

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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45th Annual Pioneer Days Festival – October 23 & 24, 2021

Historical Demonstrators, Craft Market, Festival Food, Live Music, Pumpkin Patch



LAKE WALES, Florida – The Lake Wales History Museum will host the 45th Annual Pioneer Days Festival on Saturday, October 23 & 24, 2021 from 9 AM – 5 PM each day in Lake Wailes Park. This event is a heritage celebration for the whole family with free admission and parking on both days. This year the festival will feature the same great old-fashioned fun and new offerings for the whole family. The event draws a diverse audience of nearly 10,000 visitors and residents annually to the area.

For the health and safety of all our participants, this event will be held entirely outdoors, and mask requirements and physical distancing will be implemented in accordance with regulations and guidance from the state of Florida, City of Lake Wales, and the CDC. We are so excited for the return of this community event, and we will do everything we can to make it safe.

The Lake Wales History Museum's Pioneer Days Festival is synonymous with Lake Wales history and culture, and celebrates the heritage of the greater Polk County community. The two-day event features 70 craft & community market vendors, heritage education activities, historical reenactors, live music, festival food, a new Pioneer Beer Garden, The Pumpkin Patch family activity area with petting zoo, antique car & tractor show, architectural tours, and the naming of Lake Wales' Pioneer of the Year.

During the event, the museum will honor a select individual as the 2021 Lake Wales Pioneer of the Year. The celebration will be held during the festival on Saturday, October 23 at 10 AM. Nominations are now being accepting. For more information, please visit www.lakewalesfl.gov/museum.



Heritage education activities offered throughout the weekend celebration include historic architecture tours of downtown Lake Wales, canoe carving, Polk County Wood turners, SWEAT – Early American Trades, The Country Boutique – candle making, Thomas Geer Artisan - blacksmith, Civil War Camp – reenactors & cooking, Florida Citrus Hall of Fame with Miss Florida Citrus and citrus labels, a 1861 Cracker Chuck Wagon & Pioneer Camp, Funerary & Historic Cemetery Display, Pine Needle Basket making, chair caning, leather-making, and more, along with the Florida Flywheelers antique tractor, engine exhibits, and the museum's own 1985 fire truck.

Craft Market Vendor registration is now open! Handmade & craft market vendors will have a range of be selling at our showcase a range of goods & services including handmade, gemstone and silver jewelry, home goods, kitchen items, gourds woven with natural materials, essential oils, organic & natural clothing & hats, handmade holiday home décor items & candles, organic

health products, nail polish, handcrafted Native American flutes, pet supplies and treats, fiber art & crocheted home goods, hand spun & dyed yarn, reclaimed and recycled art and wood décor and home goods, hair accessories, Teddy bears, photography artwork, bath & body care products, greeting cards, children's items, repurposed furniture, gourmet and homemade culinary & food gifts.

Food Vendor registration is now open! Food concessions include the return of local favorites and new offerings including, WTF Concessions, Little Joe's, Rodney's Funtime Concessions, Cuppa Joe, Topsy's, Tony's Italian Ice, and Fresh Lemonade. Food for sale includes Coffee, Smoothies, Funnel Cakes, Hot Dogs, Polish Sausage, Corn Dogs, French Fries, Philly Cheesesteaks, Hamburgers, Fresh Lemonade, Slushies, Hoagies, Chicken Tenders, Po Boys, Fish & Shrimp Platter, Wings, and Italian ice.

NEW! The Pioneer Beer & Wine Garden will feature a selection of beers and wines for sale from 11 AM – 5 PM each day. Enjoy drinks and food while listening to the live entertainment along the shores of Lake Wales Lake, presented by Rotary on the Ridge.



Live entertainment will feature music and performances each day including Nat West & Pickin' In the Park, Lake Wales High School Highlander Band, Mountain Brew Trio, Bryan Rivers, local school and dance performances, and more.

The Pumpkin Patch family friendly activity area includes all sizes of pumpkins for sale, to paint and decorate, along with fall crafts, a corn crib, old-fashioned games, hay pit, face painting, relay races, and live animal petting zoo.

Kids Costume Contest will be on Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 3 PM. Children ages 3-12 are invited to dress up and enter for a chance to win prizes for the following categories: Cutest, Spookiest, Most Original, and Best Overall Costumes.

NEW! A Dog Parade will be on Sunday, October 24, 2021 at 1 PM. Well-behaved dogs of all shapes and sizes, along with their owners, are welcome to dress up and enter for a chance to win prizes for the following categories: Cutest Costume, Most Original, and Best Overall.

Sponsors and media partners who help make Pioneer Days Festival possible include the City of Lake Wales, Visit Central Florida, Advent Health, Citizens Bank & Trust, Duke Energy Foundation, SEMCO Construction, Gibson Law Firm, Jahna Industries, Family Elder Law, MAX 98.3, The Ledger Media Group, Haven Magazine, Polk News Sun, WUSF Public Media, 97.5 WPCV, 90.7 WMFE, and Orlando Sentinel Media Group.

About the Lake Wales History Museum

The Lake Wales History Museum owns and preserves an estimated 20,000 items within its collection, offers self-guided tours of local history through permanent and changing interpretive displays, educational programming, special events and school programs throughout the year. The museum is open Wednesday - Saturday from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Suggested donation: \$5/person for admission. Parking is free and the first floor is accessible for persons with disabilities, wheelchairs and strollers. For more information contact the Lake Wales History Museum, 325 S Scenic Highway, Lake Wales, Florida 33853; 863-676-1759 or visit www.lakewalesfl.gov/museum.