

QUALIFICATIONS FOR A BRISTOL RENAISSANCE FAIRE EXHIBITOR 2018

The dates of the 2018 Bristol Renaissance Faire are every Saturday and Sunday opening July 7 and closing Labor Day Monday September 3, 2018.

At this time, there are several product lines that are closed out for the 2018 season. Regarding the areas of: face painting, readers/psychics, traditional leather, pewter, and jewelry -- opportunities are only available if one of the current merchants selling these products leaves the show.

The most necessary qualification for becoming a merchant for the Bristol Renaissance Faire is the desire to meet and entertain guests of the Faire. It takes energy and enthusiasm to meet and greet people, show enthusiasm for your product, all while maintaining character and competing for customer's attention. Fortunately, we have lots of guests. Typically, have more than 200,000 people in attendance over the course of our season. You are essentially on stage in an interactive show that has the audience on stage with you!

All products to be sold at the Bristol Renaissance Faire must be approved by the Marketplace Office. Products are juried through the Marketplace Office, and inquiries should be addressed to the attention of that office.

The artist selling the products must design, produce, and finish the products, *or* the production and finishing must be clearly evident as under the direct control of the artist. We accept applications year-round on an "until filled" basis. Applications received after the Marketplace has been filled for the season will be placed on a waiting list -- if so requested by the artist. If this is something you are interested in, please note it on your application.

Materials that are acceptable in the Bristol Renaissance Faire Marketplace include, but are not limited to: clay, fiber, glass, leather, metals, stone, wood, paper, flowers, herbals, ink, oils, paints, and waxes. Subject matter sometimes may create instances wherein resins, Hydro-Stone, Fimo, Sculpey or other durable synthetic materials will be accepted. Findings may be used appropriately.

Products that are usually unacceptable in the Bristol Renaissance Faire Marketplace include: imports, mass-produced or wholesale buy/sell items, any products made from kits, ceramic items made from commercially available molds, or kit products assembled by the artist and for sale to the customer. Occasionally, exceptions may be made, depending upon the nature of the product.

On exhibit and for sale on any given day, our patrons will find products representative of the era, including clothing, footwear, leather goods, tableware, pottery, jewelry, household items, musical instruments, candles, sculpture, wall hangings, incense, perfumes, paintings, dried floral items, living plants, swords, and functional armor. New and creative products or treatments of traditional materials are always welcomed. You must have production and marketing experience to be able to keep your wares stocked for a multi-weekend run, and to be able to successfully support the investment of bringing your wares the Faire.

Personal services, such as caricatures, face painting, palm reading, tarot readings, hair braiding, henna tattoo, and on-the-spot portraits also fall under the administration of the Marketplace Office. *Food and games are not part of the Marketplace -- for those please contact the faire office.*

In addition to full-run merchants, we also have a Guest Artisan program available for those who wish to "test the waters". The Guest Artisan program has all of the same rules set forth for our full-time merchants, but allows the merchant the ability to do a shorter, limited run for a reduced fee. Guest Artisans do not pay a tally. Guest Artisan

spots are extremely limited, and Guest Artisans are only admitted into the program for a maximum of three (3) seasons before being asked to become a full-run merchant.

If you and your wares are chosen for participation in the Faire, you will be sent a Letter of Agreement to be completed and returned with your exhibitor fee. We can then discuss arrangements to obtain a shop – be it building, cart, or tent – that best suits you and your wares. It is the performance area from which you will entertain your guests while making sales.

You, the artisan, **must** be at the show a minimum of five (5) weekends to personally staff your shop and sell your wares. There are **no** exceptions to this rule, and we prefer you be at the show full time. Our patrons want to talk to the person making the art! Merchants may also rent tents or spaces, if available, for the season. **If you have your own tents/displays, please also include photos of said tent or display as well as their dimension(s).** Note: tents have must a certificate to prove the tent is fire-retardant, and the tent must be period appropriate (no pop-ups).

All merchants (full-run or guest) must return their application with printed photos of their wares as well as photos of their complete display. Please label the prints on the back with name, date, and product. You must send samples and/or printed photos. The Marketplace Team does not have the time to look for them on the internet or via email. (They can be on plain paper, but the better the picture, the easier it is for us to jury the product/displays.)

Brief Fee Overview:

Bristol Artisans pay a fee according to how they are classified as sellers:

- Most full-run merchants pay an initial deposit of \$1,500.00 to exhibit at the Bristol Renaissance Faire over the entire nine-weekend, 19-day run of the show. Once gross sales exceed \$15,000.00, then the merchant pays a 10 percent tally on the excess sales.
- Historical demonstrators – merchants who demonstrate the making of their wares during show days and offer scheduled formal demonstrations of their craft – pay a flat fee of \$1,200.00. Demonstrator spots are currently limited, approved by management and hard to obtain.
- Personal service providers, or other merchants who make non-taxable sales – pay a flat fee of \$1,500.00.

All retail merchants are required to have a Wisconsin Seller's permit *applied for* before opening day, and a copy of their application or their permit must be on file in the Marketplace Office. All merchants must carry a \$1 million insurance policy with Bristol Renaissance Faire listed as an additionally insured.

All merchants and their employees must abide by the Rules and Regulations of the Faire, which include appropriate period clothing, period displays, and a good attempt at period dialect. A costume guide is available on our website: <http://renfair.com/bristol/join/costuming.asp>. Modern clothing is not acceptable. There is very limited onsite living, it is best to arrange other accommodations. Bristol does not allow pets.

The 2018 season of the Bristol Renaissance Faire begins on Saturday, July 7th, and runs every weekend through Labor Day, Monday, September 3rd, rain or shine from 10:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Thank you again for your interest in Bristol. We look forward to receiving your application!

-The Bristol Marketplace Team

brfmarketplace@renfair.com

(847) 395-7773

Please let us know any information that you feel represents your shop and what you have to offer to the show:

How did you hear about the Bristol Renaissance Faire?:

Product information: List your products and/or services – include a printed photo or sample of each – do not email photos.

Name and detailed description of EACH product	Type of Materials used in product	% of the product that is created by you	Price range

**Please list any additional items on a separate sheet of paper.*

Number of years making the above products/services: _____

How do you plan to display your wares? Please attach photos with labels, as well as include a description below on how you plan to display your product, including dimensions, if available.

Do you have a tent, cart, or other structure of your own you wish to bring to our show? Or are you planning to build or purchase something on our site? Explain below. (Include photos or drawings of any intended builds with this application, as well as dimensions if possible.)

If the regular marketplace is full, do you wish to be put on our waiting list for:

Full-Run Merchant ___Yes or ___No / Guest Artisan ___Yes or ___No