

One of the best parts about living in the Northern Virginia is rarely seen or heard. It is our rich Native American heritage. Now, planters are planting “heirloom seed” of possibilities to bring back tradition this fall, an educational celebration of agri-“culture.”

From October 30 to November 1, the Clarke County Fairgrounds in Berryville, Virginia hosts The Gathering. What is the Gathering?

The Gathering is an experiment in humanity. The Gathering is: a traditional Native American harvest dance, Virginia’s gourd festival, military veteran & uniformed services tribute, multicultural thanksgiving, Kidz Harvest Fest, trader's village, living history exhibitors with Native American living legends, frybread and invitation to all to participate.

The Gathering is about Native Americans, neighbors and “Keepers of the Earth” Celebrating with a **Harvest Dance (Oct. 31 – Nov. 1)** with regalia, storytelling, giving thanks and various social interactions ... with invitation for all to learn and participate.

The Gathering is about the annual **Virginia Gourd Festival (Oct. 30 – Nov. 1)** celebrating the gourd harvest with gourd art, workshops and displays that demonstrate the many applications and uses of this highly versatile crop and art form ... with invitation for all to learn and participate.

The Gathering is a **Kidz Harvest Fest (Oct. 30)** with children and teachers traveling through Native American villages in the four directions, seeing, touching, feeling, smelling and hearing dancers, teepee, farming, goats, seed and much more! Teachers will be able to download passports and educational activities that foster organic health and wellness, sustainable living and three sisters inter-planting ... with invitation for children and teachers grades 2nd and 4th to learn and participate.

The Gathering is about **Living History Exhibitors & Trading Post (Oct. 30 – Nov. 1)** with sustainable homesteading, green farming, book forum with authors, farmer’s market, goats, sacred land and water preservation, children’s fine arts, craft vendors and artisans, Native American cuisine ... with invitation for all to learn and participate.

All **Military Veterans** and **Uniformed Services Personnel (Oct. 31 – Nov. 1)** are invited to attend The Gathering for special recognition at the beginning of the Harvest Dance.

The Gathering is a seed of thanksgiving and new possibilities being planted in the hearts and minds of the people. The people of this and neighboring (regional and international) communities are the land. The sponsors, participants, partners, teachers, musicians, dancers, volunteers, exhibitors and hopefully you are the planters of this all-exciting seed of possibilities. We are seeking to create space for a new and elevated “spirit in humanity” with the level and intensity that is fueled by the deep personal questions of:

- How can I participate?
- How much can I contribute of myself and my resources?
- Who do I know that would want to be part of this all exciting “seed of possibilities” in Thanksgiving and humanity?

The response to these questions defines the “state of community” in our community. Admission is only \$5, free ages 4 and under. Let the Spirit of The Gathering Catch you.