

Trailing
of the
Sheep
Festival



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**“STARRY STARRY NIGHT – UNDER THE WESTERN SKY”
Fundraiser To Benefit the 30th Annual Trailing of the Sheep Festival**

The [Trailing of the Sheep Festival](#) will present its annual fundraising event, this year themed [“STARRY STARRY NIGHT UNDER THE WESTERN SKY,”](#) on Thursday, June 18, 2026, at 6:00pm at The Argyros Performing Arts Center in Ketchum, Idaho. Guests are invited to don their finest western wear and enjoy an evening of entertainment, food, drinks, and auctions to support the Trailing of the Sheep Festival’s mission to gather, celebrate, present, and preserve the history and cultures of sheepherding in Idaho and the West.

The event will bring together community-minded, philanthropic guests to enjoy an American Lamb dinner featuring locally sourced cuisine, sip on custom cocktails and mocktails from the Western Sky Saloon Bar, enter the Wild West Gamble for a chance to win a special prize, and enjoy special activities throughout the evening.

The evening’s live entertainment will feature the Kim Stocking Band, a long-standing musical group based in Idaho’s Wood River Valley. A local favorite who has been playing in the Valley for 29 years, they are known for a style that blends country, rock, and folk, including covers from Alison Krauss to Tom Petty. The STARRY STARRY NIGHT event trio will feature Kim Stocking and Ember Stocking Jensen on vocals, and Mike Saul on guitar.

“We hope our Festival friends come out and enjoy a great evening knowing that their support helps the non-profit Trailing of the Sheep Festival present our exciting 30th anniversary event in October, keeping our largest events free and accessible to all. Our goal is to fund raise \$300,000 to produce this five-day event, which has grown over the past three decades into a ‘bucket-list’ Festival attracting people from around the country and around the world. Our success is a result of true community

collaboration and support, and we are grateful for all those who help us continue to put on this iconic event,” said Laura Musbach Drake, Executive Director of the Festival.

Seats are limited for “[STARRY STARRY NIGHT – UNDER THE WESTERN SKY](https://trailingofthesheep.org/starry-starry-night)” and tickets are now on sale. VIP tickets are \$250.00 and include VIP Seating, Reception, Host Bar, Lamb Dinner, and VIP Swag; General Admission tickets are \$175.00. Tickets can be purchased at online at <https://trailingofthesheep.org/starry-starry-night>

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About the Trailing of the Sheep Festival

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, celebrating its 30th anniversary from October 7-11, 2026, includes nonstop activities in multiple venues - history, folk arts, an authentic Sheep Folklife Fair, lamb culinary offerings, Wool Fest classes, music, storytelling, National Qualifying Sheepdog Trials and, the always entertaining, Big Sheep Parade with over 1,200 sheep hoofing it down Main Street in Ketchum.

*The Trailing of the Sheep Festival has also 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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