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Bedford prepares for the 53rd Annual Fall Foliage Festival

It's that time of year again when the historic town of Bedford closes its downtown streets only to fill with the events and activities of the annual Fall Foliage Festival set among the changing colors of the surrounding mountains.

Bedford's Fall Foliage Festival is in its 53rd year and will be held the first two weekends in October – Oct. 7-8 and 14-15 from 9 a.m. to 5 a.m. The festival is organized entirely by volunteers and draws an estimated 70,000 visitors to Bedford over both weekends with activities and entertainment for all ages.

Over 400 booths line the streets and squares in Bedford and Fort Bedford Park during the festival weekends with tasty treats, crafts and demonstrations, children's activities, musical entertainment and other activities.

Artisans display a variety of handcrafted works throughout the two weekends including pottery, jewelry, fine art, woodworking, dolls, baskets and much more. Many of the artisans use the festival as an opportunity to show off their talents by demonstrating their techniques in painting, wood carving and quilting to festival goers.

Festival foods are also a favorite of festival goers with items such as candied apples, hot sausage sandwiches, crab cakes and pizza, French fries, kettle corn, hand dipped ice cream and other baked goods. An apple cider making demonstration will take place in the area of the Bedford County Courthouse during both weekends. The cider is also for sale.

The annual Fall Foliage Festival also includes activities for children of all ages. At Fort Bedford Park, Middle Earth Studios presents both puppet theater and theater that the audience can participate in. The children can dress up in costumes as they take part in traditional folk tales. There is also a children's craft tent during the second weekend in Fort Bedford Park.

Other activities that will be taking place during the festival include a muzzle loader display, antique car parade, hay rides, pony rides, the crowning of the Fall Foliage Queen and a stationary engines display and demonstration.

For a full list of events and times or for more information, visit bedfordfallfestival.com. To request a free brochure from the Bedford County Visitors Bureau, call 1-800-765-3331.

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