



KENTUCKY TOURISM COUNCIL SUMMER TOP 10 FESTIVALS & EVENTS

The Kentucky Tourism Council announces the following winners from across the state as its Top 10 Festivals and Events for Summer 2009. In order to qualify for this season, the festival or event must be held during the months of June, July or August.

AFB ART FAIR @ WOODLAND PARK '09 Lexington, August 15-16. More than 50,000 visitors traditionally travel to Woodland Park during this two-day art and craft fair which features 200 of the finest juried artists from across the country. This fair is Central Kentucky's largest free outdoor cultural event and includes craftsman showing in eleven categories, a beer garden and a variety of delicious Kentucky-proud food to enjoy. More information: www.lexingtonartleague.org/woodland or 859.254.7024.

Francisco's Farm Arts Festival at Midway College, Midway, June 27-28. The 2009 festival will showcase 150 artists from 17 states and will feature offerings in all media categories. Additionally, an expanded Francisco's gallery exhibit, "The Artistic Wealth of Woodford County", spotlights the creativity of Woodford County artists in venues encompassing visual, literary, musical, theatrical, and culinary displays. Many out of town guests enjoy the high quality of this multi-faceted event that includes frequent artists' demonstrations, public art project, children's arts programming, music, and an exhibition of University of Kentucky College of Art student work. More information: www.franciscosfarm.org or 859.846.4049.

Freedom Fest, Murray, July 3-5. Summer heats up with Freedom Fest, Murray's premier Fourth of July celebration, which features a street fair, barbeque competition, parade, family day in the park and music concerts of all genres. The fireworks display is one of the largest in the western Kentucky region. More information: www.tourmurray.com/freedomfest/main.htm or 270.759.2199.

Friday After 5, Owensboro, May 22-September 4. Every Friday night from Memorial Day through Labor Day, free live concerts are given on the banks of the Ohio River at BB&T Plaza at RiverPark Center. Bands play from 6:00-10:00 PM on the Plaza, bluegrass bands play in the Woodward's Courtyard and Gospel on the River performs in Cannon Hall. Weekly street fairs

and concessions are also a part of this summer event. More information: www.fridayafter5.com or 270.314.8118.

Great American Brass Band Festival, Danville, June 11-14. An old-time brass band concert in the park recaptures the nostalgia of peaceful, turn-of-the-century America and free concerts by world-renowned brass bands of all types perform throughout the weekend. Other events during the festival include: a New Orleans style parade on Main Street; a Chautauqua Tea; a bourbon tasting fund raiser; a band history conference and a Brass Master class. On Saturday evening, the Great American decorator picnic is held and other fun festival highlights are a hot-air balloon race, a 5K run, a gallery hop and Sunday morning worship service with the bands on the lawn. Street food vendors add to the enjoyment and excitement of the weekend. More information: www.gabbbf.org or 800.755.0076.

International Mystery Writers Festival, Owensboro, August 11-16. This festival returns for its third year at RiverPark Center. This year it will feature live radio theatre productions of four Agatha Christie radio plays that have never been presented in the United States. More information: www.riverparkcenter.org or 270.687.2770.

Keeneland Concours d'Elegance, Lexington, July 16-19. This celebration of the automobile and "all things Kentucky" begins Thursday with a tour of a renowned distillery and is followed on Friday evening with an elegant James Bond themed Gala. The highlight of the weekend occurs on Saturday, the Concours D'Elegance, when hundreds of rare and exotic automobiles roll onto the grounds of historic Keeneland race course. The featured marquee will be the British Morgan in commemoration of its 100 years of automotive history and Saturday evening will include a Hangar Bash showcasing a collection of modern and vintage airplanes. The entire family can enjoy this full weekend of exhibits, silent auction, and regional food. More information: www.keenelandconcours.com or 859.422.3329.

MainStrasse Village Original Goettafest, MainStrasse Village, Covington, June 26-28. Designed to celebrate "Goetta", a regional dish that was introduced by German immigrants in the mid 1800's, this events has become much more than a food festival. Located along the tree lined 6th St. Promenade and Goebel Park, Goettafest includes booths by various artisans and craftsman, entertainment by local talent, and plenty of children's activities. Food vendors create various dishes using goetta as an ingredient and many visitors the old world atmosphere

of historic MainStrasse Village shops and restaurants. More information: www.mainstrasse.org or 859.491.0458.

Summer Motion, Ashland, July 1-5. Held at the Riverfront and Central Park, this free event is packed with family entertainment in an alcohol free environment and draws crowds from the entire tri-state region. For over twenty years, Summer Motion has presented some of the best country, rock and Motown groups in the world at no cost to the attendees. On July 4th, there is a 10K race, a parade, a patriotic show and a spectacular fireworks display on the Riverfront. Other events include: a beauty pageant; car and motorcycle shows; craft vendors; children's rides and activities and a tribute to those fallen Kentuckians in the War On Terrorism through the Some Gave All motorcycle rally. More information: www.summertime.com or 606.833.3655.

The Forecastle Festival, Louisville, July 10-12. This scenic, outdoor event is equally based upon a three-part format--music, art and activism--and is the largest gathering in the American Midwest of its kind. This symposium for musicians, artists and environmentalists connect the progressive Midwest with high profile talent, creative artists and keynote speakers. More information: www.forecastlefest.com or 502.472.7555.

Additionally, Honorable Mention recognition is given to two summer festivals or events that the judges felt deserved some recognition. Those are: **Hardin County Community Fair-Elizabethtown**, July 7-12, www.hardincofair.com, 270.369.6098 and **Small Town America Weekend**-Mt. Sterling, August 15-16, www.mtsterlingtourism.com, 859.498.8732.

The Kentucky Tourism Council names its Top 10 Festivals & Events four times a year. To be eligible, festivals or events must be recommended or produced by a Kentucky Tourism Council member. A panel of impartial judges selects the winners for each season. Criteria for selection include popularity of the event, its impact on the local tourism economy as well as cultural and historical significance.

The Kentucky Tourism Council is a 600 member statewide association representing all sectors of the state's travel industry. The Council's mission is to unite Kentucky's third largest industry through governmental interaction, communication and education.