



**DECEMBER 9, 2009**

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**MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR DELAWARE'S 77TH ANNUAL  
DOVER DAYS FESTIVAL APRIL 30, MAY 1-2, 2010**

DOVER, DE -- Mark your calendars and plan to visit Dover, Delaware, the Capital of the First State, for the 77th Dover Days Festival, set for April 30, May 1 and 2. As in previous years, there is no admission to the event which is one of Delaware's longest-running festivals celebrating First State history. Special weekend lodging packages are now available.

New in 2010, is a three-day countywide historic house tour, "The Houses of Kent," featuring more than 40 17th and 18th century homes and buildings featuring Georgian Revival, Victorian, English Gothic and Federal style architecture.

The Dover Days festival begins Friday afternoon with a free concert on the First State Heritage Park's Legislative Mall, an open-air park surrounded by stately older buildings including the Old State House, the Biggs Museum of American Art and Legislative Hall. The evening's activities will also include carnival rides for children, food vendors and a car show of street rods, hotrods and antique cars. It will coincide with the annual Dover Mile, a running and walking event sponsored by the Colonial Rotary Club of Dover.

Saturday, the largest day of the festival, features a large Dover Days parade; Maypole dancing with children in colonial attire; costumed and judged pet parade; free admission to numerous museums, historic sites and Woodburn, the Governor's mansion; 150+ artisans and crafts vendors; outdoor entertainment stage; public auction of locally-made Amish quilts; energy village with information about new and emerging technologies; carnival rides for children; Kids' Zone with street murals, wood pile construction and more; Colonial artisans; Civil War and WWII encampments; Native American Indian village; and an antique tractor show.

Sunday's events will include the Dover Symphony Orchestra's annual Dover Days concert at the Schwartz Center for the Arts in Dover, as well as the Houses of Kent historic house tours.

In addition, you can register for a free Girlfriend Getaway sweepstakes featuring a trip for four women to visit Delaware's Capital Region during Dover Days weekend. The giveaway includes lodging and meals, gas card, spa visit, free slot play and tickets to the historic house tour. To register, visit [www.visitdover.com](http://www.visitdover.com). Entrants must be 18 and no purchase is necessary to enter.

For more information including vendor registration forms, house tour tickets, pet parade registration forms or weekend lodging packages, visit [www.visitdover.com](http://www.visitdover.com) or call Kent County Tourism, producers of the event, at 800-233-5368.

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