



MOBILE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL FIELD TRIP PLANNER

MYTHOLOGY FROM AROUND THE WORLD



SCHEDULE

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2026 (ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS)

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2026 (MIDDLE SCHOOLS)

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2026 (HIGH SCHOOLS)

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2026 (GENERAL PUBLIC)

THE GROUNDS (FAIRGROUNDS)



Subject: Mobile International Festival Field Trip Planning

Dear Educators,

The Mobile International Festival is excited to invite your students to attend our 43rd Annual Mobile International Festival. This year's theme, **"Mythology: Stories That Shaped the World,"** explores the legends, folklore, and mythical traditions that have influenced cultures across the globe for centuries.

Through cultural exhibits, international cuisine, music, dance, arts, and educational displays, students will discover how mythology reflects the values, beliefs, and histories of diverse peoples and nations. The festival provides a unique opportunity to connect classroom learning with real-world cultural experiences while fostering global awareness and appreciation for diversity.

We hope you will join us in making this enriching educational experience available to your students. We look forward to welcoming you and your classes to this year's festival.

Send us your registration form as soon as possible and I look forward to working with you. Should you have any questions, please don't hesitate to give me a call at 251-285-5003 or email at education@mobileinternationalfestival.org.

Sincerely,

Ester de Aguiar
Executive Director



INDEX

Welcome Letter.....	2
Mobile International 2026 Festival Student Days - General Information.....	4
MIF Student Days Times Schedules.....	5
Reservations Required - Planning Your Reservation	6
Scheduling Tours for Same Day as Festival	7
Elementary School Order/Reservation Form	8
Middle School Order/Reservation Form.....	9
High School Order/Reservation Form.....	10
Mobile International Festival School Day Rules and Guidelines.....	12
Chaperone Rules and Guidelines (Handout).....	14
Mobile International Festival Parent/Guardian Information (Handout)	15



MOBILE INTERNATIONAL 2026 FESTIVAL STUDENT DAYS GENERAL INFORMATION

DATES: Wednesday, November 18, 2026 (Elementary Schools Only)
 Thursday, November 19, 2026 (Middle Schools Only)
 Friday, November 20, 2026 (High Schools Only)

THEME: MYTHOLOGY FROM AROUND THE WORLD

ADMISSION:

\$12.00 for students, teachers, and chaperones. (It includes a \$6.00 admission fee and \$6.00 worth of food tokens).

Additional food tokens sold in \$5.00 increments.

NOTE: **Remember to give all participants in your group their tickets and passports prior to arriving at the Grounds (Mobile Fairgrounds).**

ASSISTANCE IN FUNDING YOUR FIELD TRIP:

Contact your **Partners in Education (PIE)** for assistance in the purchase of tickets, fees for buses, and/or substitute teachers.

For Mobile County Public Schools PIE, please visit <http://www.mcpss.com>. Those in other school systems, private or public, should check with your main school office to determine if you have a similar sponsor program for your school activities.



TIME SCHEDULES

TIME SCHEDULES: Please check the reservation form for time slots, reservations are required.

Elementary Schools	Wednesday, November 18, 2026	9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Middle Schools	Thursday, November 19, 2026	8:30 AM - 1:30 PM
High Schools	Friday, November 20, 2026	8:30 AM - 1:30 PM

Elementary Schools	Arrival Time	Departure Time
	09:00AM	12:00PM
	09:30AM	12:30PM
	10:00AM	01:00PM

Middle Schools	Arrival Time	Departure Time
	08:30AM	11:30PM
	09:00AM	12:00PM
	09:30AM	12:30PM
	10:00AM	01:00PM

High Schools	Arrival Time	Departure Time
	08:30AM	11:30PM
	09:00AM	12:00PM
	09:30AM	12:30PM
	10:00AM	01:00PM

REMINDER: Announcements will be made at 11:30AM, 12:00PM, 12:30PM and at 01:00PM.



PLANNING YOUR RESERVATION

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED:

Use the Time Schedule to plan your field trip, e-mail us at education@mobileinternationalfestival.org with approximate numbers as soon as possible.

RESERVATION DEADLINE:

The reservation deadline is Monday, September 21, 2026.

Space is limited for each time session, so it is important to make your reservation as soon as possible, if needed adjustments can be made at the time of payment.

Due to space, only pre-registered groups will be admitted. Reservation and payment is required by October 10, 2026.

PAYMENT DEADLINE:

Payment deadline is Monday, October 10, 2026. Let us know if you need additional time.

In the event of non-payment, MIF will give priority to groups on our waiting list.

GROUP STRUCTURE:

There should be **ONE** adult for every **TEN** students (Grades 6-12) and **ONE** adult for every **FIVE** students (Grades 3-5) attending the festival.

There must also be at least ONE LEAD TEACHER accompanying each school group.

CHAPERONES:

Chaperone makeup (as outlined above – adult numbers) will be strictly enforced! Chaperones may NOT be accompanied by young children or other family members.

ADMISSION for every teacher and chaperone accompanying the group must be purchased as part of the admission packet just like the students in the field trip group.



RESERVATIONS REQUIRED PLANNING YOUR RESERVATION, (CONT'D)

“WILL CALL” on school days is available ONLY for OUT OF MOBILE COUNTY school groups.

PAYMENTS AND ORDERS:

- a) Please include TICKET ORDER FORM with the payment for the festival.
- b) Make checks payable to: Mobile International Festival

Mailing Address: Mobile International Festival
713 Dauphin St. Mobile, AL 36602

We also accept all major credit cards for the purchase of student/teacher packs.

NOTE: Additional Food Tokens can be purchased on-site at the festival at the food token booth. No refunds on Food Tokens.



SCHEDULING TOURS FOR SAME DAY AS FESTIVAL

Schools planning on making same day visits are welcome to do so. To further facilitate this process the following options are available. Please note the guidelines below:

If a teacher chooses a tour, the teacher must make a reservation and pay with the respective facility's contact person.

RESERVATION CONTACTS: To make reservations and payment arrangements for any of these tours, please contact the appropriate facility directly:

The Mobile Museum of Art - <http://www.mobilemuseumofart.com/>
Kaitlen Amanor at 251-208-5217 or kwood@cityofmobile.org

The Archaeology Museum of University of South Alabama
<https://www.southalabama.edu/org/archaeology/museum/>
Contact: Candice Cravins at 251-460-6106 or ccravins@southalabama.edu

The Carnival Museum- <http://www.mobilecarnivalmuseum.com/>
Contact: Judi Gullledge at 251-431-9334 or judi@mobilecarnivalmuseum.com

Additional Activity Downtown

The Oyster Trail- <http://www.theoystertrail.com>. The Oyster Trail is a fun, educational and public art treasure hunt throughout coastal Alabama. Look for the large fiberglass oysters that have been painted, decorated and bedazzled by artists throughout the area and which can be found along the street, within parks, in lobbies, and well...wherever. Each oyster has a fact plaque that includes important information about the oyster's ecological and economic benefit to Mobile Bay. Visitors to the Trail are guided by a Trail Map which provides locations of the oysters.



MOBILE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TICKET ORDER FORM

Please mail, e-mail or bring both the order form and payment to:

Mobile International Festival

713 Dauphin Street

Mobile, AL 36602

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS FULLY

SCHOOL NAME: _____ SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER: _____

SCHOOL MAILING/STREET ADDRESS: _____

Teacher's Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Teacher's Cellular No: _____ Grade Level or Subject: _____

Grade Level	Arrival Time	Departure Time	Time Selected
	09:00AM	12:00PM	
	09:30AM	12:30PM	
	10:00AM	01:00PM	
	NUMBER OF PERSONS	COST PER PERSON	TOTAL
Total number of students		\$12.00	
Total number of teachers		\$12.00	
Total number of chaperones		\$12.00	
Additional tokens		\$5.00	
ORDER TOTAL			

COMPLETED FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH PAYMENT

Only school checks, money orders, cashier checks by mail.

Cash will be accepted in person at the MIF office, do NOT mail cash.

No personal checks will be accepted for payment of orders.



MOBILE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

MIDDLE SCHOOL TICKET ORDER FORM

Please mail or bring both the order form and payment to:

Mobile International Festival

713 Dauphin Street

Mobile, AL 36602

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS FULLY

SCHOOL NAME: _____ SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER: _____

SCHOOL MAILING/STREET ADDRESS: _____

Teacher's Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Teacher's Cellular No: _____ Grade Level or Subject: _____

Grade Level	Arrival Time	Departure Time	Time Selected
	08:30AM	11:30PM	
	09:00AM	12:00PM	
	09:30AM	12:30PM	
	10:00AM	01:00PM	
	NUMBER OF PERSONS	COST PER PERSON	TOTAL
Total number of students		\$12.00	
Total number of teachers		\$12.00	
Total number of chaperones		\$12.00	
Additional tokens		\$5.00	
ORDER TOTAL			

COMPLETED FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH PAYMENT

Only school checks, money orders, cashier checks by mail.

Cash will be accepted in person at the MIF office, do NOT mail cash.

No personal checks will be accepted for payment of orders.



MOBILE INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

HIGH SCHOOL TICKET ORDER FORM

Please mail or bring both the order form and payment to:

Mobile International Festival

713 Dauphin Street

Mobile, AL 36602

PLEASE COMPLETE ALL SECTIONS FULLY

SCHOOL NAME: _____ SCHOOL PHONE NUMBER: _____

SCHOOL MAILING/STREET ADDRESS: _____

Teacher's Name: _____ E-mail: _____

Teacher's Cellular No: _____ Grade Level or Subject: _____

Grade Level	Arrival Time	Departure Time	Time Selected
	08:30AM	11:30PM	
	09:00AM	12:00PM	
	09:30AM	12:30PM	
	10:00AM	01:00PM	
	NUMBER OF PERSONS	COST PER PERSON	TOTAL
Total number of students		\$12.00	
Total number of teachers		\$12.00	
Total number of chaperones		\$12.00	
Additional tokens		\$5.00	
ORDER TOTAL			

COMPLETED FORM MUST BE RETURNED WITH PAYMENT

Only school checks, money orders, cashier checks by mail.

Cash will be accepted in person at the MIF office, do NOT mail cash.

No personal checks will be accepted for payment of orders.



Mobile International Festival School Day Rules and Guidelines

1. All students must wear one of the following forms of IDENTIFICATION: School Uniforms, T Shirts with School Name or Name Tags.
2. ARRIVAL/UNLOADING/ENTRANCE: Busses will arrive and park in the parking lot as directed by an attendant. Students, accompanied by a teacher, will enter at the front entrance of The Grounds, located 1035 Cody Road North.
3. DEPARTURE: Students and teachers will EXIT from the front of the building to the parking lot to return to school or to go on to another activity/tour.
4. As noted in the published schedule recommended departure times are listed and announcements will be made regarding departure times. LEAD TEACHERS in each group must pay attention to YOUR GROUP schedule and departure time. MAKE SURE ALL STUDENTS AND CHAPERONES HAVE INSTRUCTIONS FOR DEPARTURE TIME.
5. Lost Student Procedure – When planning your field trip, include a lost student protocol, inform them what to do if they get lost (go to a security guard or to the festival office at the front of The Grounds, do NOT leave the building). As you return to your buses and notice that you have a “lost student,” go to the nearest exit and inform security. We will then search for the student and have him or her meet at the exit. Do NOT have your groups spread out looking for your missing student. In the event you depart and realize there is a missing student, come to the main entrance and advise the security guards of your situation as it is likely that students will have been “found” by MIF or The Grounds staff and are waiting in the festival office for you. Students will NOT be allowed to depart The Grounds with anyone other than the lead teacher, chaperone or parent (who must show proper photo ID).
6. OUT of TOWN (non Mobile County) Schools with “will call” tickets will be able to pick-up on Student Days at The Grounds ticket office. We recommend picking up your packets prior to arrival as there may be a delay in your admission due to the congestion of arriving school groups, etc.
7. Teachers and chaperones attending must have an admission packet just like the students in all groups. No exceptions.
8. Students MUST remain inside The Grounds until their designated departure with the group.
9. Make sure students have additional money to be able to make purchases; additional food tokens will be available for purchase on student days at the food token booth.



Mobile International Festival School Day Rules and Guidelines, (Cont')

10. FOOD TOKENS may NOT be used to make purchases at the cultural booths, only the FOOD booths will take these food tokens. Cultural booths accepting food tokens will be penalized if they take such tokens as payment. FOOD TOKENS are not refundable.
11. NO OUTSIDE FOOD or BAG LUNCHES! The purpose of MIF is to introduce students to cultures and foods from different countries. Menus at each booth will list food items and the number of tokens that must be used to pay for the food items.
12. FOOD ALLERGIES: Every effort will be made to list ingredients related to food allergies, if you have a student or adult with food allergies make sure you specifically ask first before purchasing foods. Always ASK even if there is a sign! Many countries use nuts, etc. in their food items. ASK, ASK!
13. High School students that travel in private cars must have their prepaid ticket to enter The Grounds.
14. Teachers and chaperones are responsible for the students adhering to their school systems "Student Code of Conduct" while in The Grounds.
15. Students who are NOT part of a school group or who arrive unescorted will not be admitted to student days.
16. For security reasons, MIF does not allow anyone who is not specifically associated with the school group into the festival on student days. This includes parents, grandparents or other family members (who are not teachers or designated chaperones with the group).
17. Location for "Lost & Found" is the Information Booth located in the front lobby. For lost articles during the festival, contact (The Grounds) 251-344-4573 or Denise Miner (MIF) 251-208-1556 within one month.
18. Absolutely, NO CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX (6) will be allowed on Student Days for safety reasons. Teachers, please advise your students and parents/chaperones. Make sure ALL your Chaperones know this.
19. We ask that there be no strollers or backpacks in The Grounds, for security reasons.

By order of The Grounds and MIF, no weapons are allowed into the building on student days, see The Grounds guards if anyone has questions about this policy. Security is provided by the Mobile Police Department, The Grounds security, MIF Security and Coast Guard volunteers. All safety and security concerns must be reported to The Grounds and MIF staff.



CHAPERONE RULES AND GUIDELINES

Teachers: Please give a copy of this page and ALL the MIF rules to each Chaperone.

1. There must be one LEAD teacher for each group. All chaperones must follow the instructions of this lead teacher.
2. Chaperones are required for each group so that they may ensure that all students behave appropriately and follow the student conduct codes as well as MIF rules.
3. Chaperones may not bring underage children or children who are not part of the class group attending the student day.
4. Chaperones may not bring “friends” with them or have “friends” meet them on the student days
5. Chaperones must know the arrival and DEPARTURE times and plans. See the general MIF rules regarding departure.
6. Chaperones must have an admission ticket purchased through the group reservation, no chaperones will be admitted without a ticket, no tickets will be sold at The Grounds on student days.
7. Chaperones must be familiar with the lost student procedure (see lead teacher and MIF rules for instructions).
8. Each chaperone is assigned to a specific number of students. You are responsible for these students during the entire stay at the MIF and any other joint tours if applicable. Student behavior is your responsibility.
9. Make sure you know if any students in your group have a food allergy or other.
10. No Smoking, drugs, alcohol or weapons are allowed on The Grounds property at any time during the student days.
11. Absolutely, NO CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF SIX (6) will be allowed on Student Days for safety reasons. Teachers, please advise your students and parents/chaperones. Make sure ALL your Chaperones know this.
12. We ask that there be no strollers or backpacks in The Grounds.



Mobile International Festival

Parent/Guardian Information

(Teachers: Please print and send to parents when you are planning your field trip).

The Mobile International Festival is held each year as a non-profit (501c3) educational and cultural event for schools and families to enrich the education process. The goals of the festival are to:

1. Provide a strong active learning environment for schools and teachers to use as a field trip activity that enhances and adds to their classroom work. This learning environment includes opportunities to integrate a wide range of academic activities from geography and history to language and the sciences.
2. Provide a broad multi cultural view of the heritage of Mobile, Alabama and the United States. With over 70 cultural booths and 30 food booths, each representing a country or region of the world, students will get to meet the many different Mobile residents whose heritage is tied to these areas of the world.
3. Provide students and school groups with an active environment that includes hands-on art and educational activities (scavenger hunt, worksheets, etc.) as well as a series of stage areas where they can hear and participate in dance, music and activities such as storytelling.

The festival is sponsored each year by the City and County of Mobile as well as many sponsors <https://www.mobileinternationalfestival.org> that help keep the costs to the schools reasonable and with access to more educational activities than is available anywhere else. MIF admission for school groups on student days is \$10 (\$5.00 ticket plus a \$5.00 food token packet). Schools can also elect to ADD an additional \$5.00 food token packet onto this cost as well so students do not have to carry as much money with them on the day of the event. Food tokens CANNOT be used for cultural booth purchases. Food prices range from as little as two tokens to four or five tokens (each food token packet has ten tokens in a bundle). Additional tokens can be purchased on the day of the event. The value of each token is \$.50 and is non refundable.

Schools typically must add to this cost expenses for buses, drivers, and any other activities to be included in the field trip thus the total field trip cost may be higher yet very reasonable. Parents with questions about the field trip should speak with the teachers and schools organizing the event. Questions about the Mobile International Festival may also be sent to Ester de Aguiar, MIF Executive Director or education@mobileinternationalfestival.org Phone: 251-285-5003.