

2017 Youth Bluegrass Boot Camp Information



Welcome to our 12th Annual **Youth Bluegrass Boot Camp** at Bill Monroe's Bean Blossom Bluegrass Festival, "the oldest, continuous running bluegrass festival in the world!" Last year's Boot Camp was a great success! We had a lot of great kids and are looking forward to another great camp this year!

**This Year's Camp- Sun-Tues.
June 11-13, 2017**

The Youth Bluegrass Boot Camp has enriched the lives of children who love bluegrass music for 11 years now. If you have a strong desire to learn not only how to play the music but also such things as the history of the music, vocals and harmonies, how to take care of your instruments, how to work a microphone and stage presence, jamming etiquette, and much more, then this is the camp for you. We are seeking students 6-18 years of age who are interested in learning a great American tradition- *playing bluegrass music*.

What Students Can Expect:

Camp is organized into small groups based on the ability of the players. We have brand new/beginner groups, intermediate groups, and advanced groups for guitar, mandolin, fiddle, banjo, and bass.



The camp will begin on Sunday, June 11, 2017 and run through Tuesday, June 13, 2017.

All students will perform on the historic Main Stage on Tuesday. Each group of students learns their own songs to perform as a band and the entire group learns up to two songs to play all together. Students in the advance group may perform other songs they are already familiar with as they often come in to the camp knowing more tunes. This will all depend on how many advanced pickers we have, so we hope the advanced kids will come out in forces this year!

Our instructors are known to be good at their trade as well as good with children of all ages. We have instructors from Indiana, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, West Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky. Our instructors care about the kids and work extended time playing and practicing with the youth in the camp. You can locate a tentative camp schedule on line at www.beanblossom.us .

All students will also get a guided tour of the Bill Monroe Bluegrass Museum and learn about Mr. Monroe's contributions to bluegrass music as well as a lot of history of the music. There will be vocal sessions for students interested in singing various parts in our final performance, a session on instrument care, and much, much more.

Cost:

The camp will cost \$40.00 per student. Those students who register by April 1, 2017 will be guaranteed a spot in the camp. We limit our groups to no more than 6 students in the brand new/beginner groups and 7 in the intermediate and advanced groups. In order to be able to hire the right amount of instructors to keep our class sizes low, students must register by the April 1st deadline. After April 1st, parents should contact Sarah Wasson to see if there are still spots remaining before signing up. Camp T-Shirts are not guaranteed after this date, but we will make every effort to get them for the students.

This camp fee includes over 15 hours of instruction for the two and a half days of camp. Instruction includes both small group and whole group instruction by qualified instructors. It also includes an Official Boot Camp T-shirt. Lunch will be provided on Sunday and Monday of the camp, but other meals throughout the camp will be on your own.

How to Register:

You can register by printing the registration form and mailing it to:

Sarah Wasson
1111 Maple Street
Stanton, KY 40380

Phone Number: 606-663-0600

Payment must accompany your registration form.

Method of Payment Accepted: Check or Money Order Only (Returned checks will be assessed a bank fee in the amount of \$7.00.)

Please make checks payable to: *Youth Bluegrass Boot Camp*

Please note: All registration for the 2017 camp must be mailed to Sarah Wasson at the above address. We apologize if this causes an inconvenience to anyone, but it is the best way we can assure there are spots for everyone in the camp. Students who are 13 or older will not be charged for the festival for Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday. If they need a full festival pass, the price of Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday will be deducted. If you wish to purchase full week tickets let Sarah know and she will notify the park of students who are 13 or older and who have paid for camp. **You must pay for your camp first in order to receive this discount and tell the park when you call that your child is registered for boot camp.**

Arm bands will be for sale on the morning of registration for parents or family members of those students who live locally who would like to come in to see the children play but who will not be participating in the rest of the festival. These arm bands will cost \$3.00 each and will be good only on Tuesday until after the kid's show. Arm bands for Tuesday's performance will only be sold by Boot Camp personnel and may be purchased on Sunday during registration or Monday when parents come to pick up their children in the Boot Camp area. We hope that families will come see what the festival is all about, enjoy the morning shows, and get hooked on bluegrass music!

Ability Levels:

When filling in your ability level on the registration form, please use the following guidelines:

Brand New- these students know nothing about their instrument or very little. They may not know how to form chords or switch cords well. They may have started to learn a little bit of a break but play it very slowly and with little confidence. These are students who are just getting started.

Beginning- these students may know a few chords, however may have trouble changing in time. These students may know how to pick out a simple lead on an instrument, but may not be quite it time or be able to play up to tempo. Fiddle players in this category may know simple basic tunes but know little about a chop or know little about bluegrass tunes.

Intermediate- these students must know how to play the basic chords and change in time. They should be able to have a basic knowledge of breaks and be able to play a simple break up to tempo. Fiddle players in this group should have knowledge of a few bluegrass songs and understand how to play backup to other instruments.

Advanced- these students must know how to play chords and change in time. They should also be able to pick out a break to a few songs that is more than just the melody line. It will be thought in advance that these children will be able to pick up on breaks quickly.

We will base our groups on what you mark on your form, but we reserve the right to move a student to another group after the instructor has worked with the student if we feel it will be in the student's best interest. We want children to be challenged to learn new things but not be frustrated during the camp.

Student Expectations:

1. All students will be expected to attend all instructional sessions- small group and whole group. Students will not be allowed to perform on the Tuesday stage performance if they have not attended the sessions.
2. Students will be expected to attend all other group sessions held during the camp from the time we start in the morning until we take the break for supper. If students do not want to participate in the whole group sessions including the limited time we schedule for activity time, they should not choose to join the camp.
3. Students will be expected to listen to instructors and make their best attempt to play as the instructor suggests.
4. Give it your best and have fun!

Parent Expectations:

1. Parents are welcome to stop by a session, but they may not interfere with instruction. It is preferred that parents don't sit close enough to an instruction tent that they can communicate with the students. Students need to be able to focus on instruction.
2. Help students get to the first session on time and then pick them up again when all instruction is complete break.
3. Support the instructors and enjoy the camp.

Instruments:

Students should bring their own instrument. Instruments should be in good working condition and tunable/playable. If your child doesn't have an instrument you may contact Sarah and see if any have been donated or check with Rickey to see if he may have something to purchase that would be good to learn on. Student should bring the following with their instruments:

1. Extra strings (all instruments except bass)
2. Capo (for banjo and guitar)
3. Strap (for banjo, guitar, and mandolin)
4. Rosin for fiddles

Items You May Want to Bring:

In addition to normal camping gear and clothing, you may want to bring the following:

1. Recording device to record breaks to practice and learn.
2. Tuner if you have one
3. Rain gear- just in case!

More Information:

If you need further information, please contact:

Sarah Wasson, Camp Director, youthbluegrassbootcamp@gmail.com or phone: 606-663-0600

WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK OUR SPONSORS FOR HELPING SUPPORT THE YOUTH OF BLUEGRASS MUSIC.

BOOT CAMP IS SPONSORED BY:

- ❖ **Central Indiana Friends of Bluegrass Music**
- ❖ **Rick's Music and Main Street Studio, Clay City, KY**
- ❖ **Truegrass Entertainment**
- ❖ **Bean Blossom Jamboree Foundation**

And all the people who attend the festival and buy guitar raffle tickets!!! A great big thanks to you!!!