

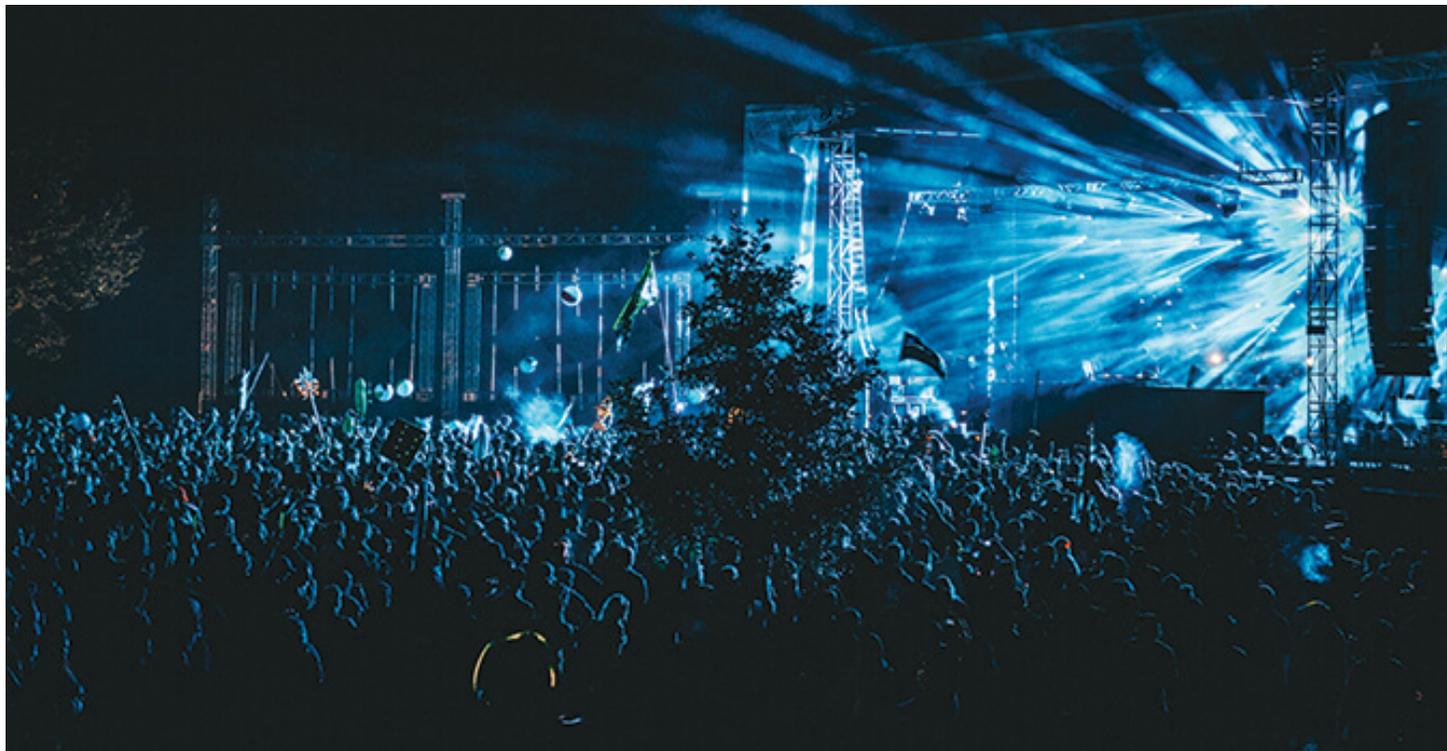
# TOP EVENTS

## OUR PICKS FOR THE TOP EVENTS IN THE REGION.

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*Dancefestopia Camping Music Festival 2018*

*Photo by Sam Lutz*

### **Dance. Camp. Repeat.**

September 6–9

Dance yourself silly at **Dancefestopia Camping Music Festival 2018** at Emerald City in La Cygne. Pitch a tent in the forest, and feel the rhythm of nonstop music played by more than 100 DJs. Also enjoy plenty of cool activities on-site, including zip line and helicopter tours, canoe trips, a pool party, art installments and hot-air balloon rides. **dancefestopia.com** (<http://dancefestopia.com>)

### **Fair Days Ahead**

September 7–16

Agricultural heritage and good old-fashioned fun converge at the **Kansas State Fair** in Hutchinson. More than 350,000 visitors head to the Kansas State Fairgrounds each year to enjoy carnival rides, livestock exhibits and delicious fair foods. This year's ticketed musical acts include KC and The Sunshine Band, Bret Michaels, The Beach Boys and Trace Adkins. **kansasstatefair.com** (<http://kansasstatefair.com>)

## Free Blues

September 15

Blues lovers will convene on Main Street in downtown Paxico for the 15th annual **Paxico Blues Festival**, one of the best free festivals in the state. This year's lineup features Koolaide and The Exact Change Band; Hurricane Ruth LaMaster with Scott Holt; Tas Cru and His Band of Tortured Souls; and other local acts. Also partake in some dancing and food from local vendors, and peruse a collection of antiques for sale. [paxicobluesfest.com](http://paxicobluesfest.com)

(<http://paxicobluesfest.com>)



*American Royal World Series of Barbecue*

*Photo Courtesy of Matthew Hicks Photography*

## Great Grills

September 15–16

This fall marks the 39th year of the annual **American Royal World Series of Barbecue**. Held at Kansas City's Kansas Speedway, this barbecue gathering is the largest in the world, with teams from across the globe competing for the titles of Open and Invitation Grand Champion. There'll also be live local music, a car show, a marketplace, carnival rides, children's activities and more. [americanroyal.com/bbq/festival-information](http://americanroyal.com/bbq/festival-information) (<http://americanroyal.com/bbq/festival-information>)

## The Apples of Your Eye

September 29–30, October 6–7

This year marks the **40th Annual Ciderfest** at the Louisburg Cider Mill in Louisburg. Celebrate all things

apple at this free festival with cider donuts, hot cider and caramel-dipped apples. You're also invited to tour the cider production facility, visit the craft and collectibles vendor booths, and take in the tunes of local musicians. Also on tap are pony rides, cider- and donut-making, and many of your favorite fall foods. **[louisburgcidermill.com](http://louisburgcidermill.com)** (**<http://louisburgcidermill.com>**)



*Ciderfest*

*Photo by Stephen Hebert*

### **Take Flight**

October 5–7

Watch as colorful balloons dot the horizon at the **Columbus Day Festival Hot Air Balloon Regatta** in Columbus. The three-day event begins in Industrial Park with a balloon-glow lighting up the night on Friday, followed by three regattas during the weekend (weather permitting). Join the fun with a parade, fun runs, a bean feed, a scarecrow contest, art exhibits, a car and motorcycle show, barbecue cook-offs—and more—at various locations throughout town. **[columbusdayballoons.com](http://columbusdayballoons.com)** (**<http://columbusdayballoons.com>**)

### **The Opposite of Halloween**

October 19–27

What's Halloween spelled backward? Downtown Independence's **Neewollah Festival** brings together locals and visitors for a chili cook-off, a Great Pumpkin contest, carnival games, a bandstand with nightly entertainment, a fun run, a craft show, three parades and more. The first festival took place in 1919 to give kids an outlet for fun that went beyond the traditional Halloween pranks of the day. Today, it's one of the state's biggest annual celebrations. **[www.neewollah.com](http://www.neewollah.com)** (**<http://www.neewollah.com>**)

## **Zoo Boo**

October 27

The little ones will love joining in on all the costumed fun at the Hutchinson Zoo's **Boo at the Zoo** in Hutchinson. Kids can trick-or-treat their way through the zoo and fill their bags—and their stomachs—with sweets at this free afternoon event. Along the way, the whole family might just encounter a few animal friends. (Train rides are \$1 per person.) End the day with some jumping in the bounce houses.

**[hutchinsonzoo.org](http://hutchinsonzoo.org) (<http://hutchinsonzoo.org>)**

*These events originally appeared in the September/October 2018 edition of AAA World.*

# CINCINNATI AND KENTUCKY TOP EVENTS

GET OUT THERE AND HAVE SOME FUN. WE'VE GOT EVENTS WORTHY TO ADD TO YOUR CALENDAR.

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## A Buyer's Market

November 2–4

Seeking inspiration for holiday gift ideas? Looking for a great one-stop shopping destination? If so, grab your stockings, and get to the **Greater Cincinnati Holiday Market**. Cincinnati's Duke Energy Convention Center hosts more than 350 boutiques and specialty shops selling everything from clothing to home decor to gourmet food. And when you've finished your shopping list, unwind in the wine-and-appetizer lounge—smack-dab in the center of the show floor.[cincinnatiholidaymarket.com](http://cincinnatiholidaymarket.com)

(<http://cincinnatiholidaymarket.com>)

## Fröhliche Weihnachten

November 16–18

Head to Germania Park to experience Cincinnati's longest-running, most authentic German Christmas market at **Christkindlmarkt**, now in its 21st year. Enjoy traditional German treats such as dill pickle soup and *glühwein* (hot mulled wine) in the comfort of enclosed, heated tents. Shop for imported German gifts, including steins, nutcrackers, cuckoo clocks and Advent calendars. There will also be musical

entertainment, a children's lantern parade, a petting zoo, caroling and carriage rides. Children ages 12 and under are admitted free. [germaniasociety.com/christkindlmarkt](http://germaniasociety.com/christkindlmarkt)  
(<http://germaniasociety.com/christkindlmarkt>)



*Diana Lynn Dancers perform at the 2014 Germania Christkindlmarkt  
Photo by Mary Jo McClain*

### **Meanwhile, Back at the Ranch**

November 16–December 23 (closed Thanksgiving Day)

Saddle up, hitch your wagon, and mosey on down to the **Christmas Ranch** in Morrow, Ohio, for a day filled with more than a million dazzling lights set to holiday music, as well as train and wagon rides, Santa's Bakery and Cafe, and six Christmas shops. New this year, the 3D Holiday HoloSpecs lightshow projects vivid images of snowmen, reindeer and stars to the accompaniment of your favorite Christmas classics. [thechristmasranch.com](http://thechristmasranch.com) (<http://thechristmasranch.com>)

### **Bringing Holidays to Light**

November 23

Take part in more than three decades of tradition, and catch the holiday spirit at the 38th annual **Light Up Louisville** at the Louisville Visitor Center. The kick-off to Louisville's Holiday in the City, this free event features an ice-skating rink, live entertainment, fireworks, children's activities inside Santa's workshop, delicious treats, and plenty of gifts for sale. Also enjoy the tree lighting (at Jefferson Square Park) and the evening's Lots of Lights Parade—complete with floats, bands and carolers—that culminates with the arrival of Santa Claus. [louisvilleky.gov/government/city-events/light-louisville](http://louisvilleky.gov/government/city-events/light-louisville)  
(<http://louisvilleky.gov/government/city-events/light-louisville>)

### **Down to a Fine Art**

November 23–25

With a wide range of ceramics, glass, wearable art, jewelry, sculpture, painting and photography available for purchase, the Ohio Designer Craftsmen's **Greater Cincinnati Winterfair** is a holiday shopper's dream. The Northern Kentucky Convention Center in Covington transforms into a hub for more than 250 artists from across the nation. Shoppers have the opportunity to meet the artists and learn about their work.

**ohiocraft.org/craft-fairs/winterfair-cincinnati** (<http://ohiocraft.org/craft-fairs/winterfair-cincinnati>)

### **Want to Trade?**

November 24–25

Fort Boonesborough State Park in Richmond, Kentucky, brings the 18th century to life with its **Winter Trade Days**. There will be period music, costumed interpreters and the opportunity to shop for 18th-century-type goods being sold by the sorts of folks you would have met on the frontier: traders, Native Americans, scouts, longhunters and others. **parks.ky.gov/calendar/details/winter-trade-days/77197** (<http://parks.ky.gov/calendar/details/winter-trade-days/77197>)

### **Dashing Through the Snow**

December 1

Strolling Christmas carolers. Delightful carriage rides. A visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus. Find these attractions and more at Ohio's **Lebanon Horse-Drawn Carriage Parade & Christmas Festival**. This free event features a daytime and an evening parade with festively decorated horse-drawn carriages as well as train rides to the North Pole via the LM&M Railroad. **lebanonchamber.org/events/chamber-events-1/lebanon-christmas-parade-8** (<http://lebanonchamber.org/events/chamber-events-1/lebanon-christmas-parade-8>)

### **A Flea for All**

December 1

The **Fleur de Flea Christmas Market** at the Kentucky Center for African American Heritage in Louisville delivers an experience that goes beyond just shopping. Browse vintage clothing, books, records, antiques and more at this free urban market. Local food trucks and farmers offer homegrown foods and specialty drinks, too. **thefleurdeflea.com** (<http://thefleurdeflea.com>)

*These events originally appeared in the September/October 2018 edition of AAA World.*