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WoodyFest Announces Exciting Lineup of Free Children's Events and Contests for its 28th Festival

Okemah, OK – April 4, 2025 – The Woody Guthrie Folk Festival, a beloved annual celebration of music, storytelling, and community, is proud to announce a full slate of exciting family-friendly events for this year's children's festival. With a focus on engaging young minds and fostering creativity, the children's festival will once again feature interactive activities, contests, and educational opportunities designed for children of all ages.

This year's Children's Festival will take place on Friday, July 11th, and Saturday, July 12th, across multiple venues in Okemah. The event will include live music performances, hands-on art projects, storytelling sessions, and songwriting workshops led by talented artists and educators. Young attendees will have the opportunity to explore their creativity while learning about Woody Guthrie's legacy. On Saturday, families can experience free activities and programming at Okemah City Park from 10 AM to 2 PM, featuring performances by WoodyFest artists, a water slide, art stations, free T-shirts, face painting, hot dogs, sno-cones, and more. To participate, email kidsfest@woodyfest.com.

Youth Contests

- **Children's Art Contest** – Call for original drawings inspired by Bob Childer's song "Woody's Road". The winning design will be featured on the Children's Festival T-shirt, and the winner will receive a \$500 first prize. Entries are due by April 28th.
- **Children's Songwriting Contest** – Call for original songs which embody the spirit of Woody Guthrie and lyrics of "Woody's Road" by Bob Childers. Entries due by June 2, 2025.

All entries must be created by persons 18 years of age and younger. Contest details and application instructions can be found at woodyfest.com/kids.

Special Events & Workshops

Woodyfest is proud to present another year of phenomenal free programming for children and families during the 2025 festival. The Woody Guthrie and Bob Dylan Centers Creative Writing Workshop will take place on Friday and Saturday, July 11th & 12th, from 3-5 PM at St. Paul's United Methodist Church. "Recording Woody's Legacy," an interactive recording session where

participants will have the opportunity to record and perform “This Land is Your Land” will be hosted by R.T. Valine with support from TASCAM on Friday, July 11th, at 2:30 PM at Benson Media Center. On Saturday, July 12th, at 11 AM, Benson Media Center will also host Harmonica Lessons, followed by Native American Storytelling and Flute Building with Nelson Harjo, one of the last traditional flute-makers of the Muscogee Nation of Oklahoma at 2 PM.

“These programs are at the heart of WoodyFest’s mission to inspire and educate the next generation through music and art,” says Randy Norman, Woody Guthrie Coalition President. “We invite families to join us in Okemah for a weekend filled with creativity, community, and a celebration of Woody’s enduring legacy.” Adds Norman, “Continuing to provide this free programming for our community is critical to our mission and would not be possible without our sponsors and grantors, including BancFirst, the Philip Landers Foundation, The Oklahoma Arts Council, American Exchange Bank, The Sam Viersen Family Foundation, Clearwater Enterprises, Sage Rider, The Truck Shop and other local partners and sponsors.”

Kristy Lesley, City Manager of Okemah states, “The Woody Guthrie Children’s Festival is more than just an event—it’s a powerful platform that leaves a lasting impression on young, aspiring talent. The songwriting and art competitions give children a chance to express themselves, discover their voices, and feel the pride that comes with sharing their creativity with others. These opportunities spark confidence and inspire the next generation of artists, musicians, and storytellers.”

Lesley continues, “This festival is deeply woven into the heart of Okemah. It celebrates our heritage, draws visitors from near and far, and keeps the spirit of Woody Guthrie alive in his hometown. It brings our community together and reminds us of the importance of nurturing creativity, culture, and connection. The Woody Guthrie Festival is a treasure for Okemah—both for what it honors and for the hope it gives to the future.

WoodyFest 2025 will take place July 9-13, 2025 at venues throughout Okemah. The full festival lineup and ticket sales will be announced soon.

For more information about WoodyFest, WoodyFest’s Children’s Festival, contests, scholarships, or Women of WoodyFest events, visit www.woodyfest.com or follow us on [facebook](#) and [instagram](#).