

Second annual Alberta Culture Days event planned for Sept. 27 – 29

Performers, writers, artists, volunteers, sponsors all needed

Joe McWilliams

Lakeside Leader

Visitors to last year's inaugural Alberta Culture Days event in Slave Lake will remember all kinds of cool stuff happening under one roof at the Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre. Dancers, tasty ethnic food, actual published authors, live music, carvers, painters, storytellers – you name it.

Well, a small team of volunteers is busy organizing the second annual event, and they are very keen right now to recruit people for displays, not to mention volunteers to help run the weekend's events.

This year, Alberta Culture Days will be split between the Friendship Centre and the field house in Slave Lake, starting on Friday, Sept. 27 and running through the week-

end.

"We were above our capacity last year," explains Regional Arts Council member (and Friendship Centre Program Coordinator) Jule Asterisk. "That's why we've enlisted the town this year."

All events are free, and that includes the 'multi-cultural finger food' that'll be on display at the Friday event at the Friendship Centre. Asterisk says there'll be a Canadian table, a Native table, a Chinese table, a Filipino table, a Ukrainian table – and hopefully more coming on board with tasty and exotic goodies. That's the same evening that visitors can meet artists and writers who will be displaying and demonstrating their work.

"We're having workshops for kids too on the Friday," Asterisk says.

"They can make things."

Saturday at the field house is performing arts day. Speaking of which, help is needed to decorate the place, as well as in a number of other areas. And there's room for more performers. More of everything. Call the Friendship Centre at 780-849-3039 if you have something to offer or need more information.

Or, if it's general info about Alberta Culture Days – including what other communities are doing – check out culturealberta.ca online.

As with all such events, local sponsorship, plus volunteerism, is what makes it work. Asterisk says a letter requesting donations is circulating, and there has been some response.

"We could always use more," she adds.



A dancer at the 2013 Alberta Culture Days event.