

Kentucky's Elk Country Corridor

Festivals & Events

Elk Country Corridor's rich heritage can be experienced at a variety of festivals and events. Lifetime residents are joined by newcomers and visitors in festivals honoring all facets of mountain heritage. Join the residents of Elk Country Corridor as they celebrate their treasured local traditions. Hear the music at Osborne Brothers Hometown Festival in Hyden and Seedtime on the Cumberland in Whitesburg. Continue the region's educational heritage at Hindman Settlement School's Writers' Workshop and Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park's Mountain Showcase. Enjoy Appalachian food and crafts at a variety of festivals including the Mary Breckinridge Festival in Hyden, Mountain Heritage Festival in Whitesburg and Family Folk Week at Hindman Settlement School in Hindman. Celebrate the return of the elk herd to the area at Hazard's Elk Festival and Buckhorn Lake's Elk Watch Weekend.

The festivals and events scheduled throughout the corridor include, but are not limited to:

Mountain Showcase (606-398-7510) celebrates Appalachian heritage through exhibits, workshops, demonstrations and book signings with Appalachian authors. The event is held at Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park during the first weekend of April.

Seedtime in the Cumberland (606-633-0108) is held the second weekend in June at Appalshop in Whitesburg. The event celebrates the cultural heritage of Appalachia with live music, parade, films, theater, crafts and food.

Mountain Arts Festival (606-633-8652) is held the third Saturday in June at Valley of the Winds in Eolia. The event features art, music, food and story-telling.

Elk Festival (606-436-5757) is held in Hazard during July. The event celebrates the return of the majestic elk to the area.

Wildlife Day (606-546-6179) is held the first Saturday of July at the Fish and Game Club in Hyden. The event features log competitions, greased pig contests, terrapin races, food, music and fireworks.

Family Folk Week (606-785-5475) is held at Hindman Settlement School during the last week in July. Craft workshops, music, storytelling and other activities that will interest the entire family are featured during the week long celebration of Appalachian culture.

Three days of Bluegrass music can be enjoyed during the **Osborne Brothers Hometown Festival** (606-672-1529). The event is held in Hyden on the first weekend in August.

Writer's Workshop (606-785-5475) is a three-day event featuring lectures and workshops by leading Central Appalachian writers. Nightly readings are open to the public. The event is held the first week in August at Hindman Settlement School in Hazard.

Knott County Gingerbread Festival (606-785-5329) is held in downtown Hindman on the weekend after Labor Day. The event celebrates the mountain tradition of encouraging citizens to vote for a particular candidate by giving away gingerbread. Events include a parade, Appalachian arts and crafts, music, contests and the world's largest gingerbread man.

Black Gold Festival (606-439-1776), held in Hazard on the third weekend in September, pays tribute to the area's coal heritage. Events include a coal truck competition, parade, powder shoot, crafts, 10K run and top-name entertainers.

Buckhorn Lake Elk Watch (606-398-7510) is held the first weekend in October at Buckhorn Lake State Resort Park. Attendees can participate in elk related events and see the elk during their rutting season.

Named for the founder of the Frontier Nursing Service, the **Mary Breckinridge Festival** (606-672-2300) is held the second full week in October in Hyden. The festival offers mountain crafts, car show, music, food and parade.

Our Appalachia Day (606-368-6055) is held at Alice Lloyd College in Pippa Passes on the second weekend in October. The homecoming celebration includes exhibits and demonstrations of Appalachian arts and crafts, traditional mountain music, children's activities and food.

Honey Festival in Jackson (606/666-7414) is held the first week of September in downtown Jackson. Exhibits feature crafts, music, food and more.