

Trailing of the Sheep Festival



NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

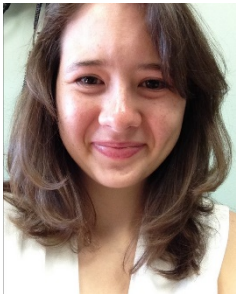
Date: September 14, 2016

Media Contacts:

Trailing of the Sheep Festival, Laura Musbach Drake, laura@trailingofthesheep.org, 208.720.0585
Make-A-Wish® Idaho, Brenda Vogt, bvogt@idaho.wish.org, 208.345.9474

“Girl from South Dakota chooses to attend Idaho’s Trailing of the Sheep Festival as her ‘Wish’ ”

Idaho’s annual Trailing of the Sheep Festival has received plenty of accolades from attendees and national media over the years, but this tribute is especially touching. Make-A-Wish® Idaho, in partnership with the Trailing of the Sheep Festival, will grant the request of wish kid Shelby to attend this year’s 20th anniversary Trailing of the Sheep Festival, October 5-9, in Sun Valley, Ketchum, and Hailey, Idaho. Shelby Huff, age 20, requested her wish because of her love of animals (especially sheep) and the outdoors. She found the Festival online while researching her wish choice. Most children request “to have a shopping spree,” “to swim with dolphins,” or “to meet a celebrity.” Shelby’s wish request is a first for Make-A-Wish Idaho and the Festival.



Shelby became eligible to receive a wish due to complications with aplastic anemia (a bone marrow failure disease). She resides in Hill City, South Dakota and will be traveling to Idaho for the first time with her mom, sister, and grandparents. She is most looking forward to learning about shepherding and experiencing Idaho’s beautiful landscape.

The presentation of Shelby’s wish will be happening throughout the Festival’s many events where she will be welcomed as a VIP guest, including the Folklife Fair, For Love of Lamb Foodie Fest, Sheepdog Trials, Wool Fest fiber arts classes (for which instructors Patricia Hirsh-Lirk and Joan Contraman are donating class space) Sheep Tales Gathering, Shepherd’s Ball and, of course, the grand finale of the weekend – the Trailing of the Sheep Parade.

Her initial public welcome will be held at the Festival’s Headquarters at the nexStage Theatre in Ketchum on Thursday, October 6, from 1:15 pm-2 pm.

“We are so excited and honored to be able to participate with Make-A-Wish® Idaho in granting Shelby’s wish and thrilled to have been selected by her,” said Trailing of the Sheep Festival Director Laura Musbach Drake. “We will make this a very special weekend for her and her family and hope it is one that she will long remember.”

###

About Make-A-Wish

Make-A-Wish® Idaho grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Make-A-Wish Idaho serves children throughout the state with offices in Boise and Pocatello. Since 1986, more than 1,375 children in Idaho have received wishes. Please visit www.idaho.wish.org to learn more.

About the Trailing of the Sheep Festival

The annual Trailing of the Sheep Festival celebrates its 20th year, October 5 – 9, 2016, in the picturesque Wood River Valley of Idaho. Each Fall, the popular Trailing of the Sheep Festival celebrates the 150+ year tradition of moving sheep (“trailing”) from high mountain summer pastures down through the valley to traditional winter grazing and lambing areas in the south. This annual migration is Idaho living history and a weekend long family-friendly festival that highlights the people, arts, cultures and traditions of sheep ranching in Idaho and the West. This is not a reenactment; it is living history at its best. This wild and woolly event has national and international appeal, drawing thousands each autumn to the charming mountain communities of Hailey, Ketchum and Sun Valley in central Idaho.

The Trailing of the Sheep Festival has garnered its share of top accolades including being recognized as one of the **Top Ten Fall Festivals in the World** by *msn.com travel*, **Top Ten US Fall Festivals** by *smartertravel.com*, **Top Animal Festivals in the World** and **Top Ten Fall Festivals** by *USA Today*, **America’s Wackiest Fall Festivals** by *Huffington Post*, **One of the Greatest Cultural Events in the West** by *Northwest Travel* and recipient of the **Idaho Governor’s Award for Cultural Heritage**.

The five-day Festival includes nonstop activities in multiple venues - history, folk and traditional arts, a Sheep Folklife Fair, a Fiber Festival with classes and workshops, music, dance, storytelling, two days of Championship Sheepdog Trials and the always entertaining Trailing of the Sheep Parade with 2000 sheep hoofing it down Main Street in Ketchum. There is dancing, singing, music and food honoring the tradition of welcoming fathers, brothers, sons and family home from a long summer of grazing in the mountains. The Festival honors the colorful history, heritage and cultures of Idaho and the West. It is a celebration of sharing stories and traditions that is well loved by people of all ages and all walks of life.

For information and detailed schedule of events, visit www.trailingofthesheep.org.

IMAGES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

MEDIA EVENT WITH SHELBY:

Opportunity for the media to speak with Shelby will be offered at the Festival’s Headquarters where she will first be welcomed.

When: Thursday, October 6th from 1:15 pm-2 pm

Where: Trailing of the Sheep Headquarters
nexStage Theatre, Main Street, Ketchum