

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## Museum of Appalachia Announces Annual Special Events

Norris, TN – October 17, 2015 – The Museum of Appalachia, an internationally acclaimed living history farm/village, is home to a unique collection of early pioneer artifacts from the Southern Appalachian Mountains, and host to a variety of special events throughout the year.

***Sheep Shearing Day, April 29, 2016.*** The Museum welcomes the warmth of spring with the annual ritual of "Sheep Shearing". Students and families are invited to participate in a hands-on day of activities surrounding the trimming of a winter's growth of heavy fleece from its flock of sheep; including demonstrations of carding, spinning and weaving, and the many ways pioneers used wool.

***July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration & Anvil Shoot, July 4, 2016.*** Celebrate July 4th with the explosion of sound that pioneers would have heard thunder through the hills when they would "shoot the anvil" to acknowledge the nation's Independence. Today, shooting the 175 pound anvil, an almost lost tradition, raises a roar of excitement from the Museum's guests. A family friendly day, guests will enjoy a host of Patriotic demonstrations and activities, including a flag waving procession, the National Bell ringing and Liberty Pole raising.

***"Days of the Pioneer" Antique Show, September 9-10, 2016.*** A premier antique show and sale displaying the finest selection of 18th and 19th century American antiques from over 60 of the nation's premium dealers. This show is truly a one of a kind event and is said to be one of the best antique shows in the country. Attendees can experience an extensive selection of American artifacts in their natural setting, with the opportunity to purchase similar items from scores of outstanding dealers from across the country. The event also features traditional craftsmen demonstrating pioneer skills, mountain music, and Revolutionary and Civil War encampments, with the picturesque setting of the Museum as a backdrop.

***Tennessee Fall Homecoming, October 7-9, 2016.*** One of the nation's largest, most authentic music and folk festivals, the 37<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Homecoming will feature local, regional and nationally acclaimed musicians, performing all day, every day, on five scenic stages; filling the air with bluegrass, old-time, Southern Gospel and Americana music. Guests will also enjoy authentic Appalachian artisans and demonstrators, and traditional Southern foods. Student Heritage Day, designed around the Homecoming but with additional educational components for today's youth, will be featured October 6<sup>th</sup>.

***Christmas in Old Appalachia, December 3-24, 2016.*** During the month of December, the Museum and its village will be adorned for the holidays with simple gifts and decorations typical of early Appalachian life. Special exhibits will honor the quiet beauty of Christmas in pioneer days, and guests will enjoy the old-fashioned atmosphere and warmth of the season.

A non-profit organization, the Museum's mission is to preserve Appalachian artifacts and instill in the community—regionally, nationally, and internationally—a greater knowledge of, and appreciation for, the Appalachian heritage.

The Shop at the Museum of Appalachia features handiwork from Appalachian artisans, books authored by regional writers and unique "Made in America" gifts. The Museum's quaint restaurant offers hot country style lunches, fresh-from-the-garden vegetables, and mouth-watering home-style desserts. Facilities are available for weddings, reunions, meetings and other events.

The Museum is located 16 miles north of Knoxville, one mile east of I-75, Exit 122. For additional information, call 865-494-7680 or visit the website, [www.museumofappalachia.org](http://www.museumofappalachia.org)

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