



National Park Service (NPS)
U.S. Department of the Interior

Golden Gate National
Recreation Area (GGNRA)

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Temporary Food Event (TFE) Program FAQs

1. What is Temporary Food Event (TFE)?

A TFE is an event that provides food to the public and can last up to 14 consecutive days. Examples include street fairs and festivals, musical and artistic presentations, holiday and ethnic celebrations, trade shows, mobile food trucks, mobile food tents and product introductions at which food is sold, sampled, or given away to the public.

2. Do I need a TFE permit to sell or give away food at a temporary event?

Yes. Any person (or organization) intending to sell, give away, or sample food to the **public** from a fixed or temporary location for a period of less than 14 consecutive days in conjunction with a community event on GGNRA property requires a TFE permit.

3. How do I get a TFE permit?

Contact the event organizer of the event to obtain a TFE Permit application. Then complete and submit the application with supporting documentation to the event organizer. The event organizer is responsible for collecting all applications and submitting them to GGNRA at least two weeks prior to the event. For more information about the process visit <http://www.nps.gov/goga/planyourvisit/temporary-food-events.htm>

4. What conditions are attached to the TFE permit?

In order to qualify for a permit, the applicant must submit the required information and documentation outlined in the TFE application and must operate during the event in accordance to the FDA Food Code. A list of conditions can be found on the TFE Food Code Requirements page on the park TFE website.

5. My food is prepackaged...do I still need a TFE permit?

No. A TFE permit is not required if packaged food is being sold or given away to the public.

6. I am only selling drinks... do I still need a TFE permit?

No. A TFE Permit is not required for a vendor only serving beverages.

7. I am giving away samples of food...do I need a TFE permit?

Yes. A TFE permit is required to give away food including samples.

8. I work for a nonprofit and we want to provide food at an event. Do I need a permit?

Yes. A permit is required for all food vendors regardless of nonprofit status or fundraising objectives. The potential public health risks involved with food service are the same in these scenarios.

9. Can I set up a temporary food booth outside a park attraction or green space?

No. A temporary food booth must be connected with a community event and have an event organizer.

10. How much do TFE permits cost?

TFE Permit costs start at \$70 per hour. Time used to review applications and inspect food vendors are monitored and charged accordingly. On average, events that have between 1-3 food vendors take less than five hours and events with 4-8 vendors take 6-10 hours.

11. What are the event organizers' responsibilities at an event?

An event organizer is responsible for distributing the TFE applications to the food vendors and collecting their completed applications, compile a full vendor list, complete the Organizer TFE Application, create a site map indicating food vendor locations and provide all these documents to GGNRA at least two weeks prior to the event.

12. Who will inspect my booth at the event?

Since GGNRA is federal park land, food operations will be inspected during the event by a Public Health Officer from the U.S. Public Health Service. If the food vendor passes their inspection, they will receive a TFE permit at the event.

13. What are the penalties for non compliance during inspections?

Fines are not issued to organizers or to temporary food vendors at events; however a food operation will be closed temporarily or for the event duration if imminent health risks are observed. Multiple failed inspections where several priority violations are observed and repeated will lead to an annual permit suspension and ultimately permit revocation from all GGNRA facilities.

14. Do I need my own hand wash station if my food service booth is located next to a public restroom?

Yes. Hand washing facilities are always required in each booth where open foods are being handled.

15. As a food vendor, I would like to participate in an event this weekend; can I still apply for a permit?

No. It is not possible to issue an approval and TFE permit at very short notice. Work with event organizers to have your information submitted at least two weeks in advance.

16. I am organizing an event at GGNRA this summer. Can I contact someone from the National Park Service to explain the permit process?

Yes. A conference call or meeting to discuss the process can be arranged with GGNRA's Public Health Officer. Contact the Temporary Food Event program office at 415-561-4743.

17. I understand that in other jurisdictions food service operations need a food safety certified manager. Do I need a certificate to provide food at a temporary event?

Yes. Each food vendor is required to have at least one currently certified manager on site during the duration of the event. Food safety manager certifications are accepted from Servsafe, Prometric, and the National Registry of Food Safety Professionals and last five years after successful certification.

18. I provide food at many events in GGNRA or Fort Mason Center during the year. Can I get an annual permit?

Unfortunately, no. A TFE permit is valid for the event applied for only. Each event you participate in will require another application, inspection, and permit.

19. I already have a permit for temporary events from another jurisdiction. Do I still need to apply for a TFE permit at GGNRA?

Yes. Permits from other jurisdictions will not be accepted at GGNRA. You must submit a TFE application for an event on federal property.

20. Who can I call if I have a question?

All questions should first be directed to the event organizer. If the event organizer is unable to help, please call GGNRA at 415-561-4743 and ask to speak with the Public Health Officer.

For more information for public health requirements at inspection see the FDA Food Code online at:

<http://www.fda.gov/Food/FoodSafety/RetailFoodProtection/FoodCode/FoodCode2009/default.htm>