

PRESS RELEASE / PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT
For Immediate Release

The 5th Annual Montana Wild West Fest will kick-off at 7:00 p.m. on Friday, August 13th and run through 5:00 p.m., Sunday the 15th. Held at the historic Kleffner Ranch in East Helena, the Montana Wild West Fest is the annual fundraiser for The Montana Living History Program. The Mission of The Montana Living History Program is “to perpetuate the historic skills of our frontier past and to teach, through re-enactment and preservation, understanding of our rich western heritage”.

The Fest emphasizes the Montana cowboy era. Attractions include the largest gathering of Montana gunfighters in one place. Over 50 re-enactors will be on hand for the daily shootouts at the Prairie Dog Town outdoor theater. Western entertainers will provide performances in The Big Red Barn Stage.

Hands-on fun can be found at various Living History Exhibits including blacksmithing, gold panning, an assay exhibit, frontier camp and the Wanbli – Eagle Native American Encampment. The 2nd U.S. Cavalry will provide a historically accurate military camp and there will be a history lesson and shooting gallery devoted to Colt Firearms.

The public is invited to participate in the Antique Tractor and Engine Show, Classic Car Show, Chili Cook-off, Fashion Show, Flower Show and Quilt Show. They can also bid on items in the silent auction. Enjoy a leisurely horse drawn wagon ride and kids can actually ride a horse. You can also attend a Cowboy Church service at 9:00 a.m., Sunday morning.

Western vendors will showcase a variety of merchandise for sale. Geared toward providing an affordable day for families, food and drinks will be sold at reasonable, old-fashioned prices.

The Friday Night Western Bar-B-Q and Dinner Show opens at 7:00 p.m. on the 13th. Tickets (\$12) are limited to the first 100 guests and the main festival opens Saturday and Sunday, August 14th and 15th at 9:00 am. Daily admission is \$6 or you can purchase a 2 day pass for \$10. Children 12 and under are free.

The signature event for The Festival is the Saturday Night Frontier Ball. The Frontier Ball begins at 7:00 p.m., Saturday evening. There will be live music by Wise River Mercantile and Mark Matthews will be the Caller. Participants are encouraged to wear period appropriate clothing. Rental clothing is available in the vendor area during the day. Tickets to the Ball are \$10 for Adults/Teens and \$5 for Youth 12 and under. They can be purchased at the door.

For more information about the Fest and a schedule, look at the Fest website www.montanalivinghistory.org or call (406) 458-3700.