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The 35th Annual

Hudson Valley Beltane Festival

At Stone Mountain Farm

310 River Road Ext, New Paltz, NY 12561

Saturday May 16, 2026

Rain date Sunday May 17, 2026

12:00 pm - 7:00 pm

No entry after 3:30 pm | Pageant begins at 4:00 pm

GET TICKETS

About the Festival

The Hudson Valley Beltane Festival is a *donation-based, family-friendly outdoor celebration* that blends the pomp and whimsy of a Renaissance fair with the magic of a springtime picnic gala.

Held on the beautiful grounds of Stone Mountain Farm, the festival brings together music, dance, storytelling, and community as we celebrate the

turning of the seasons.

Proceeds from the event support the continued stewardship of Stone Mountain Farm and the Center at Stone Mountain, as well as the year-round arts programs of The Vanaver Caravan.



The Beltane Pageant

The highlight of the day is the Beltane Pageant, a theatrical performance of myth, magic, aerial flight, and giant puppetry that marks the height of spring and the welcoming of summer. Dancers from The Vanaver Caravan Dance Institute weave a wondrous tale as fairies, gnomes, elemental spirits, and magical creatures.

Expect a rainbow of giant puppets, talking birds, dancing dragons, prancing horses, and a menagerie of mythical beings large, small, mischievous, and kind. So don your fairy wings, pack a picnic blanket, gather your friends and family, and join us as we welcome the blooming season together.

Carpooling Encouraged

Help us keep the Earth as beautiful as Beltane itself by traveling together. Carpooling, biking, walking, or hiking into the festival helps reduce our environmental footprint and makes the journey even more fun.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Beltane?

Beltane is an ancient seasonal festival traditionally celebrated on May 1, marking the height of spring and the welcoming of summer.

Rooted in Celtic traditions of Ireland and Scotland, Beltane honored the fertility of the land and the return of warmth after winter. Communities gathered to light great bonfires, dance, feast, and celebrate the abundance of the coming season.

Many traditions we associate with spring celebrations today (including maypoles, flower crowns, music, dancing, and revelry) echo these ancient festivities.

The Hudson Valley Beltane Festival carries this spirit forward in a modern way, bringing our community together through music, dance, storytelling, imagination, and celebration of the natural world.

Who produces the Hudson Valley Beltane Festival?

The Hudson Valley Beltane Festival is a collaborative celebration produced through the partnership of Stone Mountain Farm and The Vanaver Caravan.

Stone Mountain Farm and the Center at Stone Mountain host the festival on their beautiful land, stewarding the space where the community gathers each spring.

The Vanaver Caravan contributes the Beltane Pageant, an original theatrical production featuring dancers from the Vanaver Caravan Dance Institute, along with giant puppetry, music, storytelling, and magical creatures.

Together, these organizations bring the land, the artists, and the community together to celebrate the turning of the season.

Proceeds from the festival support both the stewardship of Stone Mountain Farm and the year-round arts programs of The Vanaver Caravan.

When do the gates open?

Festival gates open at 12:00 PM.

Come early to wander the grounds, explore the activities, and settle in before the Pageant.

What time should I arrive?

The Beltane Pageant begins at 4:00 PM, but we strongly encourage guests to arrive earlier in the afternoon to enjoy the festival activities and allow plenty of time for parking and settling in.

Arriving between 12:00–3:00 PM will give you time to explore the grounds, visit vendors, enjoy music and activities, and find a comfortable spot on the lawn before the Pageant begins. NO ADMISSION AFTER 3PM.

When does the Beltane Pageant begin?

The Beltane Pageant begins at 4:00 PM and runs approximately 90 minutes. This magical performance of myth, giant puppetry, dance, and aerial flight is the culminating event of the day.

When does the festival end?

The Beltane celebration winds down in the early evening. Gates close by 7:00 PM. This is a daytime festival with no late-night festivities.

Do I need a ticket?

Yes. All attendees must have a ticket to enter. Please [purchase your ticket\(s\)](#) in advance. Tickets are tiered with a sliding scale option:

TICKET TIERS:

Sapling Ticket \$25

Standard admission to the Beltane Festival. Your ticket helps support the artists, musicians, and many hands who bring this joyful community celebration to life.

Circle of Support Ticket \$45

By choosing this ticket, you help make the festival accessible to others while nurturing the creative community that gathers each spring at Stone Mountain Farm.

Little Sprout Child's Ticket \$15

For our youngest revelers (Ages 2-12). Children are invited to wander the meadow, dance beneath the maypole, and experience the wonder of Beltane.

Seedling Ticket Pay what you can

Our pay-what-you-can option. Choose a price that works for you and join the celebration. Every person gathered around the Beltane fire helps bring the festival to life.

Annual SMF Membership (Individual) \$125

This is a group ticket, it includes 2 tickets

Annual SMF Membership (Family) \$175

This is a group ticket, it includes 4 tickets

What activities will there be?

The festival grounds will be full of adventures and delights throughout the afternoon, including:

- Flying Trapeze with Wild Arts Collective
- Swords in the Field with Wayfinder Experience
- Live Music • Storytelling • Roaming Performers

- Vendors and artisan booths
- Scavenger hunts and LARP adventures (Live Action Role Play)
- Flying lessons and interactive activities

A detailed schedule will be posted on May 1 (May Day, Beltane!).

Is there food?

Yes! Delicious treats will be available from:

- Rail Trail Café
- Caravan Bake Sale
- More!

You are also welcome to bring your own picnic and enjoy the lawn.

Do I have to pay for parking?

Parking is available for all Festival Attendees. A suggested donation of \$5-\$10 is appreciated but not enforced. All donations help the Center at Stone Mountain maintain the road and steward the land, including addressing the environmental impact of hosting events.

Can I carpool, bike, or walk to the festival?

Yes, and we strongly encourage it. Carpooling, biking, hiking, or walking in helps reduce our environmental footprint and keeps Beltane as beautiful as the season we're celebrating.

Are there bathrooms?

Port-a-potties will be located near the festival entrance.

Is the event accessible?

Stone Mountain Farm is a beautiful natural landscape, and some areas involve uneven ground and hills. If you or a family member need accessible parking or assistance traveling up the hill from the parking area, please reach out in advance at: stonemountainfarmlife@gmail.com

We will do our best to help make your visit comfortable.

Are there chairs or seating?

Seating for the Pageant takes place on the lawn. Please bring your own blankets, lawn chairs, or small shade structures if you'd like them, and be mindful of your neighbors when setting up your viewing area.

Will there be shade?

Some areas of the grounds have natural shade, but much of the festival takes place in open meadow. Feel free to bring umbrellas or small shade structures, and please be mindful of your neighbors when setting up.

What should I bring?

We recommend bringing:

- A blanket or lawn chairs
- Picnic food if you'd like to dine on the lawn
- Water, sunscreen, and hats
- Layers in case the temperature cools later in the day

And of course, fairy wings, flower crowns, and festive attire are always welcome.

What should I wear?

Beltane celebrates the joy of spring and the magic of imagination.

Costumes are encouraged but not required. Fairy wings, flower crowns, bright colors, and whimsical outfits are always welcome.

Comfortable shoes are recommended, as the grounds include grass and uneven terrain.

Are dogs allowed?

Friendly and well-trained dogs are welcome. Please ***keep dogs leashed at all times*** and be mindful of other guests, performers, and animals on the farm.

Can I leave and come back (re-entry)?

Re-entry is allowed throughout the day for festival-goers arriving on foot/by bike. Please check in with the gate team when you arrive so we know you've already joined the festival. Once cars are parked, we ask that people do not drive in and out of the festival grounds.

What happens if it rains?

In the event of inclement weather, the rain date will take place on Sunday May 17, 12-6pm. Updates will be posted at the top of this page and shared with ticket holders if needed.

How can I become a vendor?

We welcome artisans, makers, and community vendors who would like to be part of the Beltane celebration.

To inquire about vendor spaces, please reach out to:

Heather Duke: bookkeeping@symbolicstudies.org

Vendor space is limited, so early inquiries are encouraged.

How can I perform or participate in the festival?

Beltane includes a variety of performances and interactive activities throughout the day.

If you are interested in performing, teaching, or offering an activity, please reach out to:

Gwyn Larsen // stonemountainfarmlife@gmail.com

We are always excited to hear from artists, performers, storytellers, and creative collaborators who want to help bring the festival to life.

Can I volunteer?

Yes! Beltane is a true community celebration and we always welcome helping hands.

Learn more and sign up here: [Volunteer Opportunities](#)

What if I lose something or need help during the festival?

If you need assistance, have lost an item, or need help locating a friend or family member, please check in with the volunteers at the Tickets & Info Booth at the top of the hill. They will help connect you with the festival team.

What is the ticket refund policy?

Tickets help us plan and prepare the many moving parts that make Beltane possible. For that reason, tickets are non-refundable after May 1. If something unexpected arises before that date, partial refunds may be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please reach out and we will do our best to work with you.

I'm a parent of a Vanaver Caravan student. Where can I find information about my child's participation in the Beltane Pageant?

All performers in the pageant will meet behind the stage at 3:30 PM. Please give enough time to park and walk across the festival. We suggest arriving no later than 2:30. *NO ADMISSION AFTER 3 PM.*

For all other details about your child's participation, rehearsal schedules, costumes, or other Vanaver Caravan-related information, please contact:

vcoffice@vanavercaravan.org

You can also visit our Community Info Hub for class updates and resources: www.vanavercaravan.org/class-resources



Let the flowers bloom, the fires roar, and the dragons soar!