

Playa del Fuego Grand Unified Document v3.3 May 2015

1. BASICS

What is Playa del Fuego

Playa del Fuego is the Mid-Atlantic Regional Burning Man Event. Events are held every spring and fall, on Memorial Day and Columbus Day weekends. Playa del Fuego is an experiment in collaborative community featuring art and music created by those who join us to participate. Attendees are known as participants. There are no spectators at Playa del Fuego; everyone collaborates in some way to create the event. Inspired by the Burning Man festival, it is a place for radical self-expression and an experiment in temporary community building. It is a place of acceptance, inclusivity, and respect. It is organized entirely by volunteers. Art and entertainment are created solely by participants. There are no concession stands. No cash transactions (except ice sales) are permitted at Playa del Fuego - even bartering is discouraged. This is a sincere experiment in creating a gift economy. If you need something, ask for it. If you have it, gift it! There are no garbage cans; everyone is responsible for packing out their garbage or throwing it into one of the handy dumpsters. Playa del Fuego is a blank canvas; expect nothing...bring everything.

Event Location

VNVMC Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club of Delaware
474 Flemings Landing Road
Townsend, DE 19734

Nearby Hospital

Christiana Hospital, 4755 Ogletown-Stanton Road, Newark, DE 19718 302-733-1000

Community Expectations

Playa del Fuego believes its participants want to be good citizens. Getting to PDF can be a lot of hard work. We think people genuinely care about the community they work so hard to contribute to. This document contains information participants need to sustain this sincere experiment. We encourage all participants, newbie to gnarled, to look over this document and be reminded this experiment in collaborative community is not complete anarchy. Generally, if something is not covered in the GÜD, and it is legal in the larger world, it is allowed at the event.

Community Process — how the GÜD evolves

These policies were created by the Planning Committee or the Board of Directors, which are all volunteer positions. Either a participant submits a proposal to the Planning Committee and the PC approves it, or not, or the BOD makes a decision about something because there is a compelling safety/liability or future-of-the-event issue at stake. Once something becomes an official event policy/procedure/rule via the BOD or PC, it goes into the GÜD, which is compiled by humble scribes. The best and easiest way to reach the PC is via the PONY.

GLOSSARY

PDF - Playa del Fuego

MOOP - matter out of place, anything that is not indigenous to the natural environment you are in, for example: litter, cigarette butts, glitter

Rangers - helpful people who rove about in khaki with radios. They are neither cops, your mom, nor required to wear utilikilts.

VNVMC - Viet Nam Veterans Motorcycle Club, our hosts and landlords who refer to this place as FIRE BASE LLOYD. Be respectful of them.

Coordinator - A super-volunteer who doesn't just work a shift, they run an entire department like DPW, PARKING, THEME CAMPS, or GATE.

Burn - slang for a Burning Man-inspired event like ours. Burns are not music festivals. A few differences being: at burns there are no spectators, burns follow The 10 Principles, and the pretty girls at burns aren't dancing ankle deep in a pile of beer bottles and cups. "Have a nice burn."

10 Principles - Burning Man's version of the 10 Commandments, wherein you are permitted to covet your neighbor's wife but not to litter or participate in cash activities like vending. And so very much more. See *10 Principles* in *COMMUNITY STANDARDS*.

Volunteer Central - AKA "Participation Station"; a large temporary shelter located next to the red stage. It has volunteer schedules and sign-ups, lost and found, ranger HQ and radios, copies of the WWW Guide, and a few shady seats. Good place to go with a question.

Gate - The Gate is the portal through which you enter the event. The event has 2 gates, front and back. The front gate turns tickets and valid IDs into official wristbands during specific hours posted elsewhere. The back gate is next to the main parking lot and features the Greeters. Always show your wristband to the nice people working the gate when you enter, leave, or bring them a cold beverage/tasty snack.

PONY - PONY stands for Planning and Organization Need You. It is the official online planning and discussion forum for Playa del Fuego. <http://playadelfuego.org/bbs/>

PC - The Planning Committee makes the nuts and bolts choices that run the event. The Planning Committee is comprised of literally anyone and everyone who calls the Planning Meeting conference call or attends it in person. You may attend as many or as few meetings as you like, however, your vote only counts for meetings you actually are a part of. Read more about the PC at the PONY.

PDF, Inc. - a Maryland not-for-profit corporation recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3.

BOD - Board of Directors. A dozen or so unpaid volunteers in search of a hot tub in which to sit and think. They also handle all the boring legal parts of the event like taxes, insurance, liability, and adhering to our mission.

Comp Tickets - There are no comp tickets at PDF. Not even for volunteers, artists, DJs, the Planning Committee, or the Board of Directors.

Reserve Tickets - These are used to ensure that people essential to the smooth operation of the event. Everyone approved for a reserve ticket must still pay for it. Art Grant recipients also receive reserve tickets because art is central to our mission and artists are bound by contract to be present at the event.

2. COMMUNITY STANDARDS

PLAYA DEL FUEGO PRINCIPLES

Self-Expression

Our events foster an environment of creative self-expression, where participants feel supported to honestly express their inner selves through artistic creation, performance, and in their social interactions.

Self-Organization

Our events foster an environment of self-organization. The event is 100% volunteer run. No one gets comp tickets. Everyone is invited to plan. Everyone is invited to play. Everyone is invited to work. The Planning Meetings and Planning Committee are open to everyone to attend.

Accountability

Our events foster an environment of personal accountability, where we hold ourselves responsible for our own actions, and take personal responsibility for meeting our own needs, for the event itself, and for the event's impact on the world at large.

Cooperation

Our events foster an environment of cooperation, where participants work together to resolve potential conflicts respectfully, to help mediate conflicts between others, and to create art, performance, and social space on a larger scale than one person could alone. Additionally, participants seek to keep events sustainable by volunteering, cleaning up after themselves, and assuming personal responsibility for conducting themselves in accordance with local, state, and federal laws.

TEN PRINCIPLES

At Playa del Fuego we follow the Ten Principles of Burning Man. They are as follows:

Radical Inclusion - Anyone may be a part of Burning Man. We welcome and respect the stranger. No prerequisites exist for participation in our community.

Gifting - Burning Man is devoted to acts of gift giving. The value of a gift is unconditional. Gifting does not contemplate a return or an exchange for something of equal value.

Decommodification - In order to preserve the spirit of gifting, our community seeks to create social environments that are unmediated by commercial sponsorships, transactions, or advertising. We stand ready to protect our culture from such exploitation. We resist the substitution of consumption for participatory experience.

Radical Self-reliance - Burning Man encourages the individual to discover, exercise, and rely on his or her inner resources.

Radical Self-expression - Radical self-expression arises from the unique gifts of the individual. No one other than the individual or a collaborating group can determine its content. It is offered as a gift to others. In this spirit, the giver should respect the rights and liberties of the recipient.

Communal Effort - Our community values creative cooperation and collaboration. We strive to produce, promote, and protect social networks, public spaces, works of art, and methods of communication that support such interaction.

Civic Responsibility - We value civil society. Community members who organize events should assume responsibility for public welfare and endeavor to communicate civic responsibilities to participants. They must also assume responsibility for conducting events in accordance with local, state, and federal laws.

Leaving No Trace - Our community respects the environment. We are committed to leaving no physical trace of our activities wherever we gather. We clean up after ourselves and endeavor, whenever possible, to leave such places in a better state than when we found them.

Participation - Our community is committed to a radically participatory ethic. We believe that transformative change, whether in the individual or in society, can occur only through the medium of deeply personal participation. We achieve being through doing. Everyone is invited to work. Everyone is invited to play. We make the world real through actions that open the heart.

Immediacy - Immediate experience is, in many ways, the most important touchstone of value in our culture. We seek to overcome barriers that stand between us and a recognition of our inner selves, the reality of those around us, participation in society, and contact with a natural world exceeding human powers. No idea can substitute for this experience.

EXPECTATIONS AND BOUNDARIES

Community Expectations

Playa del Fuego is an experiment in community, ad-hocracy, and do-ocracy. Respect is fundamental to this community. Please respect yourself, other participants, and our hosts. Participants can be held liable for endangering or injuring other participants or their property. Please plan all projects and activities accordingly and use common sense. Playa del Fuego operates on a gift economy. It is expected everyone contributes to the community in some meaningful way and gives as much as they receive. There are many ways to give; do not limit yourself to material gifts.

Boundaries and Consent

Self-Expression and Cooperation require a social contract to make our event a safe place to play. These rules apply to everyone regardless of their gender or sexual orientation. Remember that not everyone wants your attention so be courteous and always ask for consent.

What do we mean by consent? Consent is an affirmative, unambiguous, and conscious decision by each participant to engage in mutually agreed-upon activity. The consent has to be ongoing throughout any encounter. While consent is generally spoken about in terms of sexual activity, it extends beyond this at PDF - we apply the same guidelines to taking pictures of others, hugging, entering a camp's private space, etc.

While we strive to make PDF a safe place for everyone, assumptions can be made (sometimes from those who have never been to a Burn before) about what is acceptable and what is not. The following is PDF's stance on consent and "best practices" for protecting yourself and others.

- NO always means NO. Only YES means YES. Get an enthusiastic YES before proceeding with anything that might infringe on someone else's boundaries.

- After someone has said NO, cajoling, pleading, or any form of emotional blackmail is UNACCEPTABLE.

- YES can turn into a NO at anytime and that needs to be respected. You or the other person don't have to go along with something, even if it was previously agreed on. If you change your mind you should speak up, and if someone else changes their mind you should act in accordance with that new boundary.

- Before you assume someone wants your physical attentions, ASK. Being direct is OK. This includes anything from hugs, spankings, kissing, etc. Some people do not want to be touched, and that should be respected. Asking is expected protocol, and sexier than you might think. Not respecting these boundaries can be considered sexual assault, and will not be tolerated at the event.

- Respect the moment. Comfort levels vary at different times and with different people. Even if a person seems comfortable with one person touching them does not mean they are ok with everyone touching them.

- If you're not sure if what you're about to do is ok, either where you are, or who you are with, ask. Not everything is a good idea everywhere.

- Being under the influence is not an excuse for infringing on others boundaries. Consider your level of sobriety. Are you able to ask permission and respect others' boundaries? Consider the other person's level of sobriety. Are they able to give consent? TIP: You can say that you would rather wait until you both have your full judgment before doing anything you may regret later.

- Don't hesitate to check in with others around you. If someone looks uncomfortable, don't be afraid to say hello and ask how they're doing.

- If you are uncomfortable, ask for help. We are a tight-knit community and look out for each other. Look around - are friends close by? Theme camps? Random people walking around? Let them know that you aren't comfortable in the current situation.

- Rangers are trained in mediation techniques and can diffuse any number of situations. In addition, if there is a violation of your boundaries, Rangers can intervene and will keep a log of the incident in case the offending party continues this type of behavior. Assault or repeated harassment may lead to ejection from the event; reporting incidents helps us spot predators. Rangers are the cool kids walking around in khaki with walkie-talkies.

- Practice saying YES as well as no. We know it can be challenging to communicate your feelings or boundaries verbally. And no one should assume they understand someone else's body language. Being clear about what you want or don't want can help avoid situations where boundaries are being violated.

- Remember, respecting personal boundaries includes taking pictures or video, as well as physical and

verbal interaction.

TO HELP

Rangers are not cops or your mom, but they do want to try to ensure that everyone is having the best burn possible.

People who Ranger are usually those friends that you always know will be there for you. The PDF Rangers do their thing via the FLAME method: Find Out, Listen, Analyze, Mediate, Explain. But you don't need to be a Ranger to do this yourself! If something or someone is bothering you, try to talk to that person calmly and work it out. If something doesn't seem right to you, ask about it - Find Out what's going on. You may discover it's not really a problem, or you may discover that it is and that you either need to make a request, or explain one of our few rules and see if you can recruit that person to help you respect it.

If/when you decide you want help, something is more intense or complicated than a minor disagreement, or you or a friend might need help from an outside resource of any kind, find/ask a Ranger (they are those funny looking folks in khaki). If you don't see one wandering about, head over to Center Camp where you will find Ranger Headquarters (behind Participation Station) and the Ranger Base Radio. There are instructions posted near the radio on how to turn it on and call for an available Ranger to meet you at Participation Station. We are ready and waiting to help you have an awesome PDF!

Interested in becoming a Ranger? Have you attended at least one PDF prior to this? If so, feel free to come by Ranger Headquarters on Friday night at 7 pm for Ranger Training, or ask a Ranger to help you find Snuggles, our On-Site Ranger Coordinator.

3. RULES

Rules have consequences. The consequences may include being ejected from the event and/or being unable to attend future events.

Illegal Activity

Please note: Playa del Fuego, Inc. does not condone ANY illegal activity. We create a temporary city with its own rules. This city coexists within an area of real laws. Try to make that coexistence a peaceful one. Abide by all relevant local, state, and federal laws. If you see law enforcement officers, be nice to them. PDF will cooperate with all local, county, state, and federal officials. We all share an interest in having a smooth event.

Drinking and Driving

Don't be stupid, motorized vehicles don't mix with intoxication. Any ticket holder found driving while intoxicated/under the influence may be banned from the event for no less than one year and possibly for life. There are no plans to bring breathalyzers to PDF, so the BOD reserves the right to ban participants suspected of altered driving based on concerns raised by members of the community.

A motorized vehicle is defined as a non-human powered vehicle and includes cars, RVs, buses, art cars, tractors, go-karts, golf carts, scooters, and similar devices.

Off-Limit Areas

The Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club of Delaware (VNVMC), who owns the land on which we camp,

has indicated that the following areas are 100% off-limits. PDF is not responsible for what happens to you if you disrespect these areas. At a minimum, you will be forced to leave:

- Anything to the left of the gravel drive is off-limits except the showers and porta-potties next to the showers only. Stay to the right of the road at all other times.
- The Clubhouse - a yellow and white building located between the showers and pavilion.
- The Flagpole - located at the right edge of the gravel road and is near the clubhouse. It is surrounded by a fence and is clearly marked.
- The helicopter, its stand, and the miscellaneous bombs and ammo boxes surrounding it.
- Any buildings, closed fields, or fields with animals in them.
- Just because it isn't on the above list, does not mean you are allowed there. Use good judgment.

VNVMC Sovereignty at Event

There are unique benefits that come from holding our event on the VNVMC site but they are not without a few strings. Our landlords, the VNVMC, reserve the right to object to actions of our participants and ask those participants to cease the offending activity immediately, with no discussion. In other words, if the Vets say so, it is so. The Vets' demands supersede anything that may be contained in this document or may seem otherwise OK in the larger world.

Event Entry

Wristbands

Everyone is required to wear wristbands. Anyone found without a wristband will be ejected. Replacements can be acquired at the Front gate during ticketing hours. If someone asks to see your wristband, it's cool, just show them.

Re-entry

If you leave the event site, even to just get something from your car, and wish to re-enter, you must be wearing a wristband.

Gate Crashing and Sneak-ins

Gate crashing and sneaking in violates core principles of our event and are not tolerated. Gate crashers and sneak-ins will be treated like anyone else without a wristband and be ejected.

Scalped and Counterfeit tickets

Scalped and counterfeit tickets violate core principles of our event and are not tolerated. Scalped and counterfeit tickets are void and will not be accepted for admittance or exchanged for a wristband. Wristbands obtained with scalped or counterfeit tickets or in any other nefarious manner will be voided and the wearer ejected.

No Nudity within Sight of Gate

Our landlords, the VNVMC, requires that all participants within view of the gates, using the porta potties at the front gate, outside the gates, in the parking lot, or off the property, dress accordingly – that means modestly. If you can be seen from the road or a neighboring home, you should be properly attired for a public setting. Meaning there should be nothing about your attire that allows others to see parts of your body the law does not normally allow to be displayed in public. Generally, if you can see the road or the “outside world” make sure you are covered.

Sound Policy

I. Purpose

Once upon a time, the Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club was far enough away from the rest of the world that we were provided some insulation from worrying about how our event impacted the community around us. Over time Playa del Fuego has found itself with a variety of neighbors who have a variety of tolerance levels for sound playing 24 hours a day. PDF has joined the list of regional events that are trying different measures and sound policies in order to find the right balance between the needs of the Burners who come to PDF and the community around the event. The Playa del Fuego (PDF) Sound Policy is intended to protect of the longevity of PDF events by establishing standards for the control of noise pollution extending beyond the boundaries of said events.

II. Scope

This policy applies to any individual, group, instrument, or device (instrument, installation, speaker system, generator, etc.) producing audible or sub-audible sound within and during a PDF event.

III. Restrictions

a. All sound at PDF events shall be limited to a predetermined decibel (dB) level, measured at 50' from the source of the sound, dependent on the time of day, as follows:

10 AM – 10 PM: 80dB

10 PM – Midnight: 74dB

Midnight – 10 AM: 68dB

b. The use of electronically amplified sound between the hours of 12 PM and 10 AM shall only be permitted to those approved by the Sound Marshall and/or Sound Committee prior to the event through the Sound Camp Application on the PDF Website.

c. The use of subwoofers, woofers, or any device capable of producing sound at or below 100Hz is not permitted between the hours of 10 PM and 10 AM.

d. Quiet Camping Areas – The Front Field and Back Field open camping areas are designated as Quiet Camping. The use of generators, loud musical instruments (horns, drums, etc.), or any other disruptive sound generation is not permitted between the hours of 10 PM and 10 AM.

IV. Roles

a. PDF Board of Directors (BOD): The PDF BOD has ultimate authority to turn down or off any and all sound as deemed necessary for the security of the event.

b. Sound Marshal: The Sound Marshal is responsible for PDF wide compliance with the Sound Policy and has the authority to turn down or off any and all sound as deemed necessary, with deference to members of the BOD, or to a quorum of the BOD if the Sound Marshal is a member of the BOD.

- c. Sound Sponsors: Camp Leaders, individuals designated by a Camp Leader, or an individual bringing amplified sound to a PDF event responsible for sound levels generated by their sound system who will remain readily available within earshot of said system while it is in use.
- d. Sound Patrol: The Sound Patrol are volunteers tasked with enforcement of the above restrictions during a PDF event with the authority to temporarily turn down any sound causing a perceived violation of the sound policy, reporting as necessary to the Sound Marshal for further intervention or policy dispute resolution.
- e. PDF Attendees: Any attendee of a PDF event who perceives a violation of the Sound Policy from an individual or camp may invoke "The Sound Rule," as described in the Procedures section below.

V. Procedures

a. The Sound Rule:

Anyone who suspects another individual or camp is in violation of the Sound Policy and may pose as a disturbance to the event's landlord's neighbors may approach them IMMEDIATELY with their concern. If satisfactory action is not taken to correct the issue, please report the issue to the Sound Patrol, Sound Marshal, PDF BOD member, or Ranger (such that they may contact the responsible parties by radio) as quickly as possible.

If you are approached by anyone about a perceived sound policy violation, you MUST IMMEDIATELY CORRECT or CEASE the activity, only after which you may reach out to the Sound Patrol or Sound Marshal to resolve the issue.

- b. Any camp or individual who wishes to have amplified sound between the hours of 10 PM and 10 AM must apply through the Sound Camp Application form on the PDF Web Page before the Theme Camp Placement deadline. The Sound Marshal and their designees will limit the number of approved applications as they see fit.

VI. Enforcement

- a. Individuals and Camps are required to comply with any Turn-Down request made by anyone as per "The Sound Rule" until the issue has been investigated by a member of the Sound Patrol, the Sound Marshal, or a member of the PDF BOD.
- b. Individuals and Camps are required to comply with any Turn-Down or Turn-Off order as made by a member of the Sound Patrol, the Sound Marshal, or a member of the PDF BOD. This order may be made for any reason from Sound Policy violations to formal complaints lodged against the event from local residents or county officials.

VII. Sanctions

Sanctions for violations of the Sound Policy may include, but are not limited to: Turn-Down or Turn-Off orders lasting anywhere up to the remainder of the event, removal of the offending sound source from the event, prohibition of the sound source from future events, or immediate eviction of one or more individuals as deemed necessary by the PDF BOD.

Photography and Video

- Individuals retain legal rights to the use of their images, and the use of any media for commercial purposes is strictly forbidden without the express written permission of Playa del Fuego, Inc. and any subjects of the photographs and video.
- Photographers may not photograph anyone who requests not to be photographed, and must destroy any existing images at the subject's request, even if prior consent had been granted.
- It is prohibited to take pictures in a camp or of a person that has posted a "No Photos" sign, or at an event where a "no photos" policy has been announced. The slip and slide is ALWAYS a no photo event.

Guidelines for photographers:

- We expect photographers to be open about their activities. If someone is seen trying to hide that they are taking pictures, malicious intent may be assumed.
- Photographers obtain permission to take pictures of individuals. This permission would ideally be obtained beforehand. However, if a great candid shot presents itself, a digital photographer may choose to "shoot first," and ask permission afterwards. He/she is still obligated to erase the picture if the subject does not approve.
- A photographer may take a picture of groups of people, or of artwork with people nearby, in a public area that has no specified prohibition against it, without asking permission of all the people that incidentally appear in the shot. However, it is expected that the photographer will exercise judgment about the content of their photographs, and will obtain consent whenever practical.

If a photographer is perceived to be violating these rules, guidelines, or the community trust, they may be confronted by any member of the community. If the problem cannot be resolved, ask a Ranger to help mediate. Ultimately, someone violating PDF rules or interfering with other's safety and enjoyment of the event may be evicted.

Let the reveler be wary

Despite the Playa del Fuego photography policy, Playa del Fuego cannot be held responsible if a photo of you appears in public.

Minors and Children

- For the protection of minor children and in accordance with DE law, any minor child attending this event must be accompanied by someone with legal authority to make decisions for the minor or child.
- A minor is anyone under the age of 18.
- You are solely responsible for the care, supervision, and well-being of the minor AT ALL TIMES. The accompanying guardian must sign an event waiver of liability for the minor.
- There may be activities that are not suitable for children or behavior that you may not wish your children to see. Do not expect anyone to censor their behavior because children are present.
- Inability to take care of the minors you bring to the event can result in ejection
- Minors volunteering: In general, parents' best judgment should be used regarding appropriate volunteer tasks for minors. However, minors may not ranger or be responsible for checking IDs at the gate for legal and safety reasons. Coordinators and shift leads have the right to remove unsupervised minors from tasks or shifts at their discretion, if a situation becomes unsafe or problematic.
- If you have additional questions or concerns about children or minors at the event, please read <http://playadelfuego.org/information/faqs/parents-of-younger-children>

4. PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

Porta Potties

If it wasn't made by your body, don't put it in the potty. Your wastes and 1-ply toilet paper are the only things that should be in the potties. "Flushable" baby wipes, tampons, food, beer bottles, etc. clog the hose of the pottie truck, damage the pottie truck, make the pottie man's life difficult, and may result in our potties not getting emptied on schedule. Also, potties are not trash cans. Do not abandon your trash on the floor or bench of a potty. See LEAVE NO TRACE, MOOP, and THERE ARE NO PUBLIC TRASH CANS.

FIRE, BURN BARRELS, and BURNING ART

Fireworks

Fireworks of any kind are prohibited in the state of Delaware and are not welcome at the VNVMC.

Firewood

Firewood is included in your ticket price. It is available while supplies last. Participants are welcome to take as much firewood as they need from the main stack near the where the Pony burns. Don't take wood once it is stacked under the Pony effigy.

Sharing is much cooler than hoarding and that includes wood, too. Help keep greeters and gate volunteers warm and safe at night by not taking wood from the front and back gates where burn barrels provide warmth, safety, and a welcoming beacon. Have something that burns a lot of wood? Consider bringing some of your own wood. Because there are evil insect species going around AND it is a Delaware state law only bring wood from a local Delaware vendor.

Only build fires in burn barrels or other suitable containers that are elevated off the ground to prevent ugly, dead, permanent, burn scars. Build your last fire with enough time for the ashes to cool for safe disposal. Cool ashes get dumped in the ASH DUMP. Hot ashes in the dumpster will set the dumpster on fire. The horror. The horror.

Fire Lanterns are Forbidden

Fire lanterns, aka Chinese fire lanterns, aka sky lanterns are prohibited. They are flying, flaming MOOP whose trajectory can't be controlled or predicted.

Safety, Extinguishers, and Spinners

All flame must be attended at all times. This includes campfires, tiki torches, fire spinning, candles, or any other open flame. If you build a fire or light a flame it is your responsibility to monitor it and ensure its safety. Bring a fire extinguisher. Fire spinning without a safety is prohibited.

Burnable Art

- Burning art is part of our culture at PDF. It is a symbolic celebration of the cycle of life and death—we don't dwell in what we've done so much as we celebrate what we can do.
- IF YOU PLAN ON BRINGING ART THAT YOU WANT TO BURN: you must contact the Burning Art Coordinator in advance for approval and coordination, burningart-lead@playadelfuego.org.
- There is no guarantee that your art will burn. Plan other creative ways to destroy your art that are less reliant on the weather.
- Don't ever throw toxic or dangerous things into any fire.

GARBAGE

No Public Trash Cans

Burn barrels are not trash cans. There are no public trash cans at this event. At all times, at all places on the site, you are responsible for the trash you create. Don't ask someone if they have a trash can - they don't.

Leave No Trace

Leave no trace is an important but simple principle of our community. The goal is to leave no trace of our amazing event. If possible leave things in better condition than we found them. That means to not leave trash, cigarette butts, poop, feathers, sofas, bacon grease, beer cans, glitter, or sequins behind when we leave. That means to not harm the environment by scorching the ground by burning something improperly, or altering or destroying trees or existing structures. We also don't leave problems for other people to deal with.

Dumpsters

Dumpsters are a luxury at PDF that exist at the insistence of our hosts; most burns are pack-it-in-pack-it-out. Dumpsters are for household type trash only. If it does not fit in a trash bag, it should not go in a dumpster. No furniture, large items, or spooky chemicals are allowed in the dumpster. Do not put ashes in the dumpster – they belong in the Ash Dump. Hot ashes set the dumpster on fire. Seriously, no one wants to deal with a flaming dumpster. Dumpsters are a huge expense — billed by weight, so please bring home as much as you can or minimize what you bring. One way to bring less trash is to remove excess packaging before you come. See *ASH DUMP, LEAVE NO TRACE, NO PUBLIC TRASH CANS*.

Ash Dump

Spent ashes go in the ash dump, not the dumpster. The location of the ash dump has changed now and then. Ask a Ranger, DPW, or smartie-pants where it is. Wise campers stop their fires early Sunday evening so their ashes are cold during Pack Out on Monday.

Recycling

There are several recycling centers near the shopping centers in town. Participants are encouraged to collect their recycling and drop it off at one of these centers, or bring it home for your local pickup.

Water as a “Trace”

Water leaves a trace and should be used thoughtfully. Private “sun” and other types of showers, kiddie pools, vigorous washing up, dishwashing, and other large water uses are discouraged and should only be used when a plan on how to disperse the water properly is in place. In general, small amounts of gray water should be dumped into existing ditches on the site. Gray water should not be dumped onto the ground in areas where people are camping. Be especially careful using water near roads and pathways. Muddy paths are a nuisance and can be a safety hazard. See *LEAVE NO TRACE*.

Pools

Pools by definition are any body of water used explicitly or in some part to bathe, swim, or cool off.

- Pools filled with liquid are only allowed in personal or theme camp areas. They can not be placed in communal areas.
- All gray water must be dealt with appropriately and in accordance to event policy. That is, it cannot be dumped out on the ground and must either be packed out or disposed of at an appropriate drain location. If you don't know where an appropriate spot is, it is YOUR

responsibility to find out. See *WATER AS A TRACE*.

- All filled pools must be either attended by an adult 18 years or older or somehow locked up or fenced in at all times.

Vending/Gifting

Vending of any kind is not allowed. This includes promotion of other events. Gifting does not equal bartering, nor are you entitled to anything. It's only a gift when offered freely; taking something because you want it is still theft at PDF. Ask permission before taking or touching anything or anyone.

Generators

Generators must be attended at all times when running, because generators are a fire hazard. Generators create many types of pollution, including noise pollution, and should be used thoughtfully. Generators should be boxed to minimize their polluting effects. If a generator must be used, it should be sited in such a way to minimize its effect on neighbors and the community.

No Dogs

Dogs are prohibited (with the exception of service animals) at the event due to the presence of local dogs and a history of territorial issues.

5. GUIDELINES

Not rules, but friendly suggestions to make things easier on you and everyone else.

Social Media

In our Community consent is key so please, never post photos of other people to social media unless those people have consented to have their photos posted online. Many people in our Community have sensitive jobs or family lives and a careless post could potentially do something like jeopardize a career, make a messy divorce messier, or who knows what else. Also, by posting images on most social media sites you give ownership of those photos to the social media sites. These sites retain those photos even if you delete them. It is understandable to want to share images and the myriad feelings they evoke, just be thoughtful and get consent first when using images with people.

Hydration

Dehydration is a very serious risk at PDF; **DRINK WATER**, and lots of it. Alcohol and caffeine dehydrate you; it is not water. Water is not sold at the event (except in the form of ice), so bring all the water you will need. We strongly recommend a minimum of 3 gallons/per/day. Signs of dehydration:

- Feeling uncharacteristically cranky
- Rapid or sudden weight loss
- Increasing thirst
- Dry mouth
- Cessation of sweating
- Weakness or lightheadedness (particularly if worsening on standing)
- Darkening of the urine or a decrease in urination (drink enough water to "piss clear")

6. PLANNING, PARTICIPATION, AND ORGANIZATION

There is a vast hive of activity behind the super-slick, seamless production that is Playa del Fuego. We

would LOVE to have your help! Here's the skinny on the world behind the curtain.

Volunteer

This event is 100% run by volunteers. There are no comp tickets. The volunteer opportunities are varied. To sign up online for one of the below (except Board), go to playadelfuego.org/participation.

- Greeters and Parking Patrol: responsible for welcoming participants to the event and maximizing our limited parking.
- Rangers: not cops or your mom, but always available to help mediate problems when needed, or help you find the resources you need to take care of yourself.
- DPW/Moop Clean-Up: responsible for finding errant MOOP at the end of the event and making it go away.
- Participation Station: always available with helpful information and to help you participate in volunteering.
- Board: responsible for legal aspects of the event and for the burden of deciding when a participant eviction is necessary.
- Sound Patrol: help djs monitor their sound levels to ensure happy tunes all night long.
- Stage: where you can perform for an audience. Everyone wants a turn, so please don't hoard stage time.
- Lamplighters: the solemn folks who light our way at night.
- There are many other ways to contribute too. Check the official event board, PONY, for other volunteer opportunities <http://playadelfuego.org/bbs/>
- More information about departments can be found at <http://playadelfuego.org/participation>

Department Coordinator Contacts

web-team@playadelfuego.org - **Main Website Team**

A-E

artgrants-lead@playadelfuego.org - **Art Grants**

bpe-editor@playadelfuego.org - **Burning Pony Express Editor**

burningart-lead@playadelfuego.org - **Pony Effigy Wranglers**

conclave-lead@playadelfuego.org - **Fire Conclave**

drum-lead@playadelfuego.org - **Drum Circle**

dpw-lead@playadelfuego.org - **DPW (Public Works / Infrastructure Setup)**

earlyentry-lead@playadelfuego.org - **Early Entry (Currently handled by the gate team)**

exodus-lead@playadelfuego.org - **Exodus**

F-P

fireteam-lead@playadelfuego.org - **Fire Team (burning Art, art grants etc)**

gate-lead@playadelfuego.org - **Ticketing and Greeters**

lamplighters-lead@playadelfuego.org - **Lamplighters**

mash-lead@playadelfuego.org - **MASH (Medical)**

moop-lead@playadelfuego.org - **MOOP (Trash cleanup)**

parking-lead@playadelfuego.org - **Parking**

perimeter-lead@playadelfuego.org - **Fire Perimeter**

R-W

rangers-lead@playadelfuego.org - **Rangers**

sound-policy@playadelfuego.org - **Sounds Marshal**

themecamps@playadelfuego.org - **Theme Camps**

tickets@playadelfuego.org - **Ticketing System (Not Gate Ticketing)**
volunteers-lead@playadelfuego.org - **Volunteer Coordinator / Participation Station**
www-art@playadelfuego.org - **What Where When Art & Layout**
www-lead@playadelfuego.org - **What Where When Lead & Editor**

Art Grants

The mission of the Art Grants Committee is to promote participatory and unique art at Playa del Fuego through funding. Art enables humans to grow and thrive and learn and love. The best art projects provoke thought, feelings, movement, and participation by all who wish to join in. Art Grants Committee is dedicated to providing small grants to help defray participants' cost of creating art for Playa Del Fuego. Anyone may join the Art Grants Committee, and anyone can apply for an Art Grant. For complete information, application and deadlines go to <http://playadelfuego.org/participation/art-grants>

Art

One of the greatest ways to participate in the PDF community is to create art. You don't have to apply for an Art Grant, you can just bring some, announce it in the What Where When, and enjoy the adulation of your community. If you would like special placement of your art in a public space, or are in need of other resources, please contact the Burning- or Non-Burning Art Coordinator, as appropriate.

PDF Planning

Playa Del Fuego takes year-round effort from volunteers. To get involved or see what is going on our various planning and volunteer boards see <http://playadelfuego.org/bbs/>
Our Planning Committee is composed of anyone who would like to attend a meeting, either in person or by calling in to the planning meeting conference call. No invitation is necessary, join in!

Board

The PDF board of directors, AKA BOD, is made up of members of the PDF community who have agreed to increase their level of liability on behalf of the community. They're not a shady, evil cabal, and they like to talk to you. If you would like to contact the board, email them at nonprofit@playadelfuego.org

The PDF Board of Directors handles the legal side of the organization. They maintain the website, manage PDF funds, purchase event insurance and supplies (potties, wood, structures, etc...), file tax documents, etc... The day-to-day planning of the event (dog bans, budget decisions, ticket cap, and so on) is handled by the planning committee.

They do all of the routine paperwork and legal and financial stuff that's needed to make the events happen and keep PDF Inc. (a 501c3 non-profit) humming the other 50 weeks out of the year. They are also responsible for shaping the long-term vision of what PDF will or can be in the future, as well as how it fits in to the greater burn and arts communities, both regional and national.

Board Nominations

Board nominations are usually accepted in the spring. Check the BPE, playadelfuego.org, or WWW Guide for yearly deadlines and information.

Interns and Volunteer hours

Board members and coordinators are willing to sign off on your volunteer hours if you'd like to count them for your school or community group's requirements. If you're interested in collaborating with Playa del Fuego, Inc. as an intern, please contact the Board of Directors Secretary at nonprofit@playadelfuego.org

Communications

Wish there was a What Where When for the rest of the year? Come check out the beta version of PDF's new Community Calendar at <http://realgenius.info/CommunityEvents/faces/Calendar.jsp>. Enjoy our test entries and begin adding your own events to share with the community. The calendar will eventually also be available at playadelfuego.org. To connect with the community outside the event, you can participate in any or all of the following communities (and many others besides):

- playadelfuego.tribe.net
- [facebook.com/groups/4288891886](https://www.facebook.com/groups/4288891886)
- newyork-list@burningman.com
- baltwash-burning@lists.playadelfuego.org
- phillyburn@yahoogroups.com
- nj_tribe@yahoogroups.com

More information can also be found at playadelfuego.org or join in the discussion at the Playa del Fuego PONY discussion board (Planning and Organization Needs You!) <http://playadelfuego.org/bbs/>

Mayor

Each event there is a Mayor. What the heck is the Mayor of PDF? Pretty simple - besides getting to wear a really spiffy hat, the Mayor is just a member of the board whose job it is to listen to the community members for concerns, ideas, topics for everyone to consider, complaints, worries, bribes. You can, of course, talk to any board member any time, but the Mayor is someone who has made themselves conspicuous for your convenience. If you have any questions or concerns (or bribes), please look for the Mayor. The Mayor and their trademark attire is announced in the WWW Guide for each event.

7. EVENT/SITE GUIDE

How to get to the event what what to do when you get there. It is always advisable to read this part in advance, because the effects of playa-brain can set in rapidly.

Early Entry Policy

General entry does not begin until 5 pm. Those who arrive early may not wait in the parking lot until 4 pm on Thursday. Those helping with setup must be pre-registered to do so. Carpoolers attached to registered volunteers will no longer be allowed early entry unless they too have pre-registered. An early entry coordinator will manage the list of volunteers and help direct setup on site. Early volunteers must agree to follow the direction of the early entry coordinator and/or departmental coordinators before being permitted to set up personal camps.

Ticketing Hours

New arrivals are welcome for ticketing during the following hours. Those already with a wristband may come and go at will.

Thursday 5 pm - Friday 2 am

Friday 9 am - Saturday 2 am

Saturday 9 am - Saturday 8 pm (Closed for Pony Burn)

Sunday - CLOSED (please not if you show up Sunday, you will still be able to get your wristband, you will just have to wait for a GOD to come to the gate).

Monday CLOSED

Getting There

The Vietnam Veterans Motorcycle Club of Delaware is located at 444 Flemings Landing Rd, Townsend, DE.

1. Drive to Odessa, DE via Routes 1 or 13 from wherever you're coming from.
2. Turn onto DE-299 East/Main Street. Obey the speed limit through quaint downtown Odessa or expect a ticket!
3. Turn Left on Taylors Bridge Road, stay on for 4.7 miles
4. Turn Right onto Flemings Landing Road (you'll see a tower on your left at the turn)
5. When the road bends to the right next to a wooded area, you're there. Slow down and pull in on the right. Follow the flaggers' directions.

ADMISSION

When You First Arrive

Pull off the road into the driveway and proceed to temporary parking as directed by the parking volunteers. DO NOT park or remain stopped in the road or driveway. There is other traffic coming and sometimes going fast. We do not want to risk an accident or complaints about traffic being obstructed. Not only could these problems result in people being injured or killed in car accidents, but at the very least they will attract police attention and upset the local community.

Ticket Booth

This is the business end of PDF, and it can be a bit of a circus during peak times. Please be ready with everything you need and be patient while the ticket takers do what they need to do. It's a great time to practice the zen art of patience, start de-stressing, and make friends with the folks in line next to you.

1. Each participant should come to the Front Gate with a state-issued ID and a copy of their ticket. It's also acceptable to have a written down unique barcode number in lieu of the actual printed out ticket, but you MUST bring your ticket number in some form. The Greeter station does not have copies of tickets nor can they look them up. If you don't have a ticket, please don't loiter at the gate looking for a miracle. We love you, but practicing Radical Self-Reliance means you don't come until you can (need a ticket? Visit the ticket board on the PONY!).
2. Your ticket will be scanned and your ID checked. You must present photo identification at the gate. Special wristbands are issued to persons under the age of 21; those without ID will be issued a minor wristband. All minors must be accompanied by a legal parent or guardian.
3. Your wristband will be put on by a member of the ticket team tight enough that it will not slide off. Participants must wear this wristband while on-site for the duration of the event. If a wristband breaks or is removed, it may be replaced from within the gates by exchanging the broken band for a new one at the gate. If you are concerned about it being a hazard while spinning fire, you should remove it and exchange it when you are done spinning, cover it with something, or possibly wear it on your ankle.
4. You will then be directed to the back for parking, drop off, and greeting.

Parking

The parking station is located on the outside of the back entrance in the back field. When you enter the

property please follow the signs to the main lot. Once through the overflow/Large truck lot you will be greeted by one of our flaggers who will ask to see your wristbands and whether you are parking on-site or need to enter the event for dropping off your gear.

1. Parking on-site: It is important to follow the flaggers and park where they ask you to in order to maximize the number of available parking spaces. If there is not a flagger, please follow signs and avoid parking in roadways or paths.
2. Drop offs: If you are dropping off your gear, please follow the flaggers' instructions to proceed to the parking tent to receive a temporary parking pass.

*NOTE: Passes are for 30 minutes only. Please do not stay on site with your car for more than 30 minutes and for goodness' sake, **remember to pick up your license!** While we try our best to get your license back to you if you forget it, we are not responsible for your license if it is left at the event. The Logbook will be put away Sunday evening!*

Greeting

Once you've gotten wristbands and parked your car, head inside and you will be greeted by our dedicated greeter team inside the back gate. The greeters' mission is to give you hugs, a What Where When event guide, explain the 10 principles, spank virgins, answer any simple questions you may have, and provide information (like where to volunteer, nudge-nudge). Spanking is optional, butt (butt!) it is always appropriate to approach a Greeter bearing gifts.

Temporary Unloading Passes

So that everyone gets a chance to come in and unload in a timely manner, your temporary unloading pass allows you no more than 30 minutes to unload your vehicle. If you leave your vehicle inside longer than 30 minutes, you may be towed. If you return your pass in less than 30 minutes, parking is free! Unload your equipment and return your vehicle. Do not hunt down all your friends or set up your camp now. Communicate with your campmates in advance so that you may proceed directly to where you plan to camp. But please - only drive on marked roads, for everyone's safety!

Once you unload your vehicle, return promptly to the front gate, return your parking pass, and collect your license. When returning your passes please pull over to the side of the road and do not block traffic coming in or out of the event. Someone at the greeter station will then give you directions to the back lot where you should park as directed. You should not park in the front lot unless directed to do so by someone at the greeter station.

On-Site Parking Passes

On-site vehicle passes are available on a first-come, first-serve basis, determined via pre-registration with the parking coordinator. Only vehicles such as RVs, Vans, Trucks (with caps), and campers are permitted to be parked on-site for sleeping. Otherwise, you need to sleep in a tent, yurt, cardboard box, or whatever. Sleeping in your car in the parking lot is strictly prohibited.

Please park your vehicle where instructed to by the volunteers at the gate. Once it is parked on site, your vehicle must stay there until you leave the event - you cannot drive it out and re-enter. On-site parking passes will be issued and must be displayed at all times. If you did not pre-register, do not arrive at the event planning to park at your campsite or sleep in your vehicle.

Art Cars

Art cars are permitted on site but must be pre-registered and remain parked. If you have any questions about parking or art cars please email parking-lead@playadelfuego.org

Re-entry

If you leave the event site - even to just get something from your car - and wish to re-enter, you must be wearing a wristband.

AMENITIES

Water

There is usually water available in 3 places. Exact location subject to change. Look for blue flags on site to mark the water:

- Near the Pavilion and sink
- Near the former horse barn
- Between Field 5 and 6.

Please be mindful of mud as MOOP - don't leave hoses running to create hazardous swamps. See also *LEAVE NO TRACE, WATER AS A TRACE*

Ice

Ice is available to purchase from the vets. Bring cash, small bills are appreciated.

Showers

There are 2 sets of showers on site. They are a luxury. Be brief to conserve water, especially hot water, as supplies are limited. No electrical outlets are available at the showers. All personal items brought into the shower including toiletries, garments, and trash must be taken with you when you leave the shower. See *LEAVE NO TRACE, MOOP, THERE ARE NO PUBLIC TRASH CANS*. Generally, the cinder block hut with stalls near the Vet's yellow building is single sex, single user. Co-ed and co-showers are more easily accommodated in the large open showers near field 4, next to the red barn. At the cinder block showers, people wishing to shower together, or shower on the opposite gender's side should ask consent of all those they would be showering with. Our event is inclusive to all genders and sexual orientations, and that includes the showers, too. Don't like it? Come back later. If someone is making you uncomfortable in the showers, or anywhere at the event, or is acting without your consent, speak up, let them know. If that doesn't help, ask a ranger to FLAME the situation.

Local Supplies

The shopping center at the intersection of 301 and 299 includes a major hardware store, a big-box discount department store, a grocery store, a drugstore, a dollar store, and several restaurants. The shopping center at 896 and 301 just south of 95 includes a grocery store and other stores. Many new strip malls have been built in the Middletown area in the recent years.

Pavilion

Feel free to use the pavilion for cooking, dining, and playing, but please practice Leave No Trace and clean up after yourself when you are done. Do not leave behind leftover food for the taking - the best way to get rid of leftovers is to "take them for a walk" and offer them to other people. If the pavilion is not kept clean, pavilion privileges may be lost. The yellow building adjacent to the Pavilion belongs to our landlords and is strictly off limits. See *LEAVE NO TRACE, MOOP, THERE ARE NO PUBLIC TRASH CANS*.

Stage

The stage is available every day until midnight. Slots are first come, first serve, but if you come first, please don't hog all the slots. Sign up online in advance of the event. Those with stage time may want to consult an event guide to see if their time coincides with other events, like art burns. PDF org

provides sound equipment. Any other equipment needed by performers is up to the performer to provide. When signing up, be sure to include your email information, as slots assigned to just a name may not be honored due to the coordinator being unable to communicate with them.

<http://playadelfuego.org/participation/stage>

WEATHER AND CONDITIONS

Be Prepared for Weather Extremes

Our event is held rain or shine. It has been held during Nor'Easters, severe thunderstorms, coastal flooding, plagues of insects, and record heat and cold. A shade or rain structure can be helpful and shared with neighbors. Be sure to properly stake or rebar any structures you erect. Tents have blown away and out of the event grounds, becoming MOOP. Shade structures have become windborne and hit people in the head.

Insects

Be prepared for a variety of biting, stinging, and annoying insects. If you know you have an allergy, bring the supplies you need to stay healthy.

Mud Burn

When conditions are muddy cars can become woefully stuck. Be sure to follow all directions of volunteers and obey any signs, barricades, or detours. Park at your own risk. When it gets swampy cars get stuck. Do not spin your tires if you get stuck; find people to push or tow you out safely. The parking lot and roads may have to be closed if conditions are severe and a carry in/carry out situation could happen.

PREPARATION

Really Radical Self-Reliance

Playa del Fuego is an exercise in radical self-reliance. Bring everything you are going to need, including food, water, shelter, basic medications, and hygiene products. Gifts are a wonderful expression of community, but you must take responsibility for your own survival and well-being. Do not show up expecting the community to take care of you. We have dedicated volunteers who are also EMTs on site, but they are an emergency resource only. Do not rely on them for basic OTC medications.

What to Bring

Necessities:

- Bedding and shelter of some type (a good camp tent is recommended, along with sleeping bags)
- Three gallons of water per person per day (for drinking, dishwashing, food prep., etc.). Keep a bottle of water with you at all times
- Enough food and beverages for your entire party for the length of your stay
- All required prescriptions, contact lens supplies, toiletries, etc.
- First aid kit
- Single-ply toilet paper (the port-a-potties only get serviced once a day)
- Garbage bags (more than enough for all of your garbage—it's good to bring extra for MOOP that accumulates during the event)
- Can or bottle opener if bringing cans or bottles that need opening
- Portable ashtrays if you are a smoker (Decorated mint tins work great)

- Flashlights (headlamps are very useful)
- Extra batteries for everything
- Sunscreen and sunglasses
- Insect repellent
- Sturdy closed-toe footwear
- A cup for beverages, many camps have drinks to share, but you must bring your own cup
- Ice for the entire duration of your stay or cash for ice sales
- Common sense, an open mind, and a positive attitude
- Anything else you can't live without

Recommended:

- Shade structures, umbrellas, parasols, sheets; things to break the cruel mid-day sun or keep you dry in the rain
- Rebar to keep the above structures firmly rooted to mother earth
- Ice chest(s) to store your perishable foods and beverages
- A cooking stove
- Cash for ice sales, the vets prefer small bills
- Earplugs, not everyone will sleep when you do
- Eye shade eye pillow, *see above*
- Insect bite and sunburn treatment/medication
- Watertight protective bags, like heavy Ziplocs, for cameras, electronic gear, etc.
- Blinky lights, toys, magical fabulousness, handmade, and heartfelt and swell stuff to share; anything you think would make things more fun for you and your fellow PDFians.
- Pre-moistened towelettes, aka baby wipes, handy wipes
- Spray bottle (for misting)
- Rope, string, duct tape, zip ties
- Fuel for stoves, generators, mutant vehicles, etc.
- Rain hat, rain gear
- Sun hat
- Seating, because you can't dance forever
- Simple tool kit and a sewing kit
- Abundant amounts of whatever makes your life better: beer, bacon, chocolate, coffee, lift, etc.
- Open mind, and good attitude and common sense

The point of preparing and understanding how PDF works is to help you relax into the experience and enjoy the playground of ideas and community that make the whole thing worth the effort! The GUD is here to provide clarity and a framework for our grand experiment. Like the constitution, it is a living document. If something is unclear, missing, or you have other questions, feel free to let us know: nonprofit@playadelfuego.org.

Burn on!