



Office of General Services

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THE CHARLIE DANIELS BAND TO HEADLINE NEW YORK STATE'S ANNUAL FOOD FESTIVAL ON AUGUST 9

Full day of food, drink, and entertainment will feature NYS beers, wines, ciders, and spirits

New York State Office of General Services (OGS) Commissioner RoAnn Destito today announced the lineup for the annual New York State Food Festival, which will be held from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesday, August 9 at the Empire State Plaza in Albany and feature a performance by The Charlie Daniels Band.

“Our annual food festival is a celebration for the senses with delicious food, tasty New York beverages, and an exciting lineup of entertainment that will feature a performance by the legendary group, The Charlie Daniels Band,” Commissioner Destito said. “This is our most flavorful and one of our most popular events of the summer, and I want to thank all our sponsors for their support of this special festival.”

The festival will begin with the popular plaza farmers market, offering locally grown fruits and vegetables, along with breads, pastries, and many other specialty items. The entertainment will begin at noon, with a lunchtime Made in the Shade of the Egg performance by The Soul Rebels. The Soul Rebels play pop tunes performed New Orleans marching band style and stirred up with funk and soul with elements of hip hop, jazz, and rock.

Be sure to catch lunch or dinner at one of dozens of food vendors who will be serving up a wide variety of delicious international and domestic fare, from German, Greek, South American, Cuban, Lebanese, and Jamaican cuisine to wood-fired pizza, and crepes. There will be something to satisfy most everyone's palate.

Repeat festival-goers will recognize several of their favorite food vendors who will be returning this year and will have an opportunity to try the culinary creations prepared by local vendors who are making their first appearances at the Food Festival, including Venezuelan arepa-style sandwiches from Oh Corn! Arepas and More in Clifton Park; a slider, fish fry, or mini dog with the works from Little Big Fatz; and, to satisfy everyone's sweet tooth, natural flavored organic cotton candy from Pixie Floss in Athens, Greene County.

Although alcoholic beverages purchased in the festival's Taste New York tent are not for consumption on site, there will be a NYS tap tent where adults with proper identification will be able to purchase and then sample Coors Light and several New York State beers, wines, and ciders, including Saranac Blueberry Blonde, Druthers' All in One IPA, Brooklyn Summer Ale, Lake George Cider, and Heron Hill Winery Riesling, Chardonnay, and Cabernet.

Those attending the event will be entertained by an exciting lineup of musical acts, headlined by The Charlie Daniels Band. From his Dove Award-winning gospel albums to his genre-defining Southern rock anthems and his CMA Award-winning country hits, few artists have left a more indelible mark on America's musical landscape than Charlie Daniels. An outspoken patriot, beloved mentor to young artists, and still a road warrior at age 80, Daniels has parlayed his passion for music into a multi-platinum career and a platform to support the military, underprivileged children, and others in need.

Music on the festival's main stage will start cooking at 5 p.m. with a performance by one of the Capital Region's favorite county groups, The Kyle Bourgault Band. Next to hit the stage will be the Scooter Brown Band, which formed in 2005 and gained a notable presence in the Texas music scene in 2009. With two of its four members having military backgrounds, the Scooter Brown Band spends a lot of time doing work for veteran support organizations.

Performance schedule:

Noon Made in the Shade of the Egg, The Soul Rebels

Main Stage

5:00 p.m. The Kyle Bourgault Band

6:15 p.m. Scooter Brown Band

7:45 p.m. The Charlie Daniels Band

Free parking will be available after 2 p.m. in the Grand Street lot and after 4 p.m. in the East Garage on Philip Street off Madison Avenue. Paid parking is available in the visitor or V-lot underneath the Empire State Plaza.

For event updates and additional information on opening acts, people can follow @plazaevents on Twitter, visit Empire State Plaza on facebook, or call (518) 474-4759. For additional information, including ground rules, visit our website at www.empirestateplaza.org.

Sponsors of the New York State Food Festival include New York Lottery, I Love New York, Coors Light, Times Union, Renaissance Albany Hotel, Mildred Elley, Wild Country 99.9 PYX 106, BlueShield of Northeastern New York, Albany.com, CDTA, Wild County 99.9, Brooklyn Brewery, Saranac, and Druthers.

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