

50 Years of Salmon Days

By JD Douwes

Photo credit Greater Issaquah Chamber of Commerce



This is not a drill: We are less than two months away from Salmon Days. October 5th and 6th of 2019 mark the 50th year for this popular event. You don't want

to miss it this year: Olympic athlete and Issaquah resident Bryan Clay will be the grand marshal for the parade. Always a big deal with people in the know, the logo has been revealed over on their Facebook page as well as a window at Fischer Meats on Gilman that is dedicated to Salmon Days paraphernalia.

Are you still on the fence? This award-winning festival is a Seafair sanctioned event voted Best Festival by 425 Magazine as well as the Best Festival in Washington State by the Travel Channel in 2018. Drawing more than 150,000 people from all over, the annual celebration of salmon returning to local streams and lakes is bursting at the seams with fun things to do.



The parade will have more than 100 entries including floats, clowns, marching bands, equestrian entries, school groups, and dance teams. Family

entertainment is a big feature of Salmon Days, with 40 plus musical bands playing on four stages. There are tons of free activities for the kids in the Field of Fun, including inflatables, face painting, fish prints, trampoline jumping, and more.

Let's not forget the Salmon Hatchery. Extra docents will be strategically stationed throughout the Salmon Hatchery grounds, so you can learn all you want about the much-revered salmon. There's even a 5K sponsored by the Issaquah Rotary on Sunday morning.



Their arts and crafts area will have up to 300 vendors offering unique gifts and treasures to help you decorate your home or jump-start your gift shopping. Visit the farmers market where 30 plus vendors, including local maker food booths, will sell their products. More than 50 food vendors are slated to bring food options from around the world in addition to the Kiwanis annual salmon barbecue – a favorite that keeps people coming back year after year. For the 21 and over crowd there is a beer garden and a covered area with a big screen to watch sporting events. They will have a Sip & Save the Salmon Wine Tasting event featuring local wineries, breweries, and cideries benefiting Friends of the Salmon Hatchery (FISH.)

We're excited to announce that Salmon Days has gone green! Don't forget to bring your bags for your purchases; Salmon Days has gone plastic bag and balloon free while providing compostable food storage containers at their food vendors.

The festival cannot succeed without the support of volunteers. Relying on a team of over 650 helpers spanning almost 4000 hours of shifts, there is never a shortage of tasks that needs to be done. There are opportunities for every type of personality, hobby, interest, and skillset.

Want to help? Go check out their Volunteer Needed post on our Bulletin Board, Page 12.

References: www.Issaquahchamber.com

Free Event

Community

Appreciation Day

Saturday, Sept. 21st 11:00am – 2:00pm

BOUNCY HOUSE, FREE BBQ, *Live Music*, FREE ICE CREAM!

20+ ANIMALS TO PET AND SEE, Giveaways, *balloonist*,

Pet Adoption, *GAMES*, *Huge Raffle*, *Face Painting*, Costumed Character, *BABY GOATS*