

NORTH CAROLINA POTATO FESTIVAL

National Potato Peeling Contest

May 16, 2026 - 10:00 am

Corner of Main Street & Water Street



In 1963, Fannie Leary of Camden, NC, peeled 8 pounds, 4 ounces of potatoes in 10 minutes to capture the crown as Overall Winner of the Albemarle Potato Festival's National Potato Peeling Contest. **Who will be the winner this year?**

Barrels of fun... tons of recognition... & great prizes! If you find the prospect of following in Mrs. Leary's footsteps as a-PEEL-ing, we have good news for you.

The Potato Festival is just around the corner and The National Potato Peeling Contest is set for May 16 in Downtown Elizabeth City!

You can be a CHAMPION for your favorite non-profit!

WIN \$250 FOR THE NON-PROFIT OF YOUR CHOICE.

North Carolina Potato Festival will make a donation in the amount of \$250 on behalf of the winning team to your designated non-profit.

This is a team event, but individual awards will be presented, as well.

Trophies are important, but nothing matches the sheer fun of getting your group together and sharing the spotlight when the

2026 NATIONAL POTATO PEELING CHAMP AND TEAM are crowned.

ATTENTION:

City & County Governments! Civic and service clubs! Military teams!

Student Groups! Restaurants! Business & Commercial teams!

Find Any Excuse to Form a Team ... Issue a Challenge ...

HAVE THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE!

2026 National Potato Peeling Contest Sponsors



Piedmont
Natural Gas



See Other Side for Contact Information, Rules and Pre-Registration



NATIONAL POTATO PEELING CONTEST

May 16, 2026 - 10:00 am

Corner of Main Street & Water Street

- Official Rules -

RULES and REGISTRATION

1. The Contest will be conducted under the supervision of judges, one of whom will be the captain. The captain will judge any ruling challenged by a contestant. The captain's decision is final, NO EXCEPTIONS.
2. A contestant can be anyone (16 years or older) who makes application with payment in full on or before May 12, 2026, and is accepted by the Application and Acceptance Committee. Except for special invited guest contestants, there will be an application fee of \$25.00 per four-person team.
3. Teams will compete against either two or three other teams (depending on the total number of teams registered). Once the groups are assigned, no changes will be made without the approval of the judge captain. Anyone failing to compete with his/her assigned group will be automatically disqualified and the group will compete without him/her.
4. The team with the highest net potato weight (See Rule #12) will be named the National Potato Peeling Champion Team. Should a tie exist, the tied teams shall compete again under the same rules until the tie is broken.
5. The individual peeler with the highest net potato weight (See Rule #12) from each team will proceed to the Individual Finals. The winning peeler from the Individual Finals will be the National Potato Peeling Champion.
6. Any type of knife or knife-like peeler may be used after it has been inspected and approved by a judge. Contestants must provide their own knives or implements for peeling. No mechanical or automatic peelers will be permitted. (Due to Health Restrictions, any open wound must be bandaged or covered.)
7. The skin of the potato must be removed by cutting it away in strips or chips. **They must be saved and placed in their designated bowl.** The winner is the individual/team with the greatest net weight in potatoes (See Rule # 12).
8. Graded potatoes will be placed on top of the table in a container and each contestant will pick the potatoes from their container as they peel them.
9. The peeling time limit for the national contest will be 5 minutes.
10. The contest will be conducted at designated tables - the same amount of working space will be assigned to each contestant.
11. At the end of each round, the potatoes will be inspected by the judges and will be disqualified if a potato appears to be less than $\frac{3}{4}$ peeled.
12. The potatoes that qualify will be weighed. The peelings will be weighed separately. **The winning team or individual peeler will be the individual/team with the greatest net weight in potatoes (Total weight of peeled potatoes less the total weight of the peels/scraps).**

PLEASE REVIEW "OFFICIAL RULES" WITH ALL TEAM MEMBERS ON COMPETITION DAY

Name of Team/Group: _____

Designated Non-Profit to receive \$250: _____
Non-profit must be a 501(c)3

Team Members: 1. _____ 2. _____
 (Team Captain)
 3. _____ 4. _____
 Alternate _____

Captain Phone Number: _____

and e-mail address: _____

**PLEASE ATTACH
\$25
REGISTRATION FEE
(PER TEAM)**

FMI Contact NCPF at 252-338-4104 / director@elizabethcitydowntown.com
PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM (ALONG WITH REGISTRATION FEE) TO
North Carolina Potato Festival, 106 S. Water Street, Elizabeth City, NC 27909