

History, Culture and Excitement

Find It All at the 2010 Georgia Mountain Fair

Hiawassee, Ga. (2010) – Don't miss the "peak" family event of the year. From July 21 through July 31, the charming town of Hiawassee will be filled with excitement and nostalgia during the 60th annual Georgia Mountain Fair, held at the historic Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. With first class musical performances, fun carnival rides and a glimpse into North Georgia's rich history and culture, there is truly something for every member of the family. For a complete list of scheduled activities, free admission days, free carnival ride days and musical performance times, visit www.GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com.

From world-class country and gospel performances to good old rock 'n' roll shows, the Georgia Mountain Fair will host several renowned musical acts in the 2,900-seat Anderson Music Hall throughout its 11 days of festivities. Performers include legends, Roy Clark, Joe Stampley, Brenda Lee, The Bellamy Brothers, Ray Price, Gene Watson, Jim Ed Brown and Helen Cornelius, gospel singers The McKameys, The Inspirations and the Primitives. The venue will also serve as the site of the 2010 Miss Georgia Mountain Fair pageant and the annual Clogger's Convention. A complete schedule of performance dates and times can be found at www.GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com.

Also, during the Fair attendees can step back in time as they watch educational demonstrations such as blacksmithing, soap-making, moon shining and hominy-making in the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds' Pioneer Village. Visitors can tour restored authentic and antique buildings including a one-room schoolhouse, a general store, a blacksmith shop, a repair shop and an "old mountain home," moved to the fairgrounds to preserve the area's rich history. While visitors experience North Georgia's past first-hand, they will also listen to tales of life as it once was from local experts. Art lovers will also enjoy strolling through the juried arts and crafts show, set up throughout the Pioneer Village each day of the fair. The show features talented artisans from around the country.

For the kids and the inner-child in everyone, the Georgia Mountain Fair also boasts exciting carnival rides and Pony Rides. New to the 2010 festival, we welcome Rockin' A Ranch Petting Zoo including a Donkey, Mule, Cattle, Sheep, Goats, pigs, Llama's, Camel, Porcupines, and more. Also, the annual Georgia Mountain Fair parade, featuring antique cars, horses and buggies, colorful floats and area marching bands, will be held on Saturday, July 24 at 11 a.m. and is always a family favorite.

The Georgia Mountain Fair has been a landmark event for the North Georgia community for the past 60 years, and in the Exhibit Hall visitors are able to look back at the fair's history. There, they will see the pictures of many musical legends, including Conway Twitty, Patty Loveless and Alan Jackson, who have performed at the fair and interesting memorabilia from past events. Attendees can also purchase jams and other unique homemade goods in the hall. The Exhibit Hall is also the home to a large selection of antique farm equipment, and during the fair, locals will share stories of how the equipment was once used and how vital the equipment was to farm life. New this year, the Exhibit Hall welcomes a classic Ertl Toy Collectible Display featuring die cast cars, trucks, airplanes, etc... After touring the hall, attendees can venture over to the Hiawassee Garden Club Building where they will see the acclaimed flower show.

No fair would be complete without the smells of hot funnel cakes, sweet cotton candy and hamburgers cooking on the grill. The Georgia Mountain Fair offers all of these food selections in addition to barbeque, smoked trout and many other festival favorites. The food booths are run by local civic organizations and serve as a fundraising tool for non-profit groups in Towns County.

Event tickets for the Georgia Mountain Fair are \$9 with \$2 parking, and children under 10 are admitted for free (musical performances are included in ticket price). No pets allowed. Festival hours are weekdays from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Friday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds camping and RV sites will also be available for overnight accommodations. Camping reservations can be made by calling (706) 896-4191.

The Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds are the home to several popular events throughout the year including the Georgia Mountain Fair, the Rhododendron Garden, the Georgia Mountain Fall Festival including the Georgia's Official State Fiddler's Convention and many Superstar Concerts throughout the season. The Fairgrounds are located along the shores of beautiful Lake Chatuge in the north Georgia mountain community of Hiawassee and offer 189 beautiful camp and RV sites, most with lake views. For more information on the property and campsites as well as a complete listing of events, visit www.GeorgiaMountainFairgrounds.com.

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