



Lindsey Meyer Gallaher
President

Board of Directors

Hon. Gary R. Wade
Chairman of the Board
Samuel J. Furrow
Vice Chair
Dale A. Keasling
Treasurer
Jenny Boyd
Secretary

Rodney Archer
David Balloff
Stephen W. Dean
Hon. Daryl R. Fansler
Dr. Jody Goins
Hon. Jim Henry
Logan Hickman
Elaine Irwin Meyer
Dr. Lee Naughton
Allison Palmer
Bo Shafer
Hon. Heath Shuler
Barrett Simonis
Bear Stephenson
Wes Stowers

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 1189
Norris, TN 37828

Website:
museumofappalachia.org

Contact:
865-494-7680

[museum@
museumofappalachia.org](mailto:museum@museumofappalachia.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NORRIS, TN - December 16, 2025.

Museum of Appalachia announces 2026 calendar of special events

The Museum of Appalachia announces its 2026 calendar of special events celebrating Southern Appalachian history and culture.

Heroes of Southern Appalachia – February 27, 2026

A dinner and awards ceremony honoring individuals of Southern Appalachian heritage who embody the spirit of the region and whose accomplishments have brought greater awareness and understanding of its history and culture. The 2026 recipients are Sam and Ann Furrow.

Sheep Shearing Days – April 24 and May 1, 2026

Students and families are invited to celebrate the arrival of spring with the annual tradition of sheep shearing. This student-focused event explores how pioneers turned wool into clothing and features hands-on activities and immersive learning experiences with Appalachian artisans, educators, and musicians.

Barn Dance – June 19, 2026

The Museum's signature fundraising event featuring a Southern dinner, live and silent auctions, square dancing, and an evening of celebration in support of the Museum's mission.

Independence Day Anvil Shoot Celebration – July 3 and 4, 2026

The Museum of Appalachia commemorates the nation's independence by launching gunpowder-filled anvils high into the sky—an explosive tradition once used by pioneers to mark special occasions. The 2026 celebration will also include enhanced programming developed in conjunction with TN250, Tennessee's official commemoration of America's 250th anniversary, highlighting the state's Revolutionary-era history and contributions.

Fall Heritage Days – October 22, 23, 29, and 30, 2026

This student-focused event showcases the sights, sounds, smells, and tastes of the fall harvest season in Southern Appalachia, with robust programming featuring dozens of pioneer artisans, musicians, and hands-on demonstrations across the Museum grounds.

Candlelight Christmas – December 11 and 12, 2026

A traditional Christmas celebration featuring evening tours of the Museum's festively lit pioneer village, along with live music, pioneer demonstrations, interactive activities for children, and seasonal storytelling.

In addition to these large-scale events, the Museum offers regular weekly programming from spring through fall, including live traditional music, artisan demonstrations, and animal meet & greets.

Additional special events may be announced throughout the year. For the most up-to-date information and event details, visit museumofappalachia.org.