

Reel Ready Westchester: Film-Friendly Checklist For Business



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Film-Friendly Checklist for Westchester County Business

Westchester County is a thriving hub for film production, offering small businesses unique opportunities to support and benefit from this vibrant industry. Whether you're providing a location or offering products and services, here's how to make your business film-friendly and capitalize on the potential rewards.

1 | Film Industry 101

Learn the basics: Familiarize yourself with film production operations, including location scouting, permits, shoot schedules, and post-production needs.

Visit Westchester County Tourism & Film's [website](#) for information, links, and resources to get started.

2 | Prepare Your Business

Assess your offerings: Determine what your business can provide, whether it's a filming location, catering, transportation, equipment rental, or other services.

Tailor your products and services: Adapt your offerings to meet the specific needs of film productions. For example, offer flexible catering menus or specialized transportation services.

Be flexible: Be prepared for temporary disruptions, schedule changes, extended working hours during filming.

3 | Comply with Legal Requirements

Understand local regulations: Collaborate with your local municipality to understand zoning, permit and community guidelines.

Obtain necessary permits: Ensure you have required permits for both filming and providing services to productions in Westchester County. For example, if you plan to provide food services, you may need to [have a permit](#).

Maintain adequate insurance: Have appropriate insurance coverage to work with film productions and understand the insurance requirements of production companies.

4 | Cultivate a Film-Friendly Attitude

Be flexible and responsive: Offer flexible service hours and be ready to accommodate last-minute requests. Production schedules can change rapidly.

Prepare your team: Train staff to handle the specific demands of film productions, from managing large orders to providing professional and discreet service.



5 | Promote Your Services

Increase visibility: Register your business as a [film location](#) or [resource](#) on the Westchester County Film website and in the New York State [Diverse Supplier Directory](#).

Network: Attend industry events, workshops, and mixers to connect with producers, location managers, and other key players.

Showcase your business: Highlight your film-friendly services on your website and social media platforms including testimonials from past productions.

6 | Create a Competitive Film Package

Offer attractive rates: Provide competitive rates and consider creating packages specifically designed for film productions.

Provide perks: Offer additional benefits like 24/7 availability, rapid delivery, or tailored services that cater to production crews needs.

Customize solutions: Create special props, offer bulk rentals, prepare dietary-specific catering or other personalized services.

7 | Build Strong Relationships

Assign a dedicated liaison: Designate a single point of contact to manage all film-related inquiries and coordinate service.

Gather feedback: Follow up with the production teams to improve your offerings for future projects.

Strive for positive experiences: Ensure your services leave a positive impression to encourage repeat business and word-of-mouth referrals.

8 | Leverage the Exposure

Seek recognition: Ask for your business to be credited in the production, whether in the credits or promotional materials.

Showcase testimonials: Collect quotes from production companies to use in your marketing materials.

Share your involvement: Promote your involvement in film projects through social media and your website to attract more business. Follow WCTF on [Instagram](#), [Facebook](#), and [LinkedIn](#) and tag us in your posts.

By following this checklist, your small business can effectively cater to the needs of film productions in Westchester, build a reputation within the entertainment industry, and potentially open up new revenue streams.

Westchester County Tourism & Film

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