



RIVER FESTIVAL 2024 HIGHLIGHTS ANNOUNCED

(Salina, KS 04-24) Salina Arts & Humanities announces highlights for the 48th Smoky Hill River Festival, scheduled for June 13-16 in Oakdale Park.

The energetic and epic arts party takes place in less than 60 days, including many new food offerings, activities for kids, new roving and mainstage entertainers, new art installations, and new artists selling their work in the arts show.

The Festival Medallion Quest will kick off at 4 pm on Wednesday, May 15, on the front steps of the Smoky Hill Museum. Arts and Humanities Commissioners will reveal the first clue for the \$3,000 prize package. Twice daily, clues will be released at 7:30 am and 4:30 pm until the Medallion is found.

Festival gates will open at 4 pm on Thursday, June 13, with 35 food booths, an art patron party, and the Festival Jam produced by S.M. Hanson Music. Music starts at 5:45 pm and includes 21 bands playing for four hours.



Friday through Sunday, the Smoky Hill River Festival is fully engaged with three stages of live entertainment, the Fine Arts and Craft Show, Artyopolis for kids, and food vendors.

NEWS RELEASE

RELEASE DATE:
Immediate

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DATE SUBMITTED:
April 11, 2024

Discover New Music for All Ages

Headliners include:

- Monophonics from San Francisco, CA (Friday)
- William Beckmann from Del Rio, TX (Saturday)
- Papa Green Shoes from Springfield, MO (Sunday)

New acts this year include a strong Nashville, TN, influence:

- Zach Meadows from Nashville, TN
- Cordovas from Nashville, TN
- Wildermis from Denver, CO, and Nashville, TN
- Scott Mulvahill from Nashville, TN

Other new acts include:

- Superfónicos from Austin, TX
- Pretend Friend from Wichita, KS

See acts from familiar faces and more at www.rivefestival.com/.



Excite with Visual Surprises at Every Turn

Visual artists from 23 states come to the Festival to sell, demonstrate, and install their work. This once-a-year opportunity to purchase original artwork from more than 125 visual artists is a unique chance to meet the creators and learn about their processes. This year will be the Smoky Hill River Festival debut for 58 artists throughout the show and Art Demonstration areas.

Art Patron Program - The Festival's Art Patron Program offers art lovers and collectors a chance to sign up for special perks, including admission to the Thursday night Premiere party, a Friday morning art show shopping preview hour, and more. Visiting artists are interested in shows with a history of community support and committed art patronage. Artists can thrive with the support of enthusiastic and knowledgeable customers, and the hospitality at our event makes all the difference to their experience. Become an Art Patron by May 31 and show your support by registering at <https://www.riverfestival.com/patron/> or calling 785-309-5770.

Art Installations - More than 20 site-specific outdoor Art Installations will surprise Festival-goers around every corner across Oakdale Park. New Art Installations include:

- "Home is Where the Heart Is" by Cody Sanders from Salina, KS
- Live painting by Evan Brown, AKA "Doodledood" from Kansas City, MO
- "Pollination" by "Scribe" by D. Ross from Kansas City, MO
- "Crazy Cool Crochet" by Tamara Kingery-Gonzales from Wichita, KS
- "Sneaky Snake" by Juniper "TJ" Tangpuz from Lawrence, KS
- Henna Tattoos by Veronica's Veil from Manhattan, KS
- "Alternative Evolutions" by Margaret Craig from San Antonio, TX
- "Weaving a Community" by Fort Hays State University students from Hays, KS
- "Wavy Fish and Frog Bridge" by Mike Miller from Wichita, KS
- "Rainbowretum" by Salina Central High School students led by Kate Jennings from Salina, KS

- “Tiny Art Vending Machine” featuring work from Festival and local artists.

Festival Print - The commissioned Festival Print, “Festival Flow,” is by Kansas City, MO, artist Lori Stanziola. Her image shows the intersection of the river, music, and arts that make the Smoky Hill River Festival a special destination. Anyone who donates \$100 or more can pick up a print at the Salina Arts & Humanities office before June 10.



Festival T-shirt - This year’s Festival T-shirt features the design work of Nick Perry of Redlegger Studio in Topeka, KS. Nick is a printmaker joining the festival for his second year in the East Arts area. His design incorporates all the elements of the event: music, food, art, and festival tents.



Artyopolis – Fun for Kids and Kids at Heart

The Artyopolis area is a festival in itself! It features Creation Crossing make-and-take crafts, Button Boulevard, an artistically improved Game Street, Lego Lane, Paintchoo Plaza, Arty’s Stage acts, and more. Artyopolis hours are Friday through Saturday, 10 am to 6 pm, and Sunday, 12 pm to 4 pm.



On Saturday, June 15, kids and families will rush into the park when the gates open to get a spot at First Treasures, a special patron tent for kids 4-13 years old. Participants can select hundreds of items priced from \$1 to \$5, provided by exhibiting artists.

Festival Food – Enjoy New and Nostalgic Food Choices

With 6 new food vendors, there are plenty of new tastes to experience, including fruit pizza, churros, Brazillian cheese bread and coxinha, wiener schnitzel, hand pies, and more! See the complete list of food vendors on www.riverfestival.com.



Make a difference – Volunteer for More Festival Fun

The Festival relies on approximately 2,000 volunteers each year. Volunteers can help in Artyopolis, artist hospitality, technical areas, and at the gates. Learn more and sign up online at https://signup.com/group/275414358093?utm_source=group-badge-volunteer-green%27.

Smoky Hill River Run

On the morning of Saturday, June 15, the Salina Regional Health Center will host the 43rd Smoky Hill River Run. The event includes a two-mile walk, children's races, and a two-mile and five-mile electronically timed race. Register online at <https://srhc.com/riverrun/>.

Sunday at the Festival – Chill Out with Less Crowds

Sunday, June 16, includes a robust local influence in music, a less hectic environment, and a unique scavenger hunt sponsored by Be Wealth featuring 275 Round Tuits hidden on Festival grounds. The glass tuits are handmade by Vaughn Evans, a festival demonstration artist, and feature a Boro bee with an extra flash of sparkle from a unique silver fuming process.

Admission to the River Festival is by weekend wristband (\$15 in advance, \$20 at the gate) available in many local locations and regional cities starting Wednesday, May 1, or by daily wristband (\$10, sold only at the gate). Children 11 and under get in free. See a list of all local or regional wristband retailers at <https://www.riverfestival.com/participating-retailers/>. General Festival hours are Thursday, June 13, from 4 pm to 10 pm, Friday and Saturday, from 10 am to 10 pm, and Sunday, June 16, from 10 am to 5 pm.

For more information and details or to see volunteer opportunities, visit www.riverfestival.com or call 785-309-5770.

For needed accommodations, please call Amanda Morris at Salina Arts & Humanities at 785-309-5770 between 8:00 am and noon and 1:00 – 5:00 pm. Every effort will be made to accommodate known disabilities. For material or speech access, please call at least five working days before the event.

Salina Arts & Humanities, a department of the City of Salina, has served a unique role as an arts advocate and resource partner since 1966. The Smoky Hill River Festival, Horizons Grants Program, Smoky Hill Museum, Arts Infusion Program in schools, Community Art & Design, and Creative Connections are among the programs of Salina Arts & Humanities, located at 211 W. Iron Avenue in Salina.

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