
Available Dates:

January - March 2017
April - June 2017
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October - December 2017
January - March 2018
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This Far By Faith:
Carolina Camp Meetings, An African-American Tradition

Mckissick Museum
This Far By Faith: Carolina Camp Meetings, An African-American Tradition

The University of South Carolina's McKissick Museum is pleased to offer a nationally traveling exhibition, *This Far By Faith: Carolina Camp Meetings, An African-American Tradition*. This exhibit explores cultural and religious traditions at seven camp meeting sites in North and South Carolina.

Camp meetings were important social and religious institutions in the South during the nineteenth century. Families would often travel from miles away, bringing with them tents and food, to camp for a few days up to several weeks. Today, meetings at camps whose history extend back to these early days are held annually and continue to offer the same sense of community and spiritual renewal from years past.

A main component of camp ground meetings is worship, a fact that not only shapes daily life during meetings but also determines the design of the camp ground itself. Tents are arranged in a circle facing the central tabernacle, which is considered to be the heart of the traditional camp ground.

While there are social events throughout the camp ground, musical performances, sermons, and testimonies all take place in the tabernacle.

The seven camp grounds featured, four in South Carolina and three in North Carolina, all tell an exceptional story of spiritual fellowship tied to this centralized community of worship. Through vivid photographs and personal testimony, *This Far By Faith* explores these sites, their camp dwellers and the tribulations they experienced.

As an embodiment of resilience, the exhibition makes clear why camp meetings remained a prized cultural institution for over a century. Mott's Grove, for example, was burned to the ground during the Civil Rights era. Thanks to the initiative of local families, however, the tents were rebuilt and the camp tradition survived. The many families who return year after year enrich and are enriched by the experiences of camp meetings, recognizing and honoring the camp sites as holy grounds in the present day.