

For Immediate Release

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Walleye Weekend 2018:

Fortieth annual festival features tournaments for competitive outdoor fun

FOND DU LAC—Walleye Weekend—Fond du Lac’s free family festival—is celebrating 40 years of bringing our community together to jump-start summer in Lakeside Park. More than a dozen tournaments will offer outdoor fun and competition during the June 8-10 weekend event. Whether you prefer to fish, golf, run, ride, lift, or play a variety of team sports, you can compete for prizes and bragging rights at Walleye Weekend. And while you’re watching others compete, you can refuel with fest-favorite signature items—like cheese curds, fish sandwiches, and gyros—from the many service organizations staffing stands at the festival Grub Hub.

Register online for most tournament events by May 20 for early bird registration savings; fees will increase after this early registration deadline.

Fundraising for local service organizations and area non-profits is at the heart of Walleye Weekend every year. Along with food stand sales, many organizations benefit from funds raised by tournament fees.

“The running club has been connected with Walleye Weekend for 39 years,” said Fond du Lac Running Club President and 2018 Race Director Shane Smith. “The run makes it possible for us to offer free events throughout the year, such as the youth run, group runs, track workouts, the youth running series, and pub runs. We are also able to give out scholarships to area seniors. The festival and the run have been a great partnership and become a tradition for many families . . . people who grew up in Fond du Lac and have moved away come back and attend the festival and participate in the run.”

Fish are the focus of two big events at their namesake, lakeside festival:

- **Mercury Marine Family Fishing Tournament** (*Saturday, 8 am-noon; Sunday, 8 am-11:30 am*; onsite registration available both days before 8 am)—This FREE family fishing event on Oven Island in Lakeside Park offers competitive categories for family teams and individual children in four age divisions, with trophies awarded for largest total weights caught.
- **Mercury Marine National Walleye Tournament** (*In-person check-in required Friday between 3:30-5:30 pm at tournament HQ on Oven Island in Lakeside Park, followed by mandatory rule meeting at 5:30 pm*; \$310 team registration fee, payable at secure online registration at <http://mercurynational.com/>) This live-release tournament runs both Saturday and Sunday between 6:30 am and 3:30 pm, with competitor-teams given scheduled start and return times. Fish are weighed and released back into the lake by tournament volunteer staff each afternoon. Prizes are 100 percent payback: first prize is a Tracker Targa V-18 WT powered with a Mercury 150hp plus \$4,000 cash. Cash prizes pay out to 65th place; followed by others prizes down to

80th place. The biggest Walleye each day wins a Mercury 9.9 HP 4-stroke outboard valued at \$3,000.

Team events include:

- **Bergstrom Volkswagen of Oshkosh 3 on 3 Basketball** (*Saturday and Sunday, games begin 9 am each day and run throughout the day*) B-ball players can enter this tournament in 11 different categories, based on gender, height and age, with varied rules for adults, and children in middle and elementary schools. Team rosters are limited to four players and individuals can appear on only one team roster; two additional players may be added before the first game played for a fee of \$5 each. All athletes will receive a t-shirt; first place teams will receive championship plaques; second place teams will receive dry fit shirts.
- **Bergstrom Volkswagen of Oshkosh 3-point Shooting Contest** (*Saturday, 9 am-3 pm, Sunday 9 am-1 pm*) Open to all! Register at the event for a \$4 fee, and give it your best shot(s). Top point totals in four divisions (open, Grades 9-12, Grades 7-9, and Grades 6 and below) will receive a championship plaque and \$50 DICKS Sporting Goods gift card.
- **Bergstrom Subaru Bean Bag Tournament** (*Saturday, Adult Tournament: check-in 9 am, 10 am first round; Sunday, Adult Co-ed/Women's Tournament: check-in 9 am, 10 am first round.*) This hugely popular bean bag toss—also called Cornhole or just “Bags”—pitches two teams of two adults against each other in a race to score 21 points. The tournaments will be double-elimination and follow official American Cornhole rules. Saturday grand prize is \$600 and a set of championship boards; other placing teams can win between \$400 and \$25. Sunday grand prize is \$500 and a set of championship boards; other placing teams which must include one female can win between \$250 and \$100. Hosted at Lakeside Park by Life Enforcement, a community group promoting purposeful selfless acts of kindness.
- **Bergstrom Honda & Nissan Volleyball Tournament** (*Saturday and Sunday, games begin 8:30 am, Baseball Island at Lakeside Park*) Whether you are in it to win it, or just want to bump, set and spike with friends, there is a volleyball tournament division for you: men, women, co-ed. But register early, as slots are limited and final deadline is June 2. Prizes include medals, t-shirts, and certificates to Jimmy John's.
- **Softball Tournaments** (*Friday, Saturday and Sunday, times TBD, Baseball Island, Lakeside Park*) Organized and hosted by Fond du Lac Softball, Inc., promoting softball since 1965.
- **Walleyball Softball Tournament** (*Friday, Saturday and Sunday, times and park location TBD*) For high-school students aged 19 and younger throughout the area in Classes of 2018, '19, '20, '21 and '22, with equal numbers of boys and girls per team. Teams will be admitted on a first-come basis.

And solo competitors have these options:

- **Holiday Automotive Boss of the Moss** (*Friday, 4-8 pm; Saturday, 11 am-8:00 pm; Sunday, 1 pm Championship Finals*) Register at the event and challenge yourself on six progressively more difficult portable putting greens! Two competition brackets: age 15 and under with trophies for first through third places; and age 16-adult with top places winning \$1,000, \$500 and \$250. The tournament benefits the ARC, serving community members with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- **Agnesian HealthCare Walleye Run Walk** (*Lakeside Park, Saturday: 5-mile run, 8:10 am start; 2-mile walk, 8:20 am start; 1-mile kids 12 and under run, 10 am start; one-third mile kids under 6 run, 10:10 am start*) Only a year younger than Walleye Weekend, the 39th annual walk-run through Lakeside Park is fun for serious runners and the entire family.

- **Agnesian HealthCare Adult Bike Ride** (*Sunday, 8 am start*) This 40-mile ride for intermediate and advanced bikers goes south and east of Fond du Lac. A sag wagon travels along to assist with mechanical difficulty or those in need of relief. Registration includes a concession stand food token, water bottle, and post-ride refreshments.
- **Strongman Competition** (*Saturday, noon-4 pm; Sunday 1-4:15 pm*) Women and men, in two weight divisions, can test their strength with a series of challenges, including max log press, yoke walk, tire flip, and semi-truck pull. Proceeds benefit the Chegwin Elementary School Autism Library.

Details and online registration are at: www.walleyeweekend.com/tournaments/all-tournaments/ and www.walleyeweekend.com/entertainment/events/ .

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