

## Looking for a Story?

*Story Ideas & Interview Opportunities from the Connecticut Renaissance Faire*

The Connecticut Renaissance Faire offers more than entertainment – it’s a rich source of human stories, visual moments, and community impact. Below are media-friendly story ideas and interview opportunities, organized by topic to help you quickly find what fits your beat.

### Visual & Human-Interest Angles (Best coverage: Aug 30–Sept 28)

#### LIFESTYLE & HUMAN INTEREST

- ❖ **PETS IN COSTUME:** Guests bring dogs, cats, snakes, ferrets, and birds dressed in themed outfits. It’s photogenic, emotional, and wildly popular with audiences of all ages.
- ❖ **VOW RENEWALS:** Romantic and heartfelt, these short fantasy-themed ceremonies take place during Roses & Romance Weekend. Couples often dress in costume and return year after year to renew their vows at the Faire.
- ❖ **FAIRE FIRST-TIMERS:** Each season, thousands of guests experience the magic for the first time. We can connect you with families, couples, or solo guests who fell in love with the Faire and now return every year.
- ❖ **UNSCRIPTED MOMENTS, LASTING MEMORIES:** Every day brings surprise interactions – a jester improvises a marriage proposal, a knight teaches a child to duel, or a fairy delivers a handmade scroll. These spontaneous moments are what guests remember most.
- ❖ **BOOM DING BOB:** Bob, a former guest who survived cancer, joined the Faire and now delights guests as the man who runs the “Ring the Bell” game. A powerful survivor story and crowd favorite.
- ❖ **KIDS, CAST, AND CONNECTION:** Shows, characters, and roving entertainers frequently interact with children, often creating unscripted, magical moments worth capturing.

#### ARTS, CULTURE & ENTERTAINMENT

- ❖ **DAILY COSTUME CONTESTS:** From royalty to goblins, guests of all ages showcase handmade creations in high-energy contests. A great way to capture crowd enthusiasm and personal expression.
  - ❖ **THE DAILY PARADE:** Colorful villagers, musicians, and guests in costume wind through the faire grounds with music, cheers, and occasional surprises.
  - ❖ **MAKE A LIVING IN FANTASY:** Many of our cast members are improvisational actors with backgrounds in theater or education. Some are first-timers, while others have performed for over a decade.
  - ❖ **THE ENCHANTING WORLD OF TRINKET TRADING:** A guest-favorite tradition hosted by Cally, where visitors exchange handmade trinkets and tokens. It celebrates creativity, generosity, and community-building in a way that’s as charming as it is photogenic.
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❖ **FEAST LIKE A KING:** From giant turkey legs and handmade pierogi to vegan tarts and local cider, the Faire’s food scene is an unexpected highlight. Many vendors are Connecticut-based and offer affordable, family-friendly options – including \$7 meal deals.

## BUSINESS, SMALL BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- ❖ **FROM VENDOR TO FULL-TIME CAREER:** Artisans like Guiseppe Martino, Star Routolo, and Sarah Sporgis have built full-time creative careers from Faire vending. A look at the modern maker economy in action.
- ❖ **IT TAKES A VILLAGE – LITERALLY:** In just a few days, the Lebanon Fairgrounds transforms into a bustling medieval village complete with shops, banners, and immersive detail. We can offer a behind-the-scenes look at the build and the people who bring it to life.
- ❖ **KIM OATHOUT – SET DECORATOR & COSTUMER:** Kim leads the transformation of the fairgrounds into a vibrant medieval village. She can speak to the design process, handmade details, and how every sign, banner, and costume helps build a sense of place.

## COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC IMPACT

- ❖ **THE \$2.84 MULTIPLIER:** Every \$1 spent at the Faire generates \$2.84 in local spending, according to tourism industry standards. This economic impact supports restaurants, shops, and lodging across eastern Connecticut.
- ❖ **NONPROFIT FUNDRAISING:** Each weekend, local PTOs, sports teams, and rescue organizations run parking operations – earning \$1,000–\$2,000 per day to fund community programs.
- ❖ **THE FAIRE SEEKS A PERMANENT HOME:** Despite record growth, the Faire is still seeking a permanent home after a prior deal fell through. This community development angle explores the impact – and what’s at stake.

## INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITIES

Available upon request. All interviews can be coordinated through Eric Tetreault (eric@ctfaire.com).

- ❖ **THE KING OR QUEEN:** Costumed royalty are more than photo ops – they serve as welcoming hosts, lead daily parades, and improvise with guests all day. Both actors are seasoned performers with a flair for humor, heart, and staying in character.
  - ❖ **VETERAN STREET CAST:** Our cast includes performers with 5+ years of experience creating spontaneous moments for thousands of guests each weekend. From sword fights to heartfelt toasts, these are the people who make the village feel alive – and they’ve seen it all.
  - ❖ **HARP TWINS (SEPT 21-22 & 27-28 ONLY):** Internationally touring musicians Camille and Kennerly Kitt bring their rock-meets-fantasy harp act to the Faire for two weekends only. They’ve performed in castles,
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cons, and renaissance festivals around the world – and they draw major fan attention.

❖ **KIM OATHOUT - SET DECORATOR & COSTUMER:** Kim leads the transformation of the fairgrounds into a vibrant medieval village. She can speak to the design process, handmade details, and how every sign, banner, and costume helps build a sense of place.

❖ **NONPROFIT PARKING GROUPS:** Local school PTOs, rescue groups, and sports teams run our parking operations each weekend, often raising \$1,000–\$2,000 per day. Hear how a single weekend at the Faire can fund an entire season of programs and what it means to their communities.

### PHOTO & VIDEO OPPORTUNITIES

From spontaneous guest moments to large-scale visuals, the Connecticut Renaissance Faire offers a wide range of photo and video opportunities ideal for feature coverage, social media, and B-roll. Below are a few of the most requested and media-friendly shots:

❖ **PETS IN COSTUME:** Guests dress dogs, cats, snakes, ferrets, and even birds in themed outfits. Available daily.

❖ **THE DAILY PARADE:** Costumed villagers, musicians, and fantasy characters march through the Faire grounds with music, flags, and audience interaction. Happens once per day.

❖ **COSTUME CONTESTS:** Guests of all ages take the stage in handmade costumes to compete for audience applause. High energy and great variety.

❖ **ARTISAN DEMONSTRATIONS:** Live blacksmithing, pottery, and woodworking demos offer strong B-roll and visually engaging close-ups.

❖ **VOW RENEWALS:** Romantic, fantasy-themed ceremonies during Roses & Romance Weekend. Couples dress in costume and often return annually.

❖ **FOOD MOMENTS:** Giant turkey legs, fresh-baked sweets, and guests enjoying drinks or family-style meals in scenic outdoor settings.

❖ **KIDS IN CHARACTER:** Young guests dueling with foam swords, getting knighted, or playing with cast members in costume.

❖ **FANTASY CHARACTERS:** Fairies, goblins, pirates, royalty, and other roving characters interacting with guests – often resulting in spontaneous photo ops.

❖ **BEHIND-THE-SCENES ACCESS (UPON REQUEST):** Includes early morning village setup, tent city, cast preparation, and production crew in action.

Need photos in advance? We maintain a gallery of high-resolution, press-ready images available on our media page. Looking for something you don't see? Ask us! We have thousands of photos. Want a visual of what the Faire looks like? Visit our photo galleries on our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/ctfaire/photos>

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