



**New England
Federal Credit Union**

THE GIANT PUMPKIN REGATTA & Festival

Hosted by:



Vendor Registration Information

**Waterfront Park – Burlington, VT
Sunday, October 9, 2011**



For more information, please call Lindsey Lathrop at 802-951-8849 or email llathrop@bsdvt.org

What is the NEFCU Giant Pumpkin Regatta & Festival?

The Giant Pumpkin Regatta & Festival began as a fun event by the Lake Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce (LCRCC) in 2008. It drew over a thousand spectators to the Burlington Waterfront to watch community members race giant hollowed out pumpkins on Lake Champlain. The pumpkins were grown and donated by farmers in the Vermont Giant Vegetable Growers Association.

In 2009 and 2010, LCRCC partnered with Linking Learning to Life (LLL) to host the event as a fundraiser for a youth leadership program, PILOT, which they jointly coordinate. New England Federal Credit Union (NEFCU) signed on as the title sponsor. A small harvest festival now accompanies the regatta with kids' activities, pie eating contests, a pet costume contest, and local vendors providing yummy fall food. **This year the event drew an estimated 6,000 people to the waterfront and raised \$23,000 for the PILOT program!**



The event also received a LOT of press! Not only has it been a hot blog topic, but in 2009, ESPN featured the event in a video and in 2008 it made Sports Illustrated's 'Most Ridiculous Competitions' list and was spoofed on Saturday Night Live! It has also been featured in a CBS News, Boston Globe, and a SevenDays Stuck In Vermont video blog. Other local media include Champ101.3, News Talk 620 WVMT, Burlington Free Press, WCAX, Fox 44, and WPTZ.

So what's the result? An annual fall time fundraising event that brings the community together to watch ridiculous pumpkin boats, eat local, delicious food, and have some festival fun...during Vermont's beautiful Columbus Day weekend!

How is money raised?

Funds are raised a variety of ways:

- Local businesses and individuals sponsor pumpkins for \$1,000.
- Food, agricultural, and craft vendors pay a \$130 vendor fee and donate 10% of the day's profits to LLL
- Minimal fees for festival activities and contests

Want more information? Visit www.LLLvt.org/pumpkin

What is Linking Learning to Life?

Linking Learning to Life is a 501© 3 non-profit organization that develops and manages a wide range of programs and services that help K-12 age youth prepare for life after high school, especially related to careers and continuing education. The organization plays a critical role of connecting schools with businesses, colleges, and other community organizations to create exciting student learning opportunities. These opportunities include mentoring, community service, leadership development, career exploration, internships, paid employment and college access. Visit LLLvt.org to learn more.

What is the PILOT program?

PILOT (Program to Inspire Leadership, Opportunity, and Thought) is a youth leadership program for high school juniors in Chittenden County, Vermont. The vision behind PILOT is to motivate and empower young people to make a positive difference within their communities through leadership, creativity, and action. This program targets “latent leaders”, bringing together juniors from four Chittenden County high schools (Burlington, South Burlington, Champlain Valley Union, and Essex High Schools), for an interactive year long community and career exploration program.

How do I become a vendor and what's included?

In order to be a vendor at the event, the vendor fee is \$130 as well as a suggested donation of 10% of sales from the day. Vendors must supply proof of insurance for \$2 million dollars naming the city of Burlington as “additional insured” (not listed as the Certificate Holder) and also must provide a copy of the State of Vermont Food Service Establishment License and Permit.

All vendors are asked to be set up between 7:30 and 9:00am and to stay throughout the day. We are not able to provide tents but we encourage you to bring your own. We can provide electricity, if you need it.

Please send the attached registration form and check to Linking Learning to Life, 52 Institute Rd. Burlington, VT 05408.

Questions?

Contact Lindsey Lathrop at LLL, (802) 951-8849, llathrop@bsdvt.org



**THE GIANT
PUMPKIN
REGATTA**
& Festival

**Vendor Registration Form
2011**

Name of Business: _____ Primary Contact: _____

Business Address: _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Do you need electricity? Y N

Please make checks for \$130 payable to: Linking Learning to Life.
Send payment to: Linking Learning to Life, 52 Institute Rd. Burlington, VT 05408

Once the registration form and payment is received, detailed information about the event will be sent to the address provided.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Lindsey Lathrop at (802) 951-8849 or llathrop@bsdvt.org