

Office of the Commissioner of Agriculture
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ARTS AND CRAFTS FAIR RETURNS TO RIPLEY

Charleston, W.Va. – The best Appalachian arts and crafts return to Cedar Lakes Conference Center September 15-17 during the annual Mountain State Art and Craft Fair (MSACF). This marks the 55th year for the event which will feature 100 artisans selling everything from stained glass to handwoven baskets, quilts to WV Grown products. Twenty food and beverage vendors will also be on hand.

The Mountain State Art and Craft Fair got its start in 1963 as part of the state's centennial celebration. In 2016, the MSACF moved from its traditional July 4th date to the second weekend in September. Organizers also introduced a festival atmosphere with five villages: American, Celtic, Italian, German and Swiss, cultures that have contributed to West Virginia's unique communities.

"We make small adjustments each year so each of our five villages has a definite uniqueness to it," said Karen Facemyer, Cedar Lakes director/MSACF president. "The villages will all incorporate food, drinks, music, activities and of course the quality artisan wares the MSACF is known for."

The West Virginia Department of Agriculture (WVDA), which owns and operates Cedar Lakes, will be on hand at the fair. Visitors are encouraged to stop by to talk with our agriculture experts, ask questions and learn more about the agency.

"Cedar Lakes provides the perfect backdrop for the Mountain State Art and Craft Fair," said Commissioner of Agriculture Kent Leonhardt. "From the talented craftspeople who sell their wares to the thousands of visitors who return year after year, we welcome you to our facility and hope you'll take home wonderful WV made products."

Fair hours are 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday (9/15) and Saturday (9/16) and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday (9/17). Cost of admission is \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors and military personnel and \$5 for children 4 and up. Student Day is set for Friday, Sept. 15.

For more information about the Art and Craft Fair, call 304-372-3247. To learn more about Cedar Lakes Conference Center, contact Karen Facemyer at kfacemyer@wvda.us.

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