AFTMD
Morning Core Classes

At the Acadia Festival of Traditional Music & Dance, each day begins with our Core Classes, which are divided by major discipline (i.e. fiddle, piano, dance, community singing, etc.) and organized into groups that focus on different aspects of musicianship and learning (i.e. Moose, Seal, Bear, and Eagle.) For a reminder of what each group focuses on, please flip to the end of this packet, or see the Program Information on our website.

MUSIC PROGRAM

The AFTMD Music Program features two Core Class periods each morning: Period 1 from 9:00-10:15am and Period 2 from 10:30am-11:45am (with a 15 minute break in between.) Classes are divided by discipline, and grouped as follows:

For MOOSE (fiddle & guitar) students:
You will stay with your Core group for both morning periods each day, learning fun tunes and building skills on your instruments! The Moose Fiddle and Moose Guitar classes will meet up periodically to play together, and you will likely get a chance to collaborate with the Moose Dancers as well. Since material will be progressive throughout the week, we highly recommend that you plan to stay with this class every morning.

For SEAL and BEAR fiddlers:
You will rotate through each instructor in a system we call the "Fiddlers' Shuffle," allowing you the chance to explore and develop skills in different styles of traditional music. You will have an entire morning with each instructor (Periods 1 & 2,) and material will be progressive *across both periods*, so in order to make the most of the class, please plan to attend both sessions each day.

*For SEAL and BEAR students (all instruments **except** fiddle):*
You will work with the same instructor in the same class period each day. If your instrument has two instructors, you will have one instructor in Period 1, and then rotate to the other in Period 2; if your instrument has one instructor, you will stay with them for the entire morning (check our website for the current faculty lineup to see what is offered for your instrument this year). In both cases, material in your classes will be progressive *throughout the week* with each instructor, so in order to get the most out of your class time, we highly recommend that you plan to attend the same class for each period for the entire week.

For EAGLE students (all instruments & dance):
Working as an intensive, tight-knit cohort, your group will study in Period 1 with a dedicated "Head Coach" for the whole week, and in Period 2 with a daily rotating roster of "Master Class" instructors from different genres and specialties, so you can benefit from the diverse knowledge and perspectives that come from working with coaches in different artistic roles (ie. melody players, backers, composers, dancers, etc).

For COMMUNITY SINGING students (all animal groups combined):
You will have the same two instructors all week; working with one instructor in Period 1 and the other instructor in Period 2 each day. This class is open to everyone, regardless of previous vocal experience, and will explore the joys of singing traditional songs together!

DANCE PROGRAM

The AFTMD Dance Program features an all-dancer Group Warm-Up from 9:00-9:30am, and then two Core Dance Class periods each morning: Period 1 from 9:45-10:45am, and Period 2 from 11:00am-12:00pm (with 15 minute breaks in between.)

MOOSE students will stay with the same instructor for the entire week, while *SEALS*, and *BEARS* will rotate through two instructors in a system we call the "Dancers' Shuffle," which will allow you the chance to explore and develop skills in different percussive dance traditions. Please note that class material will be progressive *with each instructor*, so in order to make the most of your learning experience, we highly recommend that you plan to attend the same class for the entire week.
*(*Eagle dancers, please follow the "Eagles" section above.)*

CORE CLASS GROUP DESCRIPTIONS

For more detailed descriptions of each group, please visit our website and click on the various tabs to learn more.

MOOSE - From the Ground Up
This class is designed specifically for folks who are relatively new to their discipline, returning from a hiatus, or simply wanting to focus on strengthening their foundations in their craft. You can expect a gently-paced class in a fun, supportive environment, with lots of personalized attention from your teachers. You'll get a clear break-down of tunes or steps, plenty of repetition, slower tempos, and some historical and cultural context for the traditional material you're exploring.

SEALS - Skill Building
This group is a full-immersion experience where your instructors will help you develop your core technique in your discipline, all while learning some fun traditional material! You'll expand your repertoire *and* your skill set, work towards more fluent tempos, and develop your comfort level with learning tunes by ear (for musicians), or remembering and connecting steps (for dancers). You can expect to learn a wealth of new material at a reasonable pace, with plenty of repetition to get things feeling comfortable.

Note for fiddlers: "Relaxed" Seals will be a more moderate pace, with more in-class repetition to get comfortable with the material and time dedicated to mastering specific technical skills needed for the tunes you're learning. The "Fast" Seals class will be noticeably more intensive, with fewer repetitions, more diverse skills and stylistic nuance, and pushing towards full dance tempos. The "New-to-Trad" Seals class will be tailored for folks who already play the instrument fluently in other note-reading styles (i.e. classical), and will focus on how to learn by ear more comfortably, recognize forms / bowings / ornamentation that are commonly found in trad fiddle styles, and build core repertoire that you'll be able to use right away in jam sessions and ensembles.

BEARS - Nuance and Detail
This group is an intensive, fast-paced experience that will cover a LOT of material and delve into the essence of what makes each style of traditional music or dance distinct and unique in its own right. Expect quick tempos and fewer in-class repetitions to make room for deeper explorations of stylistic nuance, including things like artistic decision-making, creating variations, improvisation, and other fun creative concepts appropriate to the style you're working on. You'll have the best experience in this group if you are already comfortable learning quickly and fluently by ear (for musicians) or picking up, connecting, and improvising steps (for dancers).

Note for all disciplines: It's totally okay if you don't have prior exposure to a specific style that's being taught! As long as you can easily and comfortably navigate the complete technical range of your instrument/feet, you'll be fine.

EAGLES - Intensive Artistic Development
This group is a multi-instrumental cohort that is focused on helping students develop the skills they need to become the next generation of "musical ambassadors" in traditional music and dance! In addition to pushing into new repertoire and musical ideas, you can expect to engage in collaborative artistic pursuits such as performing for your colleagues, exchanging thoughtful feedback, workshopping ensemble and arranging ideas, honing your skills of how to communicate effectively with audiences (both musically and verbally), deepening your understanding of the historical context of each style, developing musical leadership skills, and more.

It's important to note that the Eagles are not "more advanced" than the Bears! The difference is that students in the Bear class are working on honing their own individual playing or dancing, while students in the Eagles class are exploring how their playing or dancing can contribute to the larger world of trad. If you want to focus on YOU and YOUR playing/dancing, you're a Bear. If you want to focus on how you can be of service in Trad, you're an Eagle.

A QUICK NOTE ON ATTENDING CORE CLASSES FOR MULTIPLE DISCIPLINES:

Classes at AFTMD are self-selective and you are always free to choose whatever class you want to attend each period. This includes changing classes mid-week if you feel a different group would be a better fit for your personal pace/experience level, taking classes on different instruments, or switching out of the Core Class you have selected in order to focus on a specific style or teacher. However, please keep in mind that:

- Instructors will teach each class at the pace/experience level appropriate for the scheduled group
- Morning class material will be progressive throughout the week, with material building in each class
- Some instructors may use the same tunes/steps/material in different classes

For students wishing to explore more than one discipline while at camp, we highly recommend choosing one to focus on as your "major discipline" in the morning Core Classes, and exploring the other during the afternoon in our various workshops, sessions, and ensembles. This is because there are many combinations of disciplines that have different morning class schedule structures (i.e. Fiddles, who rotate based on a double class period vs. Guitars, who rotate based on a single class period), and therefore you would end up missing important material in one class while attending another. That said — YOU are the architect of your own camp experience, and if you see a way to successfully "double major" in two disciplines for your morning classes, please feel free to explore as you see fit!