



Press Release
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Summer Events with the Cripple Creek Donkeys Announced

Cripple Creek, Colorado - The Two Mile High Club (TMHC), caretakers of the Cripple Creek Donkeys, announces the dates for three exciting Donkey-related events this summer in Cripple Creek. Profits from each event provide money for the care of the herd of 14 Cripple Creek Donkeys, who remind visitors and locals alike of the original herd released from their work in the Gold Mines in the early 1900s. In 1931, local business owners formed the nonprofit 501c3 Two Mile High Club to care for these precious animals, and in 94 years, that care has never stopped.

On Memorial Day, the furry critters somehow know that it is time to break free from their winter pasture just west of Cripple Creek. The donkeys anxiously await escorts by the TMHC Donkey Wranglers to "C Street and Thurlow Avenue," where they cross through the gate to their summer of freedom in the city! This special day, reminiscent of the original release in 1931, begins the Donkey Summer of Fun in Cripple Creek. "President Teddy Roosevelt" will welcome the donkeys to their free-roaming summer. Enjoy an old-fashioned town picnic in the park after the release.

Donkey Derby Days takes place June 27-29. "After an incredibly successful celebration in 2024, with estimates of around 30,000 people in attendance, we will once again feature Donkey Races on both Saturday and Sunday," Brandon Westhoff, president of the Two Mile High Club, said.

This year's celebration promises to be the biggest and best Donkey Derby Day in 94 years! Enjoy Live music, vendors, food trucks, craft booths, family attractions, beer gardens, and more. Register for live Donkey Derby races up Bennett Avenue throughout the weekend.

Finally, "Fall Fest" on October 4-5 rounds out a fantastic summer of Two Mile High Club celebrations in Cripple Creek. Attendees enjoy live music and delicious food and beverages while shopping at various vendors, often featuring crafts for the holiday season. The ever-popular Fall Photo Booth and pumpkin carving contests will also return. Fall Fest is a perfect complement to a "leaf peeping" drive in this beautiful area.

"We are excited about the year ahead and our Donkey Celebrations! Moreover, none of this happens without donations, sponsors, and volunteers. We count on these activities to raise funds for the care of the donkeys, including a new barn coming soon," Westhoff remarked. "We look forward to seeing everyone in May!"

To learn more about the Cripple Creek Donkeys or to donate, sponsor, or volunteer,
<https://www.cripplecreekdonkeys.com>.

<https://www.facebook.com/CCDonkeys>

<https://www.instagram.com/ccdonkeysofficial/>

<https://www.tiktok.com/@ccdonkeysofficial>

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MORE INFO:



In the early 1900s, the original herd of working donkeys, released from their deplorable work underground in the mines, was set free to roam in the city. Local legend ties President Teddy Roosevelt to that release, believing that he was the reason the miners set the donkeys free from their burdensome work, where they often did not see the light of day. How they came to roam free in the city is up for debate, but what is known is that a group of caring and responsible local businessmen came together to propose a solution to provide the care needed by these beasts of burden. They established the Two Mile High Club to give that needed care as the donkeys made their home in Cripple Creek. In the ensuing years, other donkeys adopted by the TMHC made up the herd, which numbers 14 donkeys today. TMHC operates on 100% donations from Colorado businesses, club memberships, individual and family sponsorships, and grants. Donkey Derby Days is its largest fundraiser of the year and helps to provide money for vet care, food, and shelter at approximately \$3,000 per donkey annually. Club volunteers work tirelessly to care for this herd of donkeys 365 days a year, rain or shine, sleet or snow.

The next goal of the Club is to build a new barn for the herd. Our current barn shows its age and needs replacing and upgrading. The new barn will feature a storage room for merchandise, stalls for individual donkey care, a large pen inside the barn for the whole herd to get out of the elements, an office to keep all health records, a clean/vet room to perform necessary care the donkeys need onsite and a lean-to off the new barn for a new group feeding area. We have several senior donkeys that need more care and attention, and a new barn is just what they need. For us to provide the care they need, please consider partnering with us to build a new barn to give these precious "Beasts of burden" the life they deserve. Donate to the barn fund through "Colorado Gives" at <https://www.coloradogives.org/donate/Xhrtqf> or designate through the Two Mile High Club website: <https://www.cripplecreekdonkeys.com>.

Are you interested in joining the Two Mile High Club, volunteering to care for the donkeys, or helping at any of our events? Contact us today!

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