



Rules and Vendor Agreement for New Vendors

Mission Statement

The mission of the Twin Cities Market (TCM) is to support and promote **local, small-scale sustainable agriculture**, **showcase regional arts and crafts**, and **foster a vibrant sense of community** in Copperhill, TN and McCaysville, GA.

Time & Location

The Twin Cities Market (TCM) is held on the historic steel bridge connecting **McCaysville, Georgia** and **Copperhill, Tennessee**, with additional vendor space extending onto **Grande Avenue in Copperhill**.

The market operates every **Saturday from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM** beginning **May 23** through **October 31**, as well as **Holiday Markets on November 21 and November 28**.

Market dates are strategically aligned with train arrivals from the **Blue Ridge Scenic Railway** (11:00 AM–1:00 PM) and the **Tennessee Valley Railroad** (12:30 PM–2:00 PM), offering vendors greater visibility and foot traffic from visiting passengers.

Vendor Permits & Fees

- The Twin Cities Market (TCM) operates across the cities of Copperhill, Tennessee and McCaysville, Georgia. Vendors must comply with all applicable **local, county, state, and federal laws** based on the location of their booth and the nature of the products being sold.
- All vendors must obtain a **vendor permit in advance** from either **Copperhill City Hall (TN)** or **McCaysville City Hall (GA)**—depending on where your booth will be located.
- **No permits will be issued on market day (Saturdays).**

- The seasonal fee is \$50 per booth.
 - Booths are assigned each week by the Market Manager based on available vendors. You will not have the same spot each week.
 - Vendor fees help cover promotional costs such as signage, advertising, and directional wayfinding.
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Licensing, Permits, and Tax Requirements

All vendors are responsible for meeting **legal and regulatory obligations** in the state in which they operate. These include:

General Sales & Tax Compliance

- **Tennessee vendors** must comply with **Tennessee Department of Revenue** rules, including **sales tax registration and collection**.
- **Georgia vendors** must comply with **Georgia Department of Revenue** rules, including **sales tax collection** if applicable.
- Vendors are **individually responsible** for obtaining any necessary **state or local business licenses**, permits, and for **remitting applicable sales tax**.

Food Vendors

- **Copperhill:**
 - **Tennessee Homemade Food Act (Tenn. Code Ann. § 53-8-1)**
 - Homemade food items that are non-Time/Temperature Control for Safety (non-TCS) can be produced and sold without a license.
- **McCaysville:**
 - **Starting July 1, 2025, Georgia's new House Bill 398 removes the requirement for a Cottage Food License.**
 - The state no longer considers cottage food businesses to be "Food Sales Establishments," so you will not need a license to sell cottage foods.
 - **You *must still follow* all Georgia Cottage Food Guidelines**, but no license or inspection is required.

Egg Sales

- Vendors must have a valid **Egg Candler's License**.
- The license must be **displayed at your booth**.

Nursery Plants

- Vendors selling plants must comply with:
 - **TN Nursery Certification (TDA Rule 0080-06)**
 - **GA Nursery Dealer License Requirements (GA Dept. of Agriculture)**

Scales

- The use of any scale to weigh items **must be certified by the respective state's Department of Agriculture**.
 - Tennessee: **Weights & Measures Program**

- Georgia: **Fuel & Measures Division**
 - Use of uncertified scales will result in **state-imposed fines** and expulsion from the market.
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Product and Booth Requirements

- **Produce must be labeled** with its **location of origin**.
 - Only USDA-certified growers may label products as "**organic**." Others may state they use "organic practices," but may **not use the term 'organic'** unless certified.
 - All arts and crafts must be **handmade** by the vendor. No mass-produced, imported, or resale items are allowed.
 - **Yard sale or flea market items are not permitted.**
 - Each vendor must display a **business name sign** at their booth.
 - Vendors may sell **chilled bottled water only**, priced at **no more than \$1.00**. No other beverages are allowed.
 - Pricing is at the discretion of the vendor but should reflect **fair market value**. Cooperation in pricing is encouraged.
 - Except for recognized animal rescue organizations promoting pet adoption, livestock and domesticated animals may not be offered for sale.
 - No double booths for vendors.
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Operations & Setup

- Vendors must be **set up by 9:00 a.m.** on market day.
 - **Vendor spaces will be assigned by the Market Manager and sent out by 5:00 p.m. on Friday.**
 - If a vendor has not arrived by **8:15 a.m.**, the space may be reassigned.
 - Notify the **Market Manager** in advance if you must be absent after setup notes have gone out.
 - **ALL VEHICLES must be off the bridge by 8:00 a.m. and may not enter the bridge before 2:30 p.m.**
 - All vendor traffic on the bridge runs south to north (Burra Burra to Yellowbird)
 - No vendors may park in the Yellowbird parking lot
 - **Electricity is not provided, and gas-powered generators are prohibited.**
 - **Tents must be anchored** with a minimum of **30–40 lb. weights at each leg**. No weights = no tent. Ropes and stakes are not an acceptable option to tent weights. We are not allowed to stake in the roadbed or bridge beams. Weights must be the first thing that is done, immediately after the tent is set up. Vendors who do not come to the market equipped with proper weights will not be allowed to set up a tent. **NO excuses!**
 - Vendors must **remove all trash** from their site at the end of each market day. Leave your spot cleaner than when you arrived.
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Conduct, Safety, and Compliance

- All vendors must behave professionally and foster a cooperative market environment.
- Discrimination is prohibited on the basis of **race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, or gender identity**—as required by both **Tennessee** and **Georgia** human rights laws.
- **Smoking is NOT permitted within the market area.**

- Vendors offering services (e.g., knife sharpening, entertainment, face painting) must receive **prior approval**.
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Rule Violation Enforcement Policy

- **First violation:** Verbal warning
 - **Second violation:** Written warning
 - **Third violation:** Possible suspension or removal from the market
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Vendor Permit Application

To apply as a returning vendor at the Twin Cities Market (TCM), please follow the instructions below:

1. How to Apply

Submit your application to **Copperhill City Hall (TN)** or **McCaysville City Hall (GA)**—depending on where your booth will be located.

2. Photos Required

Attach **5–7 clear photos** of your products.

At least **2 photos** must show you actively **growing, producing, or creating** your items.

These images will be used for **marketing and promotional purposes** on social media and print materials.

Applications without photographs will not be considered.

3. Permit Fee

The **vendor permit fee is \$50**, payable to the **City of Copperhill (TN)** or **City of McCaysville (GA)**—depending on where your booth will be located. The fee remains the same whether you participate just once or for the entire season. This fee helps offset market advertising costs.

Once your application has been accepted you will need to pay your permit fee.

Do not submit your fee with your application.

Questions?

Contact the Market Manager at [*market@copperhill.gov*](mailto:market@copperhill.gov)

Share this opportunity with fellow farmers, growers, and artisans!



NEW 2026 VENDOR PERMIT APPLICATION

By signing this permit application, the vendor states that they have read, understood, and agrees to abide by the Twin Cities Market (TCM) mission, goals, and rules as stated on the application.

Vendor shall be individually and severally responsible, and agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the TCM, the City of McCaysville, the City of Copperhill, and other vendors, for any loss, personal injury, death, and/or other damages, including attorney's fees, that occur because of the vendor's negligence or that of its agents and employees. TCM is not responsible for any loss or damage caused to vehicles or property of the vendor.

Vendor agrees to hold harmless the TCM, the Market Manager, the City of McCaysville and the City of Copperhill from any legal or financial liability in case of accidents or incidents at the market.

Vendor agrees to hold the TCM, the Market Manager, the City of McCaysville and the City of Copperhill harmless for any injury sustained while conducting business at the TCM.

Farm/Business Name:

Owner/Applicant Name:

Physical Address:

E-mail:

Phone:

Social Media Handle:

The products I will be selling are: (circle/put an X next to or /highlight all that apply)

Produce Plants Baked Goods Artist Photographer Jewelry **Eggs Jams/Jellies

Briefly describe your product:

****License required** – please include a copy of your egg candler license with the application – we do not need a copy of your drivers license

Please initial the following items:

I have read and understand the tent weight requirements:

I have read and understand the market rules and regulations:

Signature

Date