

11th Annual

WhistleStop Weekend

May 6 - 7, 2011

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WhistleStop Announces New Activities for this Year's Event.

Set for Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7, 2011 the WhistleStop Weekend will be bigger and better than ever. Entering its eleventh year as one of Alabama's premier events WhistleStop has added several new elements to the fun. "All the perennial favorites will still be included, but we have added some new activities that will make the festival even more exciting," stated Bart Williams, Executive Director of the EarlyWorks Museum Complex. Presented by Toyota Motor Manufacturing Alabama, the WhistleStop Festival is a primary fundraiser for the Earlyworks Museum Complex, and supports the Museum's history education initiatives.

MusicAlabama – a new approach to the live entertainment will be seen on the two stages at WhistleStop this year. In celebration of "The Year of Alabama Music" all the live music will have Alabama roots. Festival goers will enjoy a line-up of artists consisting of both well known and up-and-coming artists. Many different genres of music will be showcased, while celebrating Alabama's rich musical heritage. While some acts are still being confirmed, and will be announced at a later date, organizers have announced the following acts:

Legendary soul singer - Percy Sledge
Award winning country artist - Marty Raybon and Full Circle
Alabama Bluesman - Jerry "Boogie" McCain
"The fastest guitar player in the South" - Travis Wammack
Songwriter – Gary Baker
Songwriter – Walt Aldridge



The Dreamland BBQ Rib Eating Challenge – So you think you can eat some ribs? Whistle Stop organizers and legendary Dreamland BBQ have teamed up to add a new dimension to the festival this year; a rib eating contest. The finals of the Dreamland BBQ Rib Eating Challenge will be held on Saturday, May 7th at WhistleStop. Preliminary rounds will be held at the Dreamland restaurant located at 3855 University Drive, dates and times for the preliminary rounds will be announced in early March. The winner of the Challenge will be the individual who can eat the most Dreamland ribs in a Big Daddy timeframe. Official rules and other contest guidelines will be available via the WhistleStop website in early March.

The People's Choice Judging and Awards – Back by popular demand the People's Choice Judging will be held on Saturday, May 7th from 1:00pm – 3:00pm. This popular element allows festival goers to sample BBQ pork from over 20 different cooking teams. After sampling the BBQ festival attendees vote by dropping a donation into their favorite team's ballot jar. The team with the most votes will be named the "People's Choice" during the award ceremony on Saturday evening.

The Kid's-Q Competition, presented by Wal-Mart – It is not just for the adults, this year teams consisting of up to three kids and one adult advisor join the competition. The Kid's-Q is a unique competition designed to test the true cooking skills of the kids. In order to make sure everything is even and fair, each team is issued a grill, charcoal, chicken and aprons. Only the kids can do the cooking, the adult advisor is there to provide needed supervision, but cannot assist in the preparation or the cooking. Just like the professional cooking teams the kids teams will turn their cooked chicken into Kansas City Barbecue Society certified judges who will have the final say. The Kid's-Q champion will be announced during the awards ceremony on Saturday night. Team applications and guidelines are available on the festival's website.

Advance purchase weekend passes are available online at the discounted rate of \$30.00 (\$35.00 at the gate) Other ticket outlets will be announced in mid March.

www.thewhistlestopfestival.com