

## **REQUIREMENTS FOR FOOD SERVICE AT FESTIVALS AND SPECIAL EVENTS**

The North Carolina “Rules Governing the Sanitation of Restaurants and Other Food handling Establishments” require that certain food service operations located at festivals and special events obtain a **Permit to Operate** from the local health department before starting operation. The information in this document is intended to help you understand what is needed and what will be expected of an operator while the festival or event is in progress.

A temporary food establishment means those food or drink establishments which operate in connection with a fair, carnival, circus, public exhibition, or other similar gathering for a period of 15 days or less.

**Permit to Operate:** Each food vendor needs to contact the Alexander County Environmental Health Department to obtain a TFE Vendor Application. The application fee is \$75.00. The application must be submitted no less than 2 weeks before the festival. Before the event starts, an Environmental Health Specialist will visit your site, to examine your set up and equipment placement. It is the responsibility of each food vendor to meet these requirements. If all requirements of the Rules have been met, a permit to operate will be issued. No food service or food preparation is allowed on the site until you have received this permit. Your acceptance of this permit constitutes agreement to keep the site as originally permitted throughout the duration of the event and that you agree to operate in accordance with all statues, rules, regulations in 15A NCAC 18A Section .2600 and any specific conditions which may be included on the permit. During operation you may be requested to remedy problems observed by the Environmental Health Specialist; prompt compliance is required.

**Questions:** Please contact the Alexander County Environmental Health Department office at 828-632-1000 Ext. 311 between the hours of 8:00 am and 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

**\* Many churches, civic groups, non-profits are exempt. Just call the number above for further clarification.**