

Active Adult Trip - Whirligig Festival Wilson, NC



Enjoy a fun filled day of music, art vendors and delicious food.
Saturday, November 1, 2025

Whirligig Festival celebrates the incredible story of Vollis Simpson, a Wilson County farm machinery repairman who, near retirement, transformed scrap parts into massive kinetic sculptures. Using the same rigs he once designed for moving houses, Simpson began creating his now-famous "whirligigs" — towering windmills that filled his yard with motion and color. He worked tirelessly, seven days a week, until just months before his passing at the age of 94 in 2013.

Though Simpson never considered himself an artist, his work drew visitors from near and far, turning his farm into one of Wilson County's top attractions. Today, his whirligigs are celebrated across the country, including in the American Folk Art Museum in Manhattan and even a window display at New York's famed Bergdorf Goodman.

- Depart from Anne Gordon Active Adult Center at 9:30 a.m.
- Festival vendors, local musicians/band, a variety of food and drink stands.
- Lunch on your own.
- Return to Anne Gordon Center 3 p.m.

Cost: \$15

Register online at reclink.raleighnc.gov by searching 'AATRIP' under "Activities," or in-person at any of the facilities listed below.

What's Included

- Department transportation
- Whirligig Festival entertainment
- Lunch on your own

Patron Expectations

This trip has a moderate to high volume of walking expected. There may be some steps, uneven paths with loose bricks, and gravel. Patron must be able to keep to the scheduled timeline of the trip. Please remember there is no one-on-one assistance provided by the escorts.

Cancellation Policy

Cancellations must be made in writing at least 14 days prior to trip departure date to receive a refund. Full or partial refunds are subject to non-refundable expenses incurred by the Department. If the Department cancels a trip, a full refund will be given. Submit withdrawal letter to Carmen Rayfield at carmen.rayfield@raleighnc.gov or in-person at any Active Adult Center.

Active Adult Program

Anne Gordon Center for Active Adults (919) 996-4720

Five Points Center for Active Adults (919) 996-4730

Walnut Terrace Center (919) 996-6160

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