



AFTMD 2025 The Big Info Packet

Welcome to #AcadiaTrad2025 — we are so excited to have you with us!

This information package is long, but it contains some very important information and tips, and will answer questions you might be wondering about. Please take time to review it as you prepare for our time together.

There are many other PDF attachments for viewing and printing on your password page. (If you are reading a printed copy of this packet, links will not work, but most info is easily found on our website at acadiatradfestival.org. A reminder that the password to your student page is: *TradTime* and you can access it from the “2025 Participants” tab.)

IMPORTANT: *We will have a few reference copies of this packet and attached documents available at the Registration Desk, but you will not receive a full printed packet upon arrival. If you feel you need a printed copy of this document or any other attached PDFs for your reference, please plan to bring them with you.*

GETTING AROUND

Driving directions: The College of the Atlantic (COA) is located at [105 Eden St, Bar Harbor, Maine](#). Once on Mount Desert Island, stay left on Rt. 3 toward Bar Harbor. Go approximately 11 miles. COA is on the left after Atlantic Oceanside hotel.

- **Student & Faculty parking** is available at the ***south entrance*** (off of Rt. 3.) There will be signs. Parking is limited, so please park efficiently. Participants with a vehicle should ask for a parking pass during Registration to display on the dash of your vehicle.
- **Loading and Unloading** of items at campus buildings is permitted, but there is no long-term parking near buildings without an accessible parking permit. Please abide by all COA guidelines, signage and roped-off areas. Park only on gravel and never on grass. Despite what might look like a safe spot to you, there are areas where grass has eroded or tree roots need to be avoided. Parking is indicated on the “campus map” from COA included on your password page.
- **Registration signs** will lead you from the parking area to the Deering building for Registration and information. There is quite a bit of walking primarily on gravel walkways to get around the campus so bring good shoes.
- **Concert parking** is at the ***north entrance*** in case you have others joining you in the evenings, and this will also be marked with a sign.

- **Getting into town:** downtown Bar Harbor is about a 1-mile walk from campus. There are lots of shops, grocery stores and restaurants. Parking downtown is metered, with cash or credit card payment options. It can be busy in town, so give yourself extra time for getting around and through lines. The Island Explorer is a free shuttle bus that takes visitors virtually everywhere on Mount Desert Island. Find out more about buses and transportation options [here](#).
- **Ride sharing:** Please check out our [ride sharing sheet](#) if you're able to lend a hand with sharing a ride, or if you need one.

REGISTRATION

Registration will be open on **Sunday, June 22nd from 2:00 - 4:30 PM** in Deering which is located near the center of the campus. Signs will be posted to direct you there.

Registration check-in includes:

- Picking up your name badge, an abbreviated schedule and classroom map (see note above about printed packets) and a parking pass if you'll be parking a vehicle in one of the parking lots. Your badge is **everything** – concert ticket, meals plans, etc. If you lose it, notify AFTMD Registration immediately. (When you depart, please return your lanyard - we will remind you and make you aware of designated drop-off points - so we can use them again next year.)
- Receiving your housing assignment (if staying on campus.) Your room key will be waiting for you on your bed, along with instructions for how to return your key at the end of the week when you check out.
- Requesting a red sticker for your name badge if you do not wish to be photographed/recorded.

Dinner will be served at 5:30 PM, and at 7:00 PM we invite you to join us in Gates Auditorium for an evening called **“Let's Hit the Trail!”** which will include Orientation and some very special welcome events planned by our Festival Team & Faculty just for you!

Please plan to arrive on Sunday with ample time (there will be no Orientation on Monday morning and this session will include very important information you will need for the week.)

If you would like to have a friend pick up your Registration packet, [please email us](#) with your permission / name of person and we will make a note on your packet regarding that arrangement. If you are unable to arrive Sunday or are delayed, Registration will be open on Monday, June 23rd starting at 7:00 AM.

Note: if you have purchased a meal plan, dinner is served nightly from 5:30 - 6:30 PM only. If you arrive late, there will not be meals available for you. You can get food in Bar Harbor until about 9:00 PM.

KEY CONTACTS

If you have issues or questions during the Festival, please visit the AFTMD Registration Desk in Deering. There will be signs on the desk with helpful information when there is no one present.

There will be phone numbers provided to you for Daytime and After-Hours Assistance upon arrival at COA in case:

- You are locked out of your room.
- You are in need of linens.
- There is an urgent maintenance issue.
- You have any other question or concern related to your lodging.

If you have an urgent issue not related to your lodging, and the AFTMD Registration Desk is not open, please call, text or iMessage April Verch, Festival Director, at 315-480-8447. If you do not reach her right away, please leave a message as she may be helping someone else. If you have a medical or safety emergency, always call 911 first.

PHOTOS, VIDEO & SOCIAL MEDIA

There will be several photographers/videographers on campus during the week documenting the various activities of the Festival. ***Please let us know at Registration in advance if you do not wish to be photographed/recorded*** and we will provide a sticker for your name badge. Photographers will make every effort to avoid people with stickers on their badges.

Social Media: We love your candid shots and videos too! Share your fun! Please tag our social accounts when you post, and use the hashtag **#AcadiaTrad2025!**

Group Photo: We will be shooting a group photo hopefully on Tuesday or Wednesday, depending on the weather. Look for an announcement in Deering on the Announcement Board and/or in daily email updates!

STATEMENT OF INCLUSIVITY AND NON-DISCRIMINATION

The Acadia Festival of Traditional Music & Dance fosters an inclusive and supportive environment for all participants, regardless of race, color, creed, age, gender, gender expression, sexual orientation, or background. We invite you to review the PDF found on your password page which outlines our Mission, our Commitment to Inclusion, and our Anti-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy.

Support: If you are in need of assistance or support, you are welcome to reach out to our *Acadia Trad Steward* for 2025, Marilyn Inch. Marilyn will be introduced at Orientation so you know who she is, and she will wear steward button so you can identify her easily throughout the Festival.

Etiquette Guide: Our AFTMD Etiquette Guide will be posted around campus for participants and visitors, and is also available as a PDF on your password page.

Indigenous Land Acknowledgement: The Acadia Festival of Traditional Music & Dance is held in what is now called Maine, the unceded homeland of the peoples collectively known as the Wabanaki or “People of the Dawnland.” As we gather and celebrate traditional music and dance, we are grateful to be here, and acknowledge that we are doing so on the ancestral territory of the sovereign Wabanaki people that call this land home. We reaffirm our commitment and responsibility to improving relationships between sovereign nations and to improving our own understanding of local Indigenous peoples and their cultures. We invite you to read more and explore resources [here](#).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Daily Emails: If possible, please check your email each morning during the Festival when you first wake up for important updates, reminders and last minute announcements for that day.

Announcement Board: There will be an Announcement Board in Deering where we will post important information and updates, including “Lost & Found” items, as well as a copy of the “daily email” for those of you who can’t connect to email while away from home.

Community Board: Participants at the Festival can use the Community Board in Deering to inform each other about things like hikes/outings planned, jam session pop-ups, looking for collaborators for the student concert, etc.

COLLEGE OF THE ATLANTIC

The College of the Atlantic is an environmental studies school. The campus is wooded and next to the ocean, and many of the pathways are dirt and gravel. Please bring layers of clothing, appropriate outdoor footwear, sunscreen, and bug spray.

A Plastic-Free Festival: In support of our environment, COA’s environmental focus, and in partnership with the [Sustainable Touring Arts Coalition](#), we are working to **eliminate single-use plastic** during the Festival. The college has installed water bottle fillers around campus. Please bring a reusable water bottle, travel mug, straw if you use one, and fabric bags to carry things around. Thank you for helping us do our part for the Earth!

Composting toilets: Some dorm and classroom buildings have composting toilet facilities. Follow the posted instructions on their use and ***do not throw any garbage or other objects into the toilets.*** We are required to pay for cleaning and repair when the facilities are not used correctly.

WiFi: The college's wireless network is available in all buildings and many outdoor spaces. Instructions for logging on will be on your password page and will be posted around campus.

ATM: There are **no ATMs** on campus but many are available in Bar Harbor.

Laundry: There is a laundry room in the basement of Blair/Tyson (see campus map) and on the first floor of Collins House, containing coin-operated laundry machines. Please bring quarters and your own detergent.

Campus rules:

- **Alcohol Policy:** Open alcohol is not allowed outside on campus. Legal drinking age in the U.S. is 21 years of age. If you are over 21, you can drink responsibly inside buildings where sessions are held or in your room. *It is illegal to furnish alcohol to minors. Anyone caught doing so will be asked to leave the Festival without a refund.*
- **Pets** are not allowed on campus unless they are service animals or approved emotional support animals.
- **Smoking** is not allowed in or near any campus buildings. Smoking is only allowed in designated outdoor areas including the overhang at the northwest entrance to the Take-A-Break Dining Hall, the porch of the Kathryn Davis Village bike shed and the area adjacent to the bike shed at Blair Tyson. "Smoking" includes the use of an electronic smoking device.
- **COA prohibits the possession of firearms**, concealed or not concealed, with or without a concealed weapon permit, on campus or on property controlled by the college.
- **Noise curfew:** The outside noise curfew on campus is 9:30 PM. Late night sessions need to be indoors, preferably in Deering. All dorm buildings have public rooms on the ground floor where sessions may take place, however many of these spaces adjoin sleeping rooms, so please be sensitive and respectful.

Campus Housing: All residences have a shared living room, kitchen, and bathrooms. Kitchens are equipped with basic dishes, utensils, and cookware. Each room has an individual lock. You will receive one key which will open your room and the front door to your building (if applicable.) ***There is a \$25 fee for each lost or damaged key.*** Each room has a twin bed, dresser or closet, and a desk. Closets do not have hangers. Housekeepers will clean the rooms and shared spaces before we arrive and after we depart. Please help to maintain and leave all spaces as clean as possible.

You will receive a linen package consisting of twin sheets, a pillowcase, a bath towel, and a face cloth. Each bed will also have a pillow and blanket. Please see our "What to Bring to AFTMD" list on your password page for other items you might want to consider packing.

OTHER CAMPUS INFO

Emergency/First Aid: Emergency signs and numbers will be posted around campus and are on your password page as well. A small first aid kit will be available near the Registration Desk in Deering. If someone is in need of emergency medical attention, call 911 and let them know you are at the COA campus. If you're not sure where you are on campus, ask someone for help. There is a hospital and fire department with EMT in town (within 3 miles.) The emergency plan will also be reviewed during orientation.

Quiet Spaces: Festival week can be overwhelming. There are several spaces on campus where you can have some quiet downtime. The "Meditation Room" on the second floor of Deering is a dedicated quiet space and is available for your use at any time. There are also walking trails and gardens on campus for quiet reflection.

Storage for Off-Campus Participants: There is a room upstairs in Gates Auditorium that unlocks using a pin-pad that is ***available to participants who are staying off-campus*** and wish to store their instruments during breaks, concerts, etc. Please be aware that this room will not be monitored and if you choose to use it, you do so at your own risk. We encourage you not to leave things overnight. If you would like to receive the "pin" for this room, please ask at the Registration Desk, and please do not give it to others. If you are staying on campus, please use your own dorm room for storage.

FOOD & BEVERAGES

Meal Times: Meal times for those who purchased them are offered precisely on the schedule below, no other times.

- Breakfast: 7:30 - 8:30 AM
- Lunch: 12:00 - 1:00 PM
- Dinner: 5:30 - 6:30 PM

Campus dining: Meals are provided at the Take-A-Break (TAB) Dining Hall (note: some signs call it Kaebler or Blair Dining as well) for people who have purchased a meal plan in advance. Please remember to wear your badge or you will not be served. There is also plenty of covered outdoor seating available just outside TAB. Those without a meal plan are welcome to bring food to TAB. Meal time is social time, so don't miss out!

Participants who have not purchased a meal plan in advance or are not attending full time, will have the option to buy meals à la carte from COA Dining Staff (for a reasonable fee) 30 minutes after meal times start when there is food left over.

Meal service begins with Sunday evening dinner and ends with Friday evening dinner. Three meals per day will be served Monday through Friday. ***There is no breakfast service on Saturday, June 28th***, but there are many options available in Bar Harbor.

If you purchased a Lobster Dinner (featured on Wednesday) you will have a lobster on your badge. That sticker is your proof of purchase to show to the kitchen staff.

Dietary Restrictions: If you reported any dietary restrictions on your Registration Form, we will have already notified COA. They will do their best to accommodate you!

Afternoon Snack Breaks: Coffee, tea and small munchies are ***available to all participants*** in Deering each afternoon from 2:30 - 3:00 PM. Since a lot of people have to squeeze into a relatively small space, we ask that after you get your beverage and goodies you move out away from the table as quickly as possible to let the next person in. We will not have snacks during the morning break so please plan to bring your own if you need something to carry you through until lunch time. *Note: If you have allergies to nuts or gluten or other food items, please understand that we cannot guarantee that foods do not have any allergens in them, though we will try to provide options for everyone!*

Late Night Snacks: You are welcome to bring your own snacks and beverages and encouraged to bring something to share with your fellow late-night revelers. Please label all your items with your name and note whether they are private or intended to be shared. Do not consume food or beverages that are not yours. Please note the alcohol policy in the Campus section, above.

Using the Kitchens: Most dorms are outfitted with refrigerators/freezer, stove and sink. Plates and utensils are not provided, so if you plan to use the kitchens please bring your own. ***Please keep kitchens clean!*** Don't leave your dirty dishes for others, there is nobody assigned to clean up after you. Please note that outdoor cooking (grilling) is not allowed on campus. ***All food and beverage items must be removed no later than 9:00 AM on Saturday.*** Thanks for your cooperation!

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS

Classrooms: We will be using rooms in a number of different buildings. Classrooms are numbered and are shown on the campus map found on your password page. The schedules list the classroom number where your class or workshop will be held.

Jam / Rehearsal Spaces: There is a detailed list on your password page to let you know which spaces are available during afternoons for rehearsing or jamming. It is fine for you to use these noted spaces, or the washrooms in these buildings, during the afternoons — even if you aren't staying on campus.

Schedule & Descriptions: Please refer to the PDF schedules and descriptions on your password page provided for both core morning classes and afternoon workshops for detailed information. Afternoon workshops do not require any sign-ups, just make your plan, show up and enjoy! If you're looking to try something new or one of the "intro to" workshops, don't be shy — ask a friend or make a post on the Community Board to borrow an instrument for that class period.

Recording devices for classes: Classes at the Festival are taught by ear. You are encouraged to bring recording devices to classes to help you after the class. Sheet music is typically not provided, however some instructors may have it for you if you ask. Please be aware that each faculty member will decide what photo/video/audio is permitted during their class and when, and please be respectful of their decision.

Excursions: If you plan to visit the National Park while you're in Bar Harbor, we suggest you purchase your pass [online here](#) before you arrive at the Festival. If you plan to visit the [Abbe Museum](#) you can pay admission in person upon arrival.

CONCERTS & DANCES

Let's Hit the Trail!: Please join us on Sunday night at 7:00 PM for Orientation followed by a special "Welcome Extravaganza" planned by your Festival Team & Faculty! This is a great opportunity to meet your fellow participants and faculty before the hectic class week begins. Please come, mingle, dance, and join in the fun!

Concessions: Treats will be for sale in the back of Gates Auditorium. Cash sales only.

Faculty Concerts: Full time registered students received admission to all faculty concerts at Gates Auditorium.

- Look for the "student line" at the concert where you will show your badge for admission. Please note, that because many patrons will have purchased full-price tickets for the main floor, students are asked to fill the balcony, and take downstairs seats only after ticketed patrons are seated. After the concert begins, students may also stand on the main floor in the back or left side as long as they do not block passageways/exits.
- You are welcome to purchase additional concert tickets (daily or weekly) for guests. [Please purchase your tickets in advance online](#), as the concerts often sell out.
- All concerts begin at 7:00 PM and doors will open at 6:30 PM. There is often a line of patrons waiting to get in starting around 6:00 PM. If you feel like it, you are welcome to play music in front of Gates Auditorium while you wait.

Student Concert & Dance: On Friday evening, there will be a student concert open to the public, starting at 7:00 PM. Non-students can [purchase tickets online](#) or at the door (if still available.) We encourage all students to participate - it is a really fun event!

- Please see the detailed "Student Concert Info" page on your password page for detailed information about our our how to sign up with our "Student Concert Liaison," number of spots and time available, collaboration ideas and more.
- The final community dance will kick off immediately following the concert, likely around 8:30 or 9:00 PM. Everyone is invited to stay and dance (students, guests and ticket holders.) No dance experience is necessary! Students are also welcome and encouraged to join the community dance band as well.

SESSIONS

Sessions are a vital part of the AFTMD experience! Here are a few things to keep in mind whether you're new to the community or a seasoned traddie:

- The piano in Turrets Common Room is tuned and available for student use. Please do not move it. There will also be two keyboards marked for student use, one in Deering Leadership Room and one in Seafox Living Room. These keyboards are also not to be moved from these locations. Please be kind and share the usage of these instruments.
- If you are new to jam sessions, please take a moment to review the Session Tips document on your password page for helpful information.
- This is a family friendly event, please drink and act responsibly (see alcohol policy above under "campus rules" above.)
- Remember that the outside noise curfew on campus is 9:30 PM, so please move your session inside from that time on (preferably in Seafox or Deering.) Be sensitive and respectful of those who might be sleeping in a building and do your best to choose a place accordingly.

THE TRAD TRADER

Merchandise: Our festival store, the Trad Trader, will be open as follows in Deering, with AFTMD branded merchandise along with CDs and books from our faculty.

Monday through Thursday: 2:30 - 3:00 PM

Tuesday & Thursday: 4:30 - 5:00 PM

COVID

Our COVID-19 policy for 2025 can be found [here](#). Please remember that it is your responsibility to have a plan in place to remove yourself from campus immediately should you test positive for COVID-19 during the Festival. You can read our protocols for a positive case of COVID-19 [here](#).

Please help keep our community safe by taking a rapid COVID-19 test before you arrive. If you have a positive test or respiratory symptoms, please stay home for the good health of all. While masks are optional, we strongly encourage all participants and visitors for whom it is comfortable and viable, to mask. We believe that masking and testing are proven tools for preventing the spread of COVID-19. We understand that individuals choose not to mask for various reasons, including health restrictions, comfort, breathability, etc., and ask all attendees to respect one another's choice.

We are doing our best to protect the health and happiness of everyone in our community, while striking a balance between risk assessment, responsible management and respect for individuals. Thank you for your understanding and grace.

THANKS

Acadia Festival of Traditional Music & Dance is overseen by Friends of the Acadia Trad Festival, a 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Corporation. As your Festival Directors, we would like to offer our heartfelt thanks to the Festival's Board of Trustees: David Wasserman, Kerstin Gilg, Shelley Keimach, Sally Sommers-Smith, Troy Jordan, Adam McLean, and Chuck Donnelly for their vision, direction, support and time in making this event a reality.

As always, we would like to express our sincere gratitude to all who have propelled the Festival's success over the last decade, and all who made the Festival possible in the first place - especially Chuck Donnelly, Jen Torrance and Nancy Neff. We are here because of you!

HAVE FUN!

Phew, that was a lot! We can't wait to welcome you in person for an incredible week of music, dance, and community. Thank you for deciding to join us!

Here are our smiling faces in our 2024 group photo!

