that have deep roots in the history of Louisiana.

Featured demonstrators include doll maker and chair caner Bonnie Boudreaux, file' maker John Colson, blacksmiths Richard Delahoussaye and Sam Riehl, walking stick and button toy maker Bill Ellzey, Instrument maker Larry Miller, Mardi Gras mask maker Jackie Miller, Cajun rosary maker Tommy Myers, lye soap maker and quiller Doris Perkins, spinner and weaver Charlene Quinilty, walking cane maker Clifton Rambin, hide tanner and bead work by Margo Rosas, Choctaw baskets by Becky Thomas, traiteur Berk Veillon and many others. Visit the festival website for the complete list.

It is a special honor to welcome two Native American tribes –Attakapas Opelousas Prairie Tribe and Canneki N'de Band of Lipan Apache – presenting drumming and dancing as well as native crafts.

Planners are excited to welcome the National Park Service *Recognizing Our Roots* program from New Orleans. Comprised of youth from three states, the program centers around the studying the history around the Battle of New Orleans with the help of Jean Lafitte rangers and local historians. The youth will demonstrate period attire and weapons at the Experience Louisiana Festival.

The festival formally opens at 10:00am Saturday and 10:30am Sunday. However, Saturday morning will begin early with a boucherie and a 5k Run sponsored by Cameron's Shoes Foundation. Details can be found on the festival website. There will also be a Community Bike Ride on Sunday morning. Free admission, \$5 parking. Visitors from near and far will be treated to unrivaled hospitality: a *Genuine Louisiana Experience!*

Festival proceeds will benefit such worthy causes as the LSU Eunice Foundation Scholarship Fund and the Eunice Rotary Club Community Outreach 501(c)(3).

For more information call 337-457-1776 or visit the festival website at [www.ExperienceLouisiana.org](http://www.ExperienceLouisiana.org).

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