

# Festival announces option for partial refund

Those who bought passes for the cancelled Sisters Folk Festival (SFF) may seek a partial refund or donate the price of the pass to the non-profit. The festival was cancelled due to wildfire smoke-related air quality concerns in Sisters in the week leading up to the event.

The festival announced on Monday: “Cancelling the Festival two days before it was to start means we incurred a significant portion of the expenses of the event. Between the expenses we have incurred, the programs we are committed to funding and the refund we are able to offer, we will have fully expended the pass revenue we received — and then some.

“After much deliberation and soul-searching, we can offer pass-holders these options:

1. Make your pass purchase a tax-deductible donation to support the arts and music programming of SFF. We ask you, if your circumstances allow, to use this option as it will help us continue the arts and music programs we’ve committed to our community.

2. Accept a nominal refund of 35 percent and a donation acknowledgement for the balance of your pass price.”

Many people in the community have already expressed their intent to donate the full cost of their pass in support of the event.

“I would say the majority of the communication I have received (has been) people choosing to donate their ticket rather than seeking a refund,” Managing Director Ann Richardson said. “However, I have received some inquiries from people interested in a refund.”

# Developer rallies support for victims

The festival organization notes that contributions — including the value of an unused pass — are generally tax-deductible (the festival suggests consulting with a tax advisor regarding deductibility).

Sisters Folk Festival, Inc. is assessing the impact of the cancellation of what amounts to its biggest fundraiser of its educational outreach programs. The nonprofit invests over \$250,000 every year into programs in grades K-12 in the Sisters schools — programs like the Americana Project where students learn to play guitar, write and perform their own songs; and the luthier program at Sisters High School that teaches young people math, engineering and woodworking skills while they craft their own custom guitar or ukulele. Underserved youth in Sisters are able to take piano, dance or other arts-based lessons thanks to a scholarship program funded by SFF.

Plans are already underway for the 2018 festival.

To donate or to request a partial refund, visit <https://sistersfolkfestival.org/donationrefund-receipt-form/>.

Grand Peaks at Sisters, the nation’s newest pickleball community based in Sisters is asking for its sister pickleball communities across the nation to donate to help victims of the various natural disasters across the United States. Close to home, the forest fires across the state of Oregon are raging, along with destructive fires in Montana. Further afield, victims of Hurricane Harvey in Texas and Hurricane Irma in Florida are also in need of assistance.

With millions displaced and without basic services, monies raised from this campaign will go directly to Lutheran Disaster Response. This long-established team provides direct community-based relief and collaborates with other organizations to meet immediate needs all the way through long-term recovery.

Neil Amondson, partner in Grand Peaks, said, “With a long track record of supporting those affected by natural disasters, we are now drawing on our shared love of pickleball to bring this campaign to fruition. Our goal is to raise significant funds to help anyone in need affected by recent

fires and storms to restore their lives.”

One hundred percent of funds donated to the campaign will go directly to the national Lutheran Disaster Response. (PayPal fees will be absorbed by Saint Luke Church.)

This organization:

- Provides care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster;
- Coordinates volunteers through its local affiliates; and
- Provides long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after a disaster strikes.

Donations can be made online via PayPal by visiting [www.grandpeaksatsisters.com](http://www.grandpeaksatsisters.com).

Grand Peaks at Sisters is being developed by Hunter Renaissance Development LLC. The company has a history of philanthropic giving that includes spearheading support for victims of natural disasters and have co-founded nonprofits honoring and supporting military veterans and troops. For more information visit [www.grandpeaksatsisters.com](http://www.grandpeaksatsisters.com).

# SPRD cancels buried beef event

Sisters Park & Recreation District (SPRD) has cancelled its annual buried beef and brew event originally scheduled for September 23.

SPRD Executive Director Liam Hughes said, “There have been a variety of factors that influenced our decision to cancel, with one of the major ones being that an event that involves us building a giant smoky fire in the middle of town and burning a cord of wood doesn’t seem to excite the residents of Sisters right now, and I can certainly see why.”

The fundraising event for SPRD was to feature beef slow-cooked in a fire pit overnight.

“We apologize to anyone that was looking forward to the delicious slow-cooked beef, but we will reevaluate, and may be able to hold the event in the spring instead,” Hughes said.

Those who purchased tickets will receive a full refund and should contact SPRD at 541-549-0291.

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