



Virginia Highlands Festival  
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High-resolution photos may be downloaded from the  
website [www.VaHighlandsFestival.org](http://www.VaHighlandsFestival.org)

NEWS RELEASE  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**IMAGINATION MEETS INNOVATION - THE WOLF CRYSTAL  
INTERACTIVE EXPERIENCE  
AT THE 71<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL VIRGINIA HIGHLANDS FESTIVAL  
TEN DAYS OF ARTS AND CULTURE  
FESTIVAL DATES: July 26 - August 4**

ABINGDON, Va./June 17, 2019/ – The 71st Annual Virginia Highlands Festival introduces a new interactive family experience called *The Wolf Crystal*, beginning Thursday, July 25 and running through August 2.

*The Wolf Crystal* is a newly-commissioned work of immersive theater where the audience is as important to the action as the performers. It is a celebration that chronicles Abingdon's traditions and legends about the wolf caves and Daniel Boone's explorations through our region. The narrative gradually unfolds throughout the Festival with new elements of actors, dancers, and large-scale puppets; with animated videos, a large interactive sculpture, and text messages sent directly to attendees' phones. Families are encouraged to explore Abingdon and Festival events to help our hero find the missing crystal.

"*The Wolf Crystal* events are the perfect way for an adventurous family to explore Abingdon and several aspects of the Festival," said Becky Caldwell, Festival Executive Director. "I dare say, you won't find interactive sculptures, aerial drone battles, or dancing wolf puppets at any other festival in our region."

All *Wolf Crystal* programs are free and open to the public, but to really immerse yourself in this experience, you'll want to sign up on our app, Alert Abingdon, at [\[link coming soon\]](#)

Receive daily alerts from July 25-August 2 with clues to join the hunt for the Crystal. You'll also have exclusive access to our animated video of the ongoing adventure, so you can follow along

even if you're not in Abingdon.

To plan your trip, here is a list of each *Wolf Crystal* event. Attend all of them to be part of our hero's journey.

**Thursday, July 25; 8:30 PM on the grounds of the William King Museum of Art**

Kick off the Festival with pageantry and puppets! Come meet Abbi the Wolf, the wolf pack, and her friends Crow and Butterfly in this stunning opening night performance. You'll get a first glimpse of the actual Wolf Crystal – said to be the source of the wolves' power.

**Friday, July 26; 11:30 AM at Humphreys Park on Main St.**

Join Abbi the Wolf and her friends on a treasure hunt through the park to find the missing Wolf Crystal.

**Saturday, July 27; 11:00 AM on Main St. between Court St. and Wall St.**

See Abbi and friends at the Festival parade on Main Street!

**Sunday, July 28; 11:30 AM at the Arts Depot**

Oops! The Arts Depot doesn't allow wolves and crows in the building. Abbi the Wolf and her friends need your help searching the art studios for the missing Wolf Crystal!

**Tuesday, July 30; 1:00 PM at the Juried Arts & Crafts show at Barter Square**

So many pretty shiny things at the arts and crafts show! Abbi the Wolf and her friends need your help searching through the booths to find clues to the missing Wolf Crystal.

**Wednesday, July 31; 11:30 AM at the Virginia Creeper Trail Head in Abingdon**

Join Abbi the Wolf, Crow, and Butterfly in a special maypole dance in Wye Park to help find the missing Wolf Crystal--just a short distance from trailhead.

**Thursday, August 1; 11:30 AM at the Antiques Market at the Washington County Fairgrounds**

Crow is all alone in his fight against the Screen Heads and their flying machines! Come help him defeat the drones at this epic aerial battle for the Wolf Crystal

**Friday, August 2; 9:15 PM at the William King Museum of Art in the Sculpture Garden**

Glow and the Screen Heads know the Crystal isn't fully powered without its base, so they bring the heart of the Crystal back to the caves. Feeling the Wolf Crystal's power, the wolf pack starts to gain strength. You'll have to be there to see what happens next, in this epic final dance-off for the power of the Wolf Crystal!

For a complete listing of the 250 Festival activities happening from July 26-August 4, including registration requirements, advance ticket purchases, parking and trolley info, and more, visit [www.vahighlandsfestival.org](http://www.vahighlandsfestival.org) or pick up a program guide at Food City locations near you.

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**About the Virginia Highlands Festival:** Founded in 1948, the Virginia Highlands Festival is an

annual, ten-day event devoted to the celebration of Southwest Virginia heritage and rich Appalachian tradition. Held in historic Abingdon, Virginia, in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains, the Festival attracts thousands of visitors each year. The Festival was selected as the “Best Art Event” by the readers of *Virginia Living* magazine in 2019, recognized as a Top 20 Event by the Southeastern Tourism Society and was named as Blue Ridge Country’s Best Non-Music Festival in 2018. The 71<sup>st</sup> Virginia Highlands Festival will run from July 26-August 4 (Antiques Market July 27- August 4) and feature live concerts, a juried arts and crafts show, and an antique market, as well as workshops, lectures and tours. To learn more about the Virginia Highlands Festival and this year’s events, please visit <http://www.vahighlandsfestival.org>