



ZenFest 2026 Food Vendor Information and Application

ZenFest Date: May 2, 2026 **ZenFest Hours:** 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
Catawba Farms - 1670 Southwest Blvd - Newton, NC 28658

About ZenFest

ZenFest is a celebration of the healing arts presented by the *Catawba Valley Festival of Arts* and the *YMCA of the Catawba Valley* who have common missions for promoting health and well being to individuals and to our community. The Festival will take place on the 17-acre historic Catawba Farms and will offer:

- Yoga classes
- Ecstatic dance, Zumba and other movement sessions
- Meditation, Reiki and healing modalities
- A Wellness Fair with Food Vendors

The 2026 Festival marks the **3rd year** for ZenFest in the Catawba Valley. Daily attendance for ZenFest 2026 is projected to be at 200 total attendees.

Food vendors are invited to apply for a limited number of spaces. Sponsorships at various monetary level also available to food vendors for greater visibility and marketing exposure. For more information and to apply to be a sponsor, visit the [ZenFest website](https://www.anandarasa.org/) or use the Contact Information, below.

Contact Information for Food Vending

Mailing: ZenFest at Catawba Farms, 1670 Southwest Blvd - Newton, NC 28658

Email: twyla@anandarasa.org

Website: <https://www.anandarasa.org/>

Important Dates

- Application Deadline for Food Vendors: March 15, 2026
- Notification of acceptance (by email): April 1, 2026

Application Process

Vendors will be required to submit a completed application (last page of this information) before the deadline. The application requires a \$30 application fee. The fee is refundable with these conditions:

1. Your application is not accepted. Your fee will be mailed to you on or about April 1, 2026.
2. Your application is accepted. Your fee will be returned to you on May 2, 2026 at the conclusion of ZenFest.

The application also requires an image of your menu offerings/specialty.

Applications are to be submitted via mail to:

AnandaRasa Catawba
1670 Southwest Blvd
Newton, NC 28658

Applicants will receive email confirmation that the application has been received. Submission of an applications does not guarantee acceptance.

Selection Process

Food vendors for ZenFest will be selected by the ZenFest Planning Team with the following criteria:

- Health Department inspection: current and valid.
- Healthy offerings, product quality & uniqueness. We will try to have exclusive food options.
- Previous vending experience serving large crowds.
- Business location (local/regional).

The Festival may limit specific offerings to ensure a wide selection of items to attendees. All applications will be reviewed and scored with vendors who best meet these criteria being selected. ZenFest reserves the right to deny any application without explanation.

Attendees for ZenFest

ZenFest 2026 attendance is projected to be at 200 persons. Attendees will include those with ZenFest tickets, un-ticketed attendees that accompany ticketed family/friends, vendors & sponsors, volunteers and others from regular vehicular traffic. Visitors will not need a ZenFest ticket to have access to the Food vendors.

ZenFest Food Vending - Hours of Operation on May 2, 2026

- Saturday: 9:00 AM to 4:00 pm

From this date, you may select 1 or more blocks of time to attend as designated on the Application page. Booths must be staffed for the hours of operation you select. The Festival goes on rain or shine unless extraordinary weather presents a safety issue. All vendors are expected to be open during the hours selected and assigned unless prior arrangements have been made with ZenFest personnel. Vendors may continue to sell up to thirty (30) minutes before and after the allocated time block.

Food Vendor Space and Placement

- Space for food vendors with trucks or trailer will be approximately of four hundred square feet (400 sq. ft.) with a maximum booth depth of twenty feet (20 ft.) and a maximum booth width of thirty feet (30 feet).
- ZenFest personnel will assign vending locations to each vendor. Food vendor placement and the following factors impact food vendor placement on the Festival site:
 - Operation type: truck, trailer, energy/fuel type (generator, propane, etc)
 - Facility needs (water, electricity, etc)
 - Operation site needs
 - Menu offerings (to avoid menu conflicts)

Booth Operations Regulations

- Vendors must restrict all activities to their assigned space: no space-sharing or subletting is permitted. Vendors may not trade, switch, or set up in another area without approval from the Festival.
- Vendors may not advertise outside of their operation space. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of rovers, paper flyers, and disposable menus.
- Food vendors must purchase a ZenFest ticket if they would like to participate in ZenFest classes and sessions.
- Playing loud music from food vendor operation is not permitted.
- Vendor is responsible for a clean food vending area, free of debris during Festival hours.
- Vendors should furnish sufficient monetary change for their sales transactions. The Festival cannot provide change to vendors.

- Vendors are responsible for providing staff.
- Vendors will be self-sufficient: carts/hand trucks to move supplies on site, ice, etc.

Booth Covering

Vendors may bring their own canopy/tent and will ensure that the canopy/tent is compliant with all pertinent regulations for flammability and safety.

Food Safety Requirements

- Vendors must comply with all federal, state, and local health department regulations. For more information, contact the Catawba County Department of Environmental Health.
- Vendors must dispose of their own grey water, grease/oil, and coal ash offsite from Catawba Farms. The dumping of any of these materials on the ground or paved areas is prohibited.
- Appropriate ground cover should be used in the cooking and food preparation area to ensure that after the Festival is over, the ground will be free from oil and food waste contaminants. Any spills or debris must be cleaned up prior to leaving.
- All vendors must minimize bare-hand contact with food products.

Fire Code Requirements

- All food vendors must comply with the codes for combustibles, canopies, fuel tanks for cooking, fire extinguishers and solid fuel.
- All vendors must have a portable fire extinguisher that has affixed a current inspection tag. For those vendors using cooking oil, fats, or greases in a deep well fryer or cook top are required to have a Class K fire extinguisher. Residential extinguishers are not acceptable.
- All propane tanks must be firmly secured on a hard, non-combustible surface that cannot be knocked over. Vendors must supply their own surface on which to secure tanks; the ground alone does not qualify. Bungee cords are not an acceptable form of securing propane tanks.
- Tents must be anchored to the ground with a 40 lb weight on each leg of the tent.

Set Up and Tear Down

The Festival will provide specific set-up and tear down times to you to minimize interference with Festival activities. Parking spaces will be provided for a maximum of two (2) support vehicles.

Marketing

All food vendors will be listed and promoted as an official component of ZenFest. This may include, but is not limited to: the ZenFest website, ZenFest program schedule, social media, and email notifications.

Taxes & Insurance

- Vendors are responsible for all local, state and federal taxes.
- Vendors must provide a certificate of insurance.
- The Festival disclaims any authority of control over the operation of vendors. Vendors assume all rights and responsibilities for the conduct of their operations including, but not limited to obtaining liability and general coverage insurance for vendor-related activities, and adhering to all local and state ordinances and regulations.
- The Festival does not have separate vendor coverage under any insurance it may maintain.
- The Festival reserves the right to amend these guidelines as needed, at any time.
- In the event of a dispute, the decision of the ZenFest Planning Team will be accepted as final.

Food Vendor Application for ZenFest

Festival Date and Time: May 2, 2026 / 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Application due date: March 15, 2026

Food Vendor Business Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____

Contact: First Name _____ Last Name _____

Title: _____

Business Phone: _____ **Mobile:** _____

Email Address: _____ **Website:** _____

Food Description: _____

(Please attach a menu with pricing.)

Hours of Operation: Select one or more blocks of time for your participation on May 2, 2026:

☐ Early Shift - Breakfast: 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM (* First ZenFest session begins at 9:00 AM)

☐ Late Shift - Lunch: 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM (* The last session starts at 4:00 PM)

Vendor Space Needs & Specification: _____

County Health Department Information

County of Inspection: _____ Permit Number: _____

Date of Last Inspection: _____

Application Signature: Please sign/date below and return this application via email for consideration to: twyla@anandarasa.org

I certify that I have read the accompanying information and will abide by all Festival and vendor terms & conditions stated herein.

Owner/Authorized Representative: _____

Title: _____ Date: _____