



# News Release

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## **29<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Festival & Craft Show Planned**

Listen, learn and see history as it comes alive when Columbia Parks and Recreation sponsors the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Heritage Festival and Craft Show. The two-day event will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on September 16-17 at historic Nifong Park.

Visitors will be able to experience life as it was in the 19<sup>th</sup> century with a wide variety of activities.

Features of the Heritage Festival will include replica Lewis and Clark and cowboy camps, an 1859 town with more than 30 tents of shopkeepers, American Indian drumming and dancing, and artisans and tradesmen dressed in period attire demonstrating their trades and selling their wares.

A wide range of entertainment will be featured on three stages, including music, dancing and storytelling. New entertainers this year are the Thunderheart Singers and Dancers; Bob Hamm, world champion gun spinner; Jenna Crispin, Branson entertainer; and the National Marionette Company of Chicago. Other featured entertainers include Ironweed Bluegrass Band, Kelly Jones and the Swamp Rabbits, Melissa Purvis – Celtic harpist, Afi Ama – African dancing and storytelling, cowboy poets, a fiddlers' competition on Saturday afternoon, soul, big band, jazz, roots and many local bands.

Visitors can pick up some early holiday gifts in the large contemporary, handmade craft area. Saturday evening ghost stories from 8 to 9:30 pm will offer thrills. Children will enjoy numerous activities in the Fun for Young'uns Area and hayrides are fun for the entire family, as well as tours of the historic Maplewood Home and the Walter's Boone County Historical Museum. Great food and a beautiful park setting will make the Heritage Festival a family tradition.

The Heritage Festival is coordinated and sponsored by Columbia Parks and Recreation and co-sponsored by ABC-17, Boone County Historical Society, Columbia Convention & Visitors Bureau Tourism Development Fund, Columbia Daily Tribune, Hampton Inn, Metro Rotary Club & Missouri River Communities Network.

Nifong Park is located at the AC exit in Columbia off of Highway 63 south. Visitors can either park on-site or shuttle from the Ice Chalet Antique Mall. For more information, call 573-874-7460 or visit [www.GoColumbiaMo.com](http://www.GoColumbiaMo.com), (Enter GoWord: GoHeritageFestival).