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Eureka Springs Antique Auto Festival introduces new activities and hand crafted trophies

Longest running car show in the Ozarks looks to build on 2017 success with input from local business owners and show attendees

Eureka Springs, AR (July 1, 2018) – With a goal of involving the entire community while creating the largest automotive celebration in Mid-America, the Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce is introducing new activities for both residents and visitors during the longest running car show in the Ozarks. The 48th annual Eureka Springs Antique Automobile Festival returns to The Great Passion Play, September 7 and 8, 2018. This year's top awards will highlight the hand crafted work of local artist, Suzanne Reed, president of the Eureka Springs School of Art board of directors.

The festival will continue to feature a parade of show cars through downtown Eureka Springs including the Great Bank Robbery re-enactment, held annually for over thirty years. Based on feedback from last year's show, a new "Parade Only" pass for non-show entrants for just \$10 will be offered. The Friday evening Beaver Lake sunset cruise will now be open to both local residents and show entrants.

Other new additions include "Best Costume" contest, valve cover racing competition, Red Cross Blood Mobile donation opportunity and other activities offering door prizes donated by sponsors and local businesses.

"After the success of last year's festival, we solicited input from local businesses, residents and show entrants on how to make the show bigger and more profitable for the entire community," said Paul Miller, President and CEO of Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce. "This feedback led to many changes including, reducing the cost of car show entries to adding more activities for parents and kids. We did not change our focus on making this a community-wide event. Our official charity is ECHO Clinic, the shirts and graphics are done locally and even our top trophies will be created by a local artist," added Miller.

The show car entry fee has also been reduced from \$30 to \$25 per car. Early registration available Friday September 7 from 2 to 5 pm at the Great Passion Play. The one-hour Sunset Cruise around Beaver Lake will leave the Great Passion Play at 5 pm providing a wide variety of photo opportunities and a cash prize.

Participant registration opens at 8 am and gates open to the public at 9 am, on September 8. Breakfast available on-site starting at 7:30 am on Saturday. Show winners announced at 3 pm for over 30 award categories. Entry forms available at <http://www.eurekaspringschamber.com/events/details/47th-annual-antique-automobile-festival-434>. Entry deadline is August 26. The Great Bank Robbery and parade begins at 4 pm Vendor space available for \$50 - \$75 for both days and a variety of sponsorship levels are available

The Great Passion Play is located at 935 Passion Play Road; admission to the grounds is free to the public. RV parking, campsites, food services and on-site trolley service available to historic downtown. Event proceeds benefit Eureka Springs Echo Community Clinic, a non-profit clinic providing health services for local residents. For more information, visit www.Antiqueautofest.com, www.eurekaspringschamber.com or call Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce at (479) 253-8737.

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About the Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce

The Greater Eureka Springs Chamber of Commerce is a member organization with more than 40 member businesses and organizations. The Chamber mission is to foster business and cultural growth of the community, contribute to the quality of life, promote tourism and enrich economic vitality through positive leadership, via an active network of support and collaboration.