

June 20, 2023 – PRESS RELEASE

**“CELEBRATE THE WEST AT IDAHO’S ICONIC
TRAILING OF THE SHEEP FESTIVAL”
Unique Cultural Festival Celebrates Sheep, Land, People and Stories**

Sheep have been trailing through the Wood River Valley of Idaho for well over a century-and-a-half and are an integral part of Idaho’s western heritage. The iconic **Trailing of the Sheep Festival**, to be held October 4–8, 2023, celebrates the sheep, herders, history, and food of this unique cultural tradition, and is recognized as one of the “Top Ten Fall Festivals in the World” by *msn.com*.

Each fall, the Trailing of the Sheep Festival honors the 150+ year annual tradition of moving sheep (‘trailing’) from high mountain summer pastures down through the Valley to traditional winter grazing and lambing areas in the south. This annual migration is living history and the focus of a unique and authentic Festival that celebrates the people, arts, cultures, and traditions of Idaho’s sheep ranching families, highlighting the principal contributors – the Basques, Scottish and Peruvians.

The five-day Festival includes nonstop activities in multiple venues - history, folk arts, an authentic Sheep Folklife Fair, lamb culinary offerings, a Wool Fest with classes and workshops, music, storytelling, National Qualifying Sheepdog Trials and, the always entertaining, Big Sheep Parade with 1,500 sheep hoofing it down Main Street in Ketchum.

2023 Festival Highlights include:

- **Big Sheep Parade** with 1,500 sheep trailing down Main Street in Ketchum
- **National Qualifying Sheepdog Trials** featuring over 80 of the county’s most talented border collies and their handlers competing for top awards
- **Sheep Folklife Fair** featuring the Basque, Scottish, and Peruvian dancers and musicians, sheep shearing demonstrations, over 70 sheep and wool product vendors, children’s activities and more
- **Sheep Tales Gathering** will present “A Navajo Woman’s Life Journey as a Weaver” featuring [TahNibaa Naataanii](#), a 5th generation Navajo weaver and sheep rancher from New Mexico who raises the heritage breed sheep, the Navajo Churro.
- **Culinary Events** with For the Love of Lamb tastings, Lamb Fest at the Folklife Fair, Cooking with Lamb classes, a Cheese Making Class, and Farm to Table Lamb Dinners featuring Idaho lamb from local ranchers
- **Wool Fest** featuring a variety of classes and workshops
- **Hikes and Histories** featuring Idaho’s sheep ranchers and local historians and storytellers
- **Happy Trails Closing Party** in the Ketchum Town Square (before and after the Big Sheep Parade) featuring vendors, food, and live music by Cindy & Gary Braun and The Pisten Bullys.

For the detailed schedule, tickets, and lodging deals, visit www.trailingofthesheep.org.

The 2023 Big Sheep Parade is sponsored by the City of Ketchum, with many other supporters and friends bringing the Festival to fruition.

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Accolades for the Trailing of the Sheep Festival

The Trailing of the Sheep Festival has garnered some well-deserved accolades over the years, including being recognized as one of the **Top Ten Fall Festivals in the World** by *msn.com travel*, **Top Ten US Fall Festivals** by *smartertravel.com*, **Top Animal Festivals in the World** and **Top Ten Fall Festivals** by *USA Today*, **Top 7 Fun Fall Festivals** by *AARP*, **One of the Greatest Cultural Events in the West** by *Northwest Travel*, and recipient of the Society of American Travel Writer's **Phoenix Award** for best in cultural tourism, and the **Idaho Governor's Award for Cultural Heritage**.

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IMAGES TO DOWNLOAD FOR MEDIA USE HERE: <https://trailingofthesheep.org/news-media/media/>

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

This unique cultural Festival is recognized as one of the best in the world.
We are proud of the recognition received from many top media outlets and through numerous important awards.



TOP 10 FALL FESTIVALS IN THE WORLD



TOP 7 BEST FALL FESTIVALS IN THE US



10 AMAZING FALL FESTIVALS WORTH A ROAD TRIP



10 GREAT ANIMAL FESTIVALS IN WORLD



TEN BEST FALL FESTIVALS IN US



TOP 10 FALL FESTIVALS IN US



7 FUN FALL FESTIVALS ACROSS THE US



9 FALL FESTIVALS WORTH TRAVELING FOR



BUCKET LIST FALL EVENTS



TOP FOODIE FETS IN THE WEST



TOP CULTURAL EVENTS IN THE WEST



TOP 10 FALL FESTIVALS



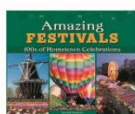
AMERICA'S WACKIEST FALL FESTIVALS



TOP OFFBEAT OCTOBER FESTIVALS



24 TOP FALL & HARVEST FESTIVALS IN THE U.S. - JUNE 2022



ONE OF TOP AMAZING FESTIVALS



SATW PHOENIX AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CULTURAL TOURISM PRESERVATION



ID GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR CULTURAL HERITAGE



CULTURAL HERITAGE PRESERVATION AWARD



TOP AWESOME AUTUMN FETS IN US



BEST FESTIVAL 2016-2022