

News from the Somerset County Board of Chosen Freeholders  
Mark Caliguire, Freeholder Director • Patricia L. Walsh, Freeholder Deputy Director  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Freeholders Invite Residents to Flag Day Festival

SOMERVILLE – Somerset County Freeholder Director Mark Caliguire invites all county residents, veterans, their families and friends to attend the second annual **Flag Day Festival**.

The event will be held **11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.** on **Saturday, June 13**, on the lawn of the Somerset County Historic Courthouse on East Main Street in Downtown Somerville. Rain date is June 14.

“As citizens we should honor the American flag and all that it symbolizes,” said Freeholder Director Caliguire. “It’s especially important that our children and young people gain an appreciation of the flag and of the veterans who have sacrificed so much for the freedoms that the flag represents.”

Live music, interactive exhibits, contests with prizes, historic military vehicles, modern SWAT vehicles and historical re-enactors will be featured. There will also be games, entertainment and arts and crafts for children of all ages, as well as food and snack vendors.

The festival is being organized by members of the Somerville Elks, YMCA, Boy Scouts, John Basilone Parade Committee, American Legion and others. All proceeds from event sponsors and advertisers will go to fund programs through the Somerville Elks Charitable Trust, benefitting local veterans.

The goal of the event is to expand appreciation of our flag, educate students and adults to its history and significance, and instill goodwill and a sense of patriotism to all that attend.

Part of the entertainment for the day will be a performance contest called the “American Flag Day Super-Patriot.” The contest is being run through the School of Rock in Somerville and will bring many of New Jersey’s most talented musical performers together to demonstrate patriotism while showcasing their talents. One performer will be given the title of “American Flag Day Super-Patriot” and will lead the crowd in Lee Greenwood’s moving song, “God Bless the USA.”

Sparky Lyle from the Somerset Patriots will be signing autographs from noon to 2 p.m. Children can enjoy the bouncy house and carnival games and complete a scavenger hunt around the grounds to win a prize.

The results of the Flag Art and Flag Day Essay contests will be announced. The entries are from local students in grades 2 through 8. The theme is, “What the Flag Means to Me and My Family.” The winning students and their teachers will receive \$50 and an American flag.

To honor and support our military, participants are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items, which will be sent by Operation Jersey Cares to our service members overseas. Worn flags will be collected for proper retirement by the American Legion. Details for what items to bring for the troops and the event itself can be found on the website [www.FlagDayFestival.org](http://www.FlagDayFestival.org) or Facebook [www.facebook.com/FlagDayFestival](https://www.facebook.com/FlagDayFestival).