



MEDIA RELEASE

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**North Carolina's
Northeast Commission**

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2nd Saturday Events in NC's Northeast Region

Local tourism attractions have created a "2nd Saturdays" program designed to help provide a boost during the peak summer travel period. "As travelers look for fun things to do, they can easily seek "2nd Saturday" events throughout the state," states Maryanne Friend of the NC Department of Cultural Resources.

"2nd Saturdays" combine the unique power of the arts and heritage with food and fun on June 12, July 10, and Aug. 14, 2010, at all 37 museums and Historic Sites across the state. Almost all events are free.

"Our state's Historic Sites and museums offer unique windows into the state's culture, focusing on the places, properties, and people that played a role in making North Carolina what it is today," said Cultural Resources Secretary Linda A. Carlisle. "Our citizens want affordable opportunities to experience arts and culture, and entrepreneurs want more outlets for reaching potential customers."

Carlisle proposed the idea of mixing arts and history in a pilot project at Duke Homestead last fall. More than 20 artists came to show their wares at the annual Harvest Festival at the Durham historic site. Attendance for the event nearly doubled from the previous year.

Each "2nd Saturday" will reflect the unique character of the host place such as the historic crafts fair in Historic Edenton, a celebration of black history at the Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City, and an archeological digs presentation in Historic Halifax. Visitors will find hands-on heritage programs, artists, farmers with fresh produce, historic presentations – and plenty of fun. The statewide schedule is available at <http://ncdcr.gov/2ndsaturdays.asp>

"Consumer research suggests that travelers continue to seek affordability and diversity, and "2nd Saturdays" offers a wonderful opportunity to showcase North Carolina's simple pleasures," says Russ Haddad, Director of Tourism Development at the NC Division of Tourism.

“North Carolina’s Northeast Region is rich in cultural heritage,” states Vann Rogerson, President/CEO of NC’s Northeast Commission. “Within a short day trip and with a little bit of planning, a visitor can find history, arts, culture, and fun. Our regional tourism website is made especially for the traveler to NC’s Northeast.” Visit www.visitncne.com for more information.

About North Carolina’s Northeast Commission:

North Carolina’s Northeast Commission is dedicated to increasing the standard of living for citizens in its sixteen-county region through tourism, industrial, and business development. The 16 counties that comprise the regional Commission are: Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, and Washington. For more information about the North Carolina’s Northeast Commission, contact us at www.ncnortheast.com.



Pictures are from Halifax County. Please contact NC’s Northeast Commission or your local tourism office for local pictures.

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