



Virginia Highlands Festival
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High-resolution photos may be downloaded from the website or requested via email

NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**“CREATE” AND CELEBRATE OUR YOUTH AND TEENS
AT THE 71st 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 is dedicated to festival attendees of all ages! The Youth and Teens Committee is excited to feature activities for youth and teens at the Lois H. Humphreys Park on Main Street in downtown Abingdon.

Families can stop by for daily activities, face painting, playtime, storytime, and more from 10 AM - 6 PM. Humphreys Park is also the location of the Festival’s information tent, sponsor booths, and nursing moms’ tent.

The *Wolf Crystal* Festival Parade: The Festival is partnering with local Shriners' clubs to bring our community parade to life on Saturday, July 27 at 11 AM on Main Street, downtown Abingdon. Bring the family to see the National Dance Day performance, classic cars, and a special appearance by Abbi the Wolf and her wolf pack from the *Wolf Crystal* experience. If your community organization would like a spot in the parade, contact the Festival office at (276) 623-5266.

Interactive 3D Green Screen Fun and Fantasy Experience: Be the star of your own action movie! Our brilliant artists and role play experts Brian and Marie Bridgeforth and Nathan Hamilton keep imaginations flowing in a cave-like interactive setting ideal for creating your own fantasy environment. Create your own video and learn how to use the tech behind your favorite on-screen special effects. Cosplay and fantasy costumes are encouraged! Open daily Saturday, July 27 - Saturday, Aug 3, 12 PM - 8 PM.

Daily Fun for All Ages! There's fun for everyone at Humphreys Park with daily activities for artists and explorers alike!

- **Portraits by Aline:** Commission hand-drawn portraits of your favorite people or pets by Aline Backes, a local portrait artist with over 35 years of experience. Portrait memories captured in oil, pastel, or charcoal, as well as caricature, and created live or by submitted photos. Reasonably priced according to size, medium selected, and individual order. All portraits shipped upon completion.
- **Outdoor Adventurers Activity Book:** If you are between the ages of four and 14, become a VHF Outdoor Adventurer by picking up an Outdoor Adventurer Activity Book at the Youth Tent or the VHF Information Booth and completing activities as you go through Abingdon. Learn about Abingdon's parks—for butterflies, munchkins, and veterans. Find out about muster grounds, and two kinds of Virginia Creepers. Take your completed book to the Youth Tent to receive your Outdoor Adventurer button.
- **Express It Face & Body Art:** Elaborate face painting and temporary glitter tattoos for all ages done by Aline Backes.

Daily from 10 AM to 5 PM. Humphreys Park on Main Street in downtown Abingdon.

Washington County Library Storytelling Time: Join the great storytellers from our local library as they share captivating stories and interactive performances. Fun entertainment for all ages.

Tuesday, July 30, 2019 - 11 AM to Noon. Admission is free.

Trish Dunn the Amazing Ventriloquist: Virginia Highlands Festival is excited to welcome back ventriloquist Trish Dunn all the way from Norwich, Norfolk in the UK! Trish has a unique talent to take the abstract in everyday life and turn it upside down – a stress-relieving and belly laughing experience to remember, by bringing the laughs with the help of her Vent Crew. Wednesday, July 31, 2019 - 3 to 4 PM. Admission is free.

Dave Taylor's Magic Show: Dave will astound and mesmerize you with slight of hand and jaw dropping entertainment. Bring the whole family and enjoy the show! Wednesday, July 31, 2019 - 4 to 5 PM. Admission is free.

For a complete listing of the 200-plus Festival activities happening from July 26-August 4, including registration requirements, advance ticket purchases, parking and trolley info, and more, visit 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 71st 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>