

STE. GENEVIEVE TO HOST 51ST 'JOUR DE FETE' DAYS OF CELEBRATION

Creativity Abounds at the Jour de Fete in Ste. Genevieve

STE. GENEVIEVE, MO -- Featuring over 200 arts and crafts booths, historic re-enactments, demonstrations, food, live music, folk singing and dancing, beer and wine, Ste. Genevieve's annual Jour de Fete celebration has been described as the premier arts and crafts fair in the Midwest and a weekend you don't want to miss.

The 51th annual Jour de Fete is scheduled for Saturday, August 12 through Sunday August 13 in the National Historic Landmark District of downtown Ste. Genevieve. Show hours run 10 am to 6 pm on Saturday and 9 am to 4 pm on Sunday. A parking shuttle will run between Eric Scott Leather at 980 Rozier Street and the craft fair from 9am to 6:30 pm on Saturday and 9am to 4:45 pm on Sunday for a small fee.

As the first European settlement in Missouri, Ste. Genevieve has long been home to talented artisans and craftsmen and its French Colonial atmosphere provides a perfect setting for this annual event held in the Historic District downtown. Now under consideration as a future National Historical Park, Ste. Genevieve is famous for its French Colonial vertical log buildings. Several of the nationally renowned historic sites will be open for tours on both days of the festival.

Craft booths ranging from handmade jewelry to upcycled antiques, garden ornaments to handmade flutes, and refreshments from old fashioned ice cream to microbrewed beer, grilled burgers and kettle corn will be offered at this year's Jour de Fete. The town's French Militia will demonstrate colonial military skills near the Shaw House on Second Street, the World Bird Sanctuary will have birds of prey on display in the backyard of the Felix Valle State Historic Site, and live music will be featured at beer gardens and pubs throughout the weekend.

The Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center will be the site of the Opening Ceremonies at 10 am on August 12th. Highlights will include performances by the Petite Chanteurs (little singers of Ste. Genevieve), the Ste. Genevieve German Band, recognition of two Project Pioneer families (the French LaPorte and the German Fischer families this year) and a demonstration by the Ste. Genevieve Militia.

For those interested in the history of transportation, there will be plenty to see. On Sunday, the local Knights of Columbus Hall on Market Street will once again be the site of the 'All Gas-Powered Vehicles' show with live music and fried chicken dinners from 11:30 am to 3 pm.

Maps of the area and more are available at the Ste. Genevieve Welcome Center, located at the corner of Main Street and Market Street.

Ste. Genevieve is located off exit 150 from I-55, an easy one hour drive from either St. Louis or Cape Girardeau.

Festival hours are 10 am to 6 pm on Saturday, August 12 and 9 am to 4 pm on Sunday, August 13. Admission is free for all ages. Shuttle service from convenient parking areas is available for a nominal fee.

For more information on lodging, dining, shopping and wineries go to www.VisitSteGen.com. For more Jour de Fete details, including festival parking and shuttle drop-off areas, visit www.saintegenevievejourdefete.com.

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