

Press Release

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Summer Events on the Olympic Peninsula

Port Townsend, WA. This summer Washington State's Olympic Peninsula is a destination for all reasons, where events of many colors and tastes fill tiny towns with community gatherings to enrich the soul, pump the heart and make a friend. Weekends celebrate themes for every taste from *Salmon Fests* to *Blackberry Daze*. Enter a race with peddles or paddles. Join a fantasy, stomp a grape, taste wine, tour twilight, twist hemp, pitch, putt or pop.

Events on the Olympic Peninsula are more than sporting events. Festivals and cultural gatherings, whether music concerts or celebrations of heritage, such as *Chief Seattle Days* in Suquamish and *Makah Days* at Neah Bay, are reminiscent of the festivals celebrated in ancient Greece during the earliest history of the Olympic Games. People got together to participate in Olympic festivals, not simple to be a spectator.

Olympic Peninsula events in July range from chamber music in a barn every Saturday and Sunday to farmers competing with herbal bouquets in Sequim. *River Fest* headlines one weekend in Grays Harbor, followed by *Allyn Days Salmon Bake* the next. Ocean Shores promotes a *Triathlon and Footfest* on the 13th and *Sun and Surf Run* on the 27th. Semi-Pro football takes the gridiron in Port Townsend, hydro planes skim the waters of Lake Pleasant and cowboys mount bulls at Shelton's rodeo.

August 1st launches the *Paddle the Pearls* kayak splash around north Kitsap Peninsula. The first weekend is shared with *Joyce's Blackberry Festival* and Port Gamble's *Great Peninsula Future Festival*.

While the 25th Olympiad in Beijing will dominate television between August 8th and 24th, a full slate of events will be offered up for viewing and participation on the Olympic Peninsula. Two native events are *Chief Seattle Days* in Suquamish (16-18) and *Makah Days* in Neah Bay (22-24). Mason county's *Salmon Fest* (16th) and *Taste of Hood Canal* (9th) are culinary competitions. *Rain Forest Run* will draw motor cyclists to Forks (16th). Belfair will welcome Renaissance time travelers to its *Fantasy Faire* (17th). Fans of *Twilight* (book by Stephenie Meyer) can jump on a *Twilight Tour* on Saturdays in Forks. *Hemp Fest* winds down in Olympia on the 24th.

During September, while the Paralympic Games will be held in China (6th - 17th), special events are scheduled for enjoyment in communities around the Olympic Peninsula. *Peddling the Muse* bicycle race will start on September 6th at the Olympic Sculpture Park in Seattle and end at the gates of Olympic National Park in Port Angeles. Poulsbo will host the *Americana Music Festival* on the 13th. The *23rd Annual Slo Pitch Tournament* (6th) will takes Forks out to the ballgame. Olympia enjoys *Perceval Play Days* on the 13th. On the same date Port Townsend bobs to the *Over the Water Hurdy Gurdy Festival* and Olympic Cellars stomps its *Harvest Party*.

After Beijing's Olympics and Paralympics, a few more events will close out September's events on the Olympic Peninsula: The *North Olympic Peninsula Senior Games* (19-20), *Arts and Crafts Festival* in Ocean Shores (12-14), *Paddle the Shores* in Ocean Shores (27-28) and the *Olympic Bike Adventure* on the Olympic Discovery Trail (28th).

Event list for Olympic Peninsula is on the Internet at OlyFest.com.

OlyFest.com