



Founders Day 2024
April 26 - 28
Dripping Springs, Texas

Arts & Crafts / Business
Vendor Information

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1 Introduction

The Founders Day Festival is the largest annual community event in Dripping Springs. The three-day festival celebrates the founding of the Dripping Springs community in 1850 and offers a variety of family-friendly activities. The spring festival kicks off on Friday evening with the Grand Parade followed by live music on two stages. Arts and Crafts booths open Saturday morning and close on Sunday afternoon. With a carnival, cook-off competitions and arts and crafts vendors, there is something for everyone.

2 Festival Layout

The Founders Day Vendors Booths are located along the streets in the central part of Dripping Springs. This gives our festival a “Home Town” feel but it can also cause some challenges for our vendors. Each street is different. You will have to deal with things such as:

- Uneven surfaces.
- Asphalt, concrete, grass, gravel or dirt surface.
- Hot sun with no shade.
- Shade trees that drop leaves.
- Loud music if you are near the stage.
- Smoke if you are near the BBQ area.

These are the things that give Founders Day a unique feel. If you are looking for a small home town Texas experience, come join us!

2.1 Mercer Street

This is where it all started. We have vendors who have been coming back to their same booth for 20 years. It is hard to get a space on Mercer Street your first year, but if you keep coming back you get priority when a space becomes available. Most of the street is flat but booth spaces 39 - 54 are on a sloping part of the street. There is no shade and it can get quite hot when the sun is shining. This street has the most traffic which is good and bad. Lots of shoppers but some are just trying to get from the Carnival to the BBQ. Electrical power is available in select locations. Booths 101 – 156 are on the North side of the street. Booths 201 – 254 are on the South side of the street. Booths 301 – 340 are in the center of the street. If you have a center booth, two sides of your booth will be open to the public.



These are pictures of Mercer Street before the festival. The first is from the corner of Mercer and San Marcos looking West. The second is from about halfway down Mercer looking West. The small rock wall and bench on the left side of the street is the intersection of Mercer and Bluff.



Mercer Street during the festival.

2.2 Old Fitzhugh Road

This is one of the entrance streets, so you get a lot of walk-in traffic. It is next to the music stage and the bathrooms, so that is another reason for people to be walking by. There are some shade trees as you get close to Mercer. This is the only street that we allow vendors to arrive and open their booths on Friday night. All the booths have electricity.



Old Fitzhugh Road before and during the festival.

2.3 Bluff Street

This is one of the main entrances off Hwy 290. There will be a lot of traffic but not as much as on Mercer. Some of the booths have shade trees. You will be setting up in the dirt and grass beside the road. Bring a tarp to put down in case of rain. There is no electrical power available.



Bluff Street before the festival.



Bluff Street during the festival.

2.4 Wallace Street

The pace on Wallace Street is a little slower, but this gives your customers more time to shop. Most of the booths have shade trees. Booth numbers 501 – 527 are on the North side of the street and you will be setting up on dirt or grass. Booth numbers 551 – 577 are on the South side of the street and you will be setting up on asphalt or gravel. You will be very near the food vendors and the BBQ area. The food always brings people to this area. Bring a tarp for the ground if you have small items that might get lost if dropped in the grass or if the ground is wet after a rain. Booths 552 - 577 have electricity.



Wallace Street before the festival.



Wallace Street during the festival.

3 Goods & Services

Our goal is to provide a venue for local citizens and businesses to market their goods and services. We give priority to local vendors. Founders Day is a very popular event. We have sold out of booths every year for the past 5 years. New vendors are evaluated on a first come first serve basis, but being first will not guarantee you a spot. We are looking for vendors with quality products that fit into our small-town Texas theme.

3.1 Arts & Crafts

We are looking for vendors with handmade or locally produced items. This is not a juried show, but quality is important.

3.2 Business Goods

This is an opportunity for local businesses to display and sell items from their store and to generate traffic through their storefront operation through out the year. We accept vendors who are independent distributors of corporate products, but we limit participation to one vendor for each product.

3.3 Business Services

We are trying to provide a way for local businesses to advertise their services to the community. In the past some providers have asked to be placed close to others that provide similar or complementary services or that reside in the same location. Other providers have asked not to be placed near a competitor. This type of information should be included in the Special Requests section of the application.

4 Frequently Asked Questions

- **Can I set up my booth Friday afternoon?** – Founders Day starts with a parade on Friday evening. The parade travels down Mercer Street and Wallace Street. There are barriers and bleachers erected for crowd control and viewing. There is no room for booths to be set up on Mercer or Wallace before the parade. Bluff Street must be kept open for EMS and Police access. The barriers and bleachers are removed between Midnight and 4:00 AM so that vendor setup can start at 6:00 AM Saturday morning. Old Fitzhugh Road is the only street not affected by the parade. We allow vendors on Old Fitzhugh Road to set up Friday afternoon between 3:00 PM and 4:00 PM.

- **If I send in my application early, am I guaranteed a booth?** – The simple answer is no. We always receive more applications than we have booth spaces. There are several factors that affect the decision as to which applications are accepted.
 - Returning vendors get priority on their previous space or moving to a new space.
 - We are not a juried show, but the quality of your merchandise matters.
 - We try to limit independent dealers of nationally advertised products to one dealer per product.
 - We give preference to local vendors over out of town vendors.
 - If you are requesting multiple booth spaces, we will evaluate your need to display additional products versus wanting more space just to look bigger.
 - We process applications in the order that they are received, so applying early will increase your chances of getting a booth.
- **How big is the booth space?** – Each booth space is 10' x 10'. You may request multiple spaces. Booth spaces on Old Fitzhugh and some on Mercer Street have additional space behind them that may be used for storage. If there is a sidewalk behind your booth, it must remain open for pedestrian traffic.
- **Do I have to tie down my canopy?** – Yes. A new City Ordinance requires all canopies used at city events to be secured with weights. A 10' x 10' booth requires at least 25 pounds on each of the four legs. Please download the ordinance from foundersdayfestival.com for more details.
- **Where is the vendor parking?** – There is no dedicated vendor parking. The VFW has a paid parking lot on Mercer across RR12. Most of the large businesses in town set aside part of their parking lots for Founders Day.
- **Do I have to pack up my merchandise Saturday night?** – Security is provided Saturday night by Hays County Sheriffs and Constables. Theft has not been a problem in the past but we have had a few vendors report that someone had been in their booth. We recommend lowering your canopy so that it rests on the table in your booth and that you pack up any valuables that could be easily carried away. Vehicles are not allowed entry Saturday night or Sunday morning.
- **Can I bring a generator to supply power to my booth?** – No. Gasoline powered products are not allowed in the booths.
- **Does my booth have to be open Saturday and Sunday?** – Yes, unless you make prior arrangements. The festival runs for two days, and we want the experience for our visitors to be the same for both days. We have some vendors who do not work on Sundays for religious reasons. We make every effort to accommodate them, but we must know ahead of time.

5 How To Apply

Applications will be accepted on-line with payment by credit card or through the mail with payment made by check or money order.

To apply on-line, go to foundersdayfestival.com, click on Vendor Applications and then click on Apply On-Line. This will take you to the City of Dripping Springs Parks & Community web site. Set up and account and then click on the Founders Day Vendors link to apply.

To apply by mail, go to foundersdayfestival.com, click on Vendor Applications and download the application. Please fill out the application on your computer and print it. We accept hand written applications but filling it out on the computer makes it much easier. Then mail it with your payment to:

St. Martin de Porres
Attn: Founders Day
P.O. Box 1062
Dripping Springs, TX 78620

Site Map

