

News Release

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50th Annual Appalachian Festival

Featuring down-home fun!

Coney Island in Cincinnati, Ohio

May 10, 11, & 12, 2019

(Cincinnati, OH) - All new Headline entertainment, hand-made crafts, storytellers, food, it's all part of this year's favorite annual rite of spring, the Appalachian Festival at historic Coney Island.

Now in its 50th year, the ever-popular Appalachian Festival runs three days during Mother's Day weekend, May 10, 11, & 12, keeping this Mother's-Day-weekend tradition alive. Our theme for this year's festival is the Celebration of Mountain Heritage.

During this spring festival, Coney Island is transformed into an authentic mountain-life village celebrating the area's rich Appalachian heritage. It has been estimated that more than 300,000 people in this area claim Appalachian roots.

Come experience three full days of music, handmade crafts, storytelling, dance, food and fun. The Appalachian Festival is the first springtime festival held at Coney Island transforming it into a special family occasion. Proceeds from the three-day festival go toward grants for area organizations and individual artists involved in promoting Appalachian culture.

The first Appalachian Festival was held at Cincinnati Music Hall in 1970 and has grown into what it is today, 50 years later. The festival was started by the Cincinnati Junior League. After six years, the Junior League created the Appalachian Community Development Association (ACDA), which produces the Appalachian Festival.

Mountain Music All Day, All Night

Experience two dozen musical acts including two headliners brought back for our 50th: Friday night, The Tillers and Saturday night, Double Cross. Great line-ups for the include: Rabbit Hash String Band, Uncle Mike Carr and Friend, Nightflyer, Steve Bonafel, Comet Allstars-just to name a few.

Art Werner is producing a great show for the Saturday concert called, “Art of the Jam”, where several musicians will take turns playing mountain music at its best.

Other acts will include: Queen City Balladeers, Steve & Donna Bing, Newtown, Fenced In, Forest Hills Bluegrass Band, Suzuki Strings plus storytelling (ACDA grant awarded in 2018), Won Peace, Higher Vision, One Iota, Appalachian Grass, and Skirts & Boots. Cincinnati Dulcimers and Hills of Kentucky Dulcimers will be performing all three days on our Oz stage.

(For entertainer performance times see music page at www.appalachianfestival.org).

Dance and Storytelling are Always Entertaining

A variety of energetic dancing including square dancing, clogging and step-dancing just to name a few will be performing all weekend along the Ohio River. Dancers include Spirit of America Cloggers, Cincinnati Highland Dancers, Tom Davis’s Square Dancers, Hills of Kentucky Cloggers, Five Point Cloggers, Scots Highland Dancers, Queen City Cloggers, Sugarfoot Cloggers, Country Step Cloggers, Show Boat Cloggers, Cant’s Stop Clogging, Buckey Nutz cloggers.

Storytelling, a valued part of the Appalachian experience (storytellers carried tales from village to village) is also prevalent at the festival. The very best yarn-spinners and cultural presenters around are featured at this year’s festival, including new-to-the-festival-this-year Fred Powers! Fred (Powerhouse) Powers was born in McDowell County, West Virginia. The stories of his youth are of growing up in the fifties and sixties in a coal-mining community as a son of a coal-miner and Appalachia. <https://www.powerhousepowers.com/> Also new this year for our Pioneer Village, Stephen “Doc” Hollen will be performing from his buggy. Be sure to stop and say “hello” to the Doc!

Also on the storytelling lineup are Hannah Sue Cooper, Omope Carter Daboiku, Stephen “Doc” Hollen, Paul Ingram, Dreamweavers Storytelling Troupe, Granny Sue, and more.

(For entertainer performance times see dancing page at www.appalachianfestival.org).

(For entertainer performance times see storytelling page at www.appalachianfestival.org).

Great Shopping for Mom...and Everyone Else!

As one of the world's finest outdoor Mother's Day shopping experiences - around a 100 -crafters from 15 states featuring the finest in mountain handcrafts. Twenty - five of the crafters are making their first-ever appearance at the Appalachian Festival.

Crafters will display their goods such as: hand-made quilts and clothing, furniture, pottery, metal sculptures, dried flower arrangements, hand-crafted jewelry, children's toys, leather goods, stained glass, musical instruments, baskets, handmade dolls and more. A talented collection of fiber arts specialists in weaving, drop spinning, braiding and loom work will also be on hand making and selling their masterpieces.

New crafters this year include those selling handmade straw brooms, jewelry, glassware, metal sculptures, paintings, picture frames, wood toys, florals and more.

Education Exhibit

This exhibit has been developed for our Education Day on Friday May 10th. We will have a lot of fun activities for the students! Included is a scavenger hunt that will take them through the pioneer village and into our education exhibit, where there will be a lot of new and exciting elements. We will have five photography exhibits, *Perceptions of Home*, Holmes Middle School from Covington Kentucky, Gray Middle School from Union Kentucky, an exhibit of Northern Kentucky photographs presented by i.imagine, and a photographic exhibit produced by awarded filmmaker and photographer Shanon Rice. We will also have a Natural Resource Exhibit displaying "A Coalminers Journey" and "All About Wood". Gorman Farms will be there to talk about the best pollinators, bees. Lastly, there will be a new organization to the festival this year, the Foundation for Ohio River Education on Friday with their STREAM program to connect your kids to the rivers, creeks, and ponds near their schools.

Traditional Demonstrators

Traditional arts demonstrators will be creating on-site unique items from a bygone mountain era, showing the public the lost arts of spinning, weaving, basket weaving, turning bowls, caning chairs, tating, instrument makers, and more.

Pat Maley & Weavers Guild of Greater Cincinnati, Basket Weavers of Greater Cincinnati, Ohio Valley Woodturning, Riley School of Irish Music, Ohio Valley Basket Weavers.

Old-Time Pioneer Village Recalls the Past

Always one of the most popular attractions at the Festival is the large "Pioneer" Village. It features period re-enactors who demonstrate mountain life in the 1800s through dress, living quarters and activities. The Pioneer Village includes overnight pioneer camps and many demonstrators of old-time skills. Blacksmith, soap-makers, spinners, weavers, grinders, pelts and hunting, filigree, schoolmarm, musicians, and many other demonstrators are spread throughout the area. There is also a petting zoo for kids, and children's games.

Native American dance is always a highlight of the Pioneer Village area, and this year's dancers, **All Nations Drum**, featuring John Spotted Horse.

(For entertainer performance times see our pioneer village page at www.appalachianfestival.org).

Lip-Smackin' Mountain & Traditional Festival Food

During the spring festival, Coney Island is transformed into an authentic mountain-life village celebrating the area's rich Appalachian heritage. One of the best parts of springtime and festivals is food, food and more food!

As always, the festival is an undiminished eating-fest with the best in mouth-watering down-home cooking along the Ohio River.

Breakfast: Biscuits & Gravy, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage and Bacon! Home-made Donuts!

Sandwiches: Country or Smoked Ham, Fish Sandwiches, Smoked Pulled BBQ Pork, Blue Ridge Bangers (Smoked Sausage with Peppers & Onions), Steak, Smoked Beef or Chicken Wraps and Panni, Gyro, Butterfly Pork Chop, Pork Loin Wrap, and Grilled Cheese!

Entrées: Soup Beans, Alligator, Frog Legs, Shark, Fried Chicken, and Chicken Tender Salad!

Sides: Goetta Balls, Sweet Potato Fries, Beef Jerky, Cole Slaw (traditional & Dixie), Baked Beans, Cornbread, Country Taters, Wooly-Wooly Potatoes, Green Beans & Potatoes, Macaroni & Cheese, Salads (Traditional, Pasta or Cucumber Medley)!

Desserts: Apple Fritters, Ice Cream, Carmel Apples, Old Fashioned Kettle Corn, Funnel Cakes, German Roasted Almonds/Cashews/Pecans, Fudge, Diabetic Fudge, Mini Donuts and Chocolate Dipped & Cheesecake!

The 50th annual Appalachian Festival is presented by **The Appalachian Community Development Association** to help raise awareness of Appalachian culture, important in this region.

Festival hours are:

Friday, May 10	9 a.m.-9 p.m.	Frugal Friday 1/2 off Tickets
Saturday, May 11	10 a.m.-9 p.m.	
Sunday, May 12	10 a.m.-6 p.m.	

New this year - We are accepting Credit Cards!

Sale this year - Frugal Friday 1/2 off tickets

General admission is \$10. Senior citizens (55+) \$5. Children (5-11) \$2. Children 4 and under are FREE. Parking is \$6.

Appalachian Festival <http://www.appalachianfestival.org/>

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