



GLEN ECHO PARK

Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture



Contact:

Jenni Cloud
(301) 634-2228 [o], (703) 819-9936 [m]
jcloud@glenechopark.org

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Glen Echo Park's Hosts the 39th Annual Washington Folk Festival with Two Days of FREE Music & Dance Performances

Glen Echo, Maryland – The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture (GEPP) and the Folklore Society of Greater Washington (FSGW) present the 39th annual **Washington Folk Festival** at Glen Echo Park on Saturday, June 1, and Sunday, June 2, 2019. The festival runs each day from 12pm to 7pm.

This FREE two-day event showcases the remarkable variety of folk music, dance, and craft traditions from the Washington, D.C. region. Held rain or shine, the festival presents more than 450 of the best traditional musicians, storytellers, dancers, and craftspeople from the Greater Washington Area.

The Festival features seven stages throughout the Park, simultaneously presenting music and dance for a close to 100 hours of live performance. It also provides a lively storytelling stage, dance workshops in the Spanish Ballroom, a craft marketplace in the Bumper Car Pavilion, periodic “street” performances, and many spontaneous picking sessions in the Park’s picnic grove with musicians who come to the festival to play together informally. A parade through the Park will open each day of the festival, with the Maryland Youth Pipe Band on Saturday, and the DC Labor Chorus on Sunday.

Enticing showcases highlight banjo styles, immigrant songs, ballad singing, a Pete Seeger 100th Birthday tribute. Five continents are represented in the festival: from North America – including Hawai’ian and Afro-Puerto Rican dance – to Africa, Asia, Europe, and South America, with music from Afghanistan, Paraguay, Peru, the Mediterranean, Brazil, Greece, Scotland, Japan, Paraguay, Slovakia, and Uganda adding to the exciting mix. All performers are local to the Washington metropolitan area and volunteer their talents to make the community festival, an all-volunteer event, a success.

The Park's iconic Bumper Car Pavilion will be transformed into a craft marketplace where local artisans demonstrate and sell their work, including beautiful handmade items ranging from jewelry to pottery to dulcimers.

The Spanish Ballroom will come alive with music and dance throughout the weekend.

A variety of dance styles will be on display in the Spanish Ballroom throughout the day on both Saturday and Sunday. Visitors can participate in waltz, tango, contra, English country, and swing, as well as Klezmer and Greek. New this year is a square dance, especially geared toward families and young people. Several dances include lessons for beginners.

Children and adults can hear tall tales at the Storytelling Stage and then take a ride on the historic carousel. (\$1.25/ride) Bring a picnic or enjoy Praline at Glen Echo Park's delicious variety of food and treats.

The festival is presented in cooperation with the National Park Service and with support from Montgomery County Maryland and the Richmond Folk Festival. More information can be found at: www.washingtonfolksfestival.org.

Glen Echo Park is located at 7300 MacArthur Blvd, Glen Echo, MD 20812. Because parking is limited at the Park, free satellite parking and shuttle buses are provided from the GEICO Parking Lot at 5260 Western Avenue Ave., Chevy Chase, MD, just two blocks from the Friendship Heights metro station.

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Note to editors: High-resolution images from previous years' events are available at 301-634-2228.

ABOUT GLEN ECHO PARK AND THE GLEN ECHO PARK PARTNERSHIP

Glen Echo Park is a vibrant arts and cultural center presenting festivals, exhibitions, and dances, as well as children's theater, music programs, nature programs, and art classes to more than 375,000 visitors each year. The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture, a nonprofit organization, oversees these and other activities, including preserving the historic structures in the Park. Glen Echo Park, part of the National Park Service, is located in Glen Echo, Maryland, six miles northwest of Georgetown along the scenic Potomac River palisades.

ABOUT THE FOLKLORE SOCIETY OF GREATER WASHINGTON

FSGW has been creating opportunities for participation in the joys of traditional dance, music, and storytelling in the Washington DC metro area for over 50 years. They host over 200 events a year. Find out more at www.fsgw.org

The Glen Echo Park Partnership for Arts and Culture is supported in part by the Maryland State Arts Council (msac.org) and also by funding from the Montgomery County government and the Arts and Humanities Council of Montgomery County (creativemoco.com). All programs are produced in cooperation with the National Park Service and Montgomery County, Maryland.