

# NEW HAMPSHIRE'S ANNUAL EVENTS 2012-2013

## JANUARY

1. *New Hampshire Snow Sculpting Competition, Jackson*  
January 20-22, 2012 and January 25-27, 2013  
[jacksonnh.com](http://jacksonnh.com)

Each year this event gets bigger and better. Sculptors have told us this is the biggest event the Northeast has put together.

## MARCH

*Maple Sugaring, Statewide*  
Month of March  
[nhmapleproducers.com](http://nhmapleproducers.com)

NH produces close to 90,000 gallons of maple syrup each year and visitors can come to help tap, watch the boiling process, or enjoy real syrup on pancakes, on snow, in maple bars, on ice cream, in our soups or as glazes in dinner meals. There are entire recipe books dedicated to what you can do with real New Hampshire maple syrup.

## May

2. *Wildquack River Duck Festival, Black Mountain in Jackson*  
Always Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend  
[jacksonnh.com](http://jacksonnh.com)

More than 3,500 yellow rubber ducks make their way downstream to the finish line. You'll find the kid in you again. Kids decorated ducks on parade, an incredible "Silent Auction", kids games and activities, Jackson Fire Department presents their "Obstacle Course & More", "Home Baked Goods & More", "5 Minute of Fame" on the Duck Stage, local and visiting food vendors, pony rides from Black Mountain Stables in the park, "Jackson's Cake Boss" Competition, and winners announced and prizes awarded approximately.

## SUMMER LONG

3. *Prescott Park Arts Festival, Portsmouth*  
All summer, every summer  
[prescottpark.org](http://prescottpark.org)

Since 1974, the festival has reached over 3.5 million people through more than 10,000 productions with no fixed admission (\$5-\$10 suggested donation). Located on 3.5 acres in beautiful downtown Portsmouth, visitors enjoy theatrical and musical performances such as folk, jazz, rhythm and blues, country, and independent sub-festivals and food events such as the Annual Fishtival.

4. *Great Waters Music Festival, Wolfeboro*  
All summer, every summer  
[greatwaters.org](http://greatwaters.org)

Annual summer concert series that takes place in the Kingswood Arts Center.



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## JUNE

5. *Laconia Motorcycle Week, Lakes Region*  
*June 9-17, 2012 and June 8-16, 2013 for its 90th year!*  
[laconiamcweek.com](http://laconiamcweek.com)

This week long party stretches around the entire Lakes Region and up into the White Mountains with Biker Build-offs, Bike Shows, the famous and historic Loudon Classic Race at the New Hampshire Motor Speedway, special deals at major attractions, live bands, and beach parties.

6. *Fields of Lupines Festival, Sugar Hill*  
*A three week festival that always starts the first weekend in June*  
[lincolnwoodstock.com](http://lincolnwoodstock.com)

Tour the lupine fields by foot or horse-drawn wagon. Visit the area's museums and attractions: Sugar Hill Historic Museum, New England Ski Museum, Franconia Heritage Museum, The Cannon Mountain Aerial Tramway, and the Frost Place. Festival events include art exhibits, concerts, walking tours, an open-air market, specialty dinners at local inns, and a variety of promotions at local businesses.

7. *Hampton Beach Sand Sculpting Competition, Hampton Beach*  
*The last week in June each year*  
[hamptonbeach.org/sandcastle-competition](http://hamptonbeach.org/sandcastle-competition)

The largest Masters competition in the Northeast United States. Hampton Beach will feature 200 tons of sand, approximately fifteen world class competitors, illumination at night for viewing and much more.

## JULY

8. *Hillsborough Balloon Festival, Hillsborough*  
*July 12-15, 2012 – lift-off Friday evening for the public and July 11-14, 2013*  
[balloonfestival.org](http://balloonfestival.org)

The Hillsborough Balloon Festival and Fair has become a major four day event with massive balloons filling the sky, the old fashioned Fireman's Muster, typical thrill rides and games of the Carnival Midway, some of the best regional performing artists, a 4x4 truck and tractor pulls, and a Mud Bog pull, the Classic Car Show, and 5k Road Race. Contact the Hillsborough Chamber in advance for motorcoach information 603-464-5858.

9. *NASCAR, Loudon*  
*July 15, 2012 and September 23, 2012, TBD for 2013*  
[nhms.com](http://nhms.com)

This Magic Mile Superspeedway hosts major international events including motorcycle, sport cars, stock cars, modifieds, and trucks with its most popular being NASCAR every July, and during the chase in September.



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## AUGUST

10. *Hillsborough Living History Event*  
August 18-19, 2012 and August 17-18, 2013  
[livinghistoryeventnh.com](http://livinghistoryeventnh.com)

Did you ever wonder what living in America was like 100 - 200 years ago? Come experience it! Try your hand at panning for real gold, taste old fashioned food, be a student in a real 1800's schoolhouse, watch pewter spoons being cast, cider being pressed, cannon's being fired, a Cavalry charging down a field, falcons flying for prey. These are just some of the exciting and interesting things to do - two action packed days! Contact the Hillsborough Chamber in advance for motorcoach information at 603-464-5858.

11. *League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Fair, Mount Sunapee*  
Always starts the first Saturday in August and runs for 9 days  
[nhcrafts.org](http://nhcrafts.org)

The oldest crafts fair in the country with more than 200 individual crafts booths, an indoor museum of the finest displays of furniture and crafts, a sculpture garden, demonstrations, workshops, live musician and storyteller performances, and more.

12. *North Country Moose Festival, Colebrook*  
The 4th weekend in August each year  
[moosefestival.com](http://moosefestival.com)

Each year, the North Country Moose Festival draws hundreds of people to the weekend-long events, including the classic car show and moose calling contest. And of course, no Moose Festival would be complete without "moose burgers!"

## SEPTEMBER

13. *Hampton Beach Seafood Festival, Hampton Beach*  
The weekend after Labor Day in September each year  
[hamptonbeachseafoodfestival.com](http://hamptonbeachseafoodfestival.com)

Over 50 of the Seacoast's top restaurants serving an abundance of mouthwatering seafood delicacies; 80 Arts & Crafts vendors promoting locally made products; hundreds of Ocean Boulevard merchants offering end-of-the-season sidewalk sales; a Kiddie Land with the region's most notable celebrities in children's entertainment; continuous culinary chef demonstrations; and two stages of continuous entertainment with 15 bands and orchestras; fireworks; and a sky diving extravaganza.

14. *New Hampshire Highland Games, Lincoln*  
Always starts 3rd Friday of September and last Friday through Sunday  
[nhscot.org](http://nhscot.org)

You'll watch the "Gathering of the Clans" during opening ceremonies. You'll spend a weekend enjoying fiddles, piping and drumming, sheepdog trials, and the Highland Dance competition. You'll appreciate the Heavy Athletics competitions, where some of the world's top heavyweight athletes compete.



Image Courtesy: Hampton Chamber of Commerce





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15. Schnitzfest, Hillsborough  
September 29, 2012 and September 28, 2013  
[schnitzfest.com](http://schnitzfest.com)

An afternoon of live Um-Pah music, crafters, and souvenirs. Enjoy the most authentic German food you'll experience outside Germany: schnitzel by browsing among the separate tents in Butler Park. Free admission! Contact the Hillsborough Chamber in advance for motor coach information at 603-464-5858.

### OCTOBER

16. Return of the Pumpkin People, Jackson  
The full month of October each year  
[jacksonnh.com](http://jacksonnh.com)

What ever you find them doing you will be amazed or amused or even a little surprised. Make time to come and see this wonderful self-guided tour of the "Return of the Pumpkin People!" Each display is a work of art.



17. Keene Pumpkin Festival, Keene  
October 20, 2012  
[pumpkinfestival.com](http://pumpkinfestival.com)

Food vendors, crafts, entertainment, and PUMPKINS! Thousands of them. Don't come to the festival without bringing carved pumpkins to put towards breaking the record.

### DECEMBER

18. Vintage Christmas, Portsmouth  
Always the first three weekends in December  
[vintagechristmasnh.org](http://vintagechristmasnh.org)

The Music Hall, Strawberry Banke, the Portsmouth Trolley, and downtown Portsmouth shops present this annual holiday event that includes a Candlelight Stroll at Strawberry Banke and amazing performances, operas, and films at the Historic Music Hall landmark theatre. Portsmouth transforms in December.



Image Courtesy: Strawberry Banke Museum

LIVE FREE and  
*experience*

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