



CIRCLEVILLE PUMPKIN SHOW

"The Greatest Free Show On Earth"

FACT SHEET

The Circleville Pumpkin Show, Ohio's Oldest and Largest Festival, is a member of The Ohio Festivals & Events Association.

The first Pumpkin Show was held in 1903. George Haswell, Mayor of Circleville at that time, decided it would be a great idea to try to get the country folks and the city folks together. So he invited the country folks to bring the best of their produce to town on designated dates and display them on the streets of Circleville so that the city folks would be able to appreciate their efforts.

The Circleville Pumpkin Show has always been held on the streets of downtown Circleville. The early shows covered about 3 city blocks and today it covers more than 8 city blocks. The streets are filled with 25-30 Amusement Rides and over 300 Food Booths, Games & Craft Vendors.

The Circleville Pumpkin Show attracts over 400,000 visitors (100,000 per day) to this small community of 12,000 people. They come to see the giant pumpkins, the world's largest Pumpkin Pie, parades, entertainment, attractions, and try various pumpkin-flavored delicacies.

Past Weigh-ins of the Largest Pumpkins: (Weigh-In is held at noon Wednesday at the center of town.)

- 2003 – Dean Park 950 lbs.
- 2004 – Dr. Robert Liggett 1,353 lbs.
- 2005 – Kenny Speakman 951.5 lbs.
- 2006 – Karen Wiget and Buddy Conley 1,324 lbs.
- 2007 – Dr. Robert Liggett 1,524.5 lbs.
- 2008 – Dr. Robert Liggett 1,375.5 lbs.
- 2009 – Dr. Robert Liggett 1,636 lbs.
- 2010 – Dr. Robert Liggett 1,622 lbs.
- 2011 – Dr. Robert Liggett 1,436.5 lbs.
- 2012 – Dr. Robert Liggett 1,315 lbs.
- 2013 – Cecil and Teresa Weston 1,312 lbs.
- 2014 – Dr. Robert Liggett 1,964 lbs. **Record**
- 2015 – Rusty Ortman 1,666 lbs.



More than 40 floats and 50 bands participate in the Seven Pumpkin Show Parades each with a different theme. The best place to watch the parades is on East & West Franklin Street. Afternoon parades start at 3:30 p.m. (no afternoon parade on Saturday) and the evening parades start at 8:00 p.m.

The Pumpkin Show is Four, Fun-Filled Days of Family Entertainment including Musical Groups, Stage Acts and Band Concerts. Also featured are contests including, Little Miss, Miss Pumpkin Show, Baby, Pumpkin Pie Eating, Pumpkin Toss, Pets, Big Wheel Race, Egg Toss & Hog Calling.

The opening ceremonies are at 11:00 a.m. on Wednesday, the first day and thereafter the activities begin at 10:00 a.m. for the balance of the show. The Pumpkin Show always starts on the 3rd Wednesday in October and runs through Saturday night.

The Circleville Pumpkin Show is operated by a board of trustees, a corporation under the laws of the State of Ohio and is completely self-supporting.



Lindsey's Bakery each year prepares a huge pumpkin pie, 6 ft. in diameter and weighing over 400 pounds. It is on display in their bakery at 127 W. Main Street. Recipe: 100 lbs. of cooked pumpkin, 40 lbs. of sugar, 26 gallons of milk, 15 doz. eggs, 4 lbs. of cornstarch, 1 1/4 lb. pumpkin spice, 1 1/4 lb. of salt, 42 lbs. of pie dough. Bake 6 hours. Cool 6 hours. At the end of the four day event, the giant pie is donated to area hogs that look forward to a real treat!

More than 250 Volunteers who serve on over 20 Committees contribute their time & effort to make Pumpkin Show a success. Without the volunteers the show would not be possible. Planning for next year's show starts immediately following this year's show.

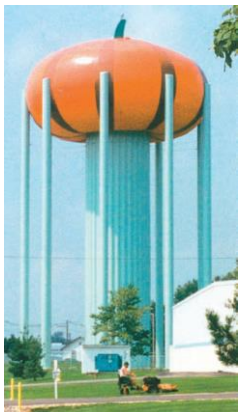
There is an information booth located at the center of the show that is manned all day long, where visitors can get information. They also can get information at the Pickaway County Chamber of Commerce, the Circleville Pumpkin Show Office, 740-474-7000, or at the website, www.pumpkinshow.com.

There are approximately 23,000 pumpkin pies and over 100,000 pumpkin donuts sold during the 4-day show.

More than 100,000 pounds of pumpkins, squash and gourds are on the street display. There are displays of canned goods, baked goods, flower shows, fruits and vegetables and an art show in the Watt Street Pumpkin Show Building. A Home Arts and Crafts Show is also held in the Pumpkin Show Building on Franklin Street.

More than 30 local churches, school, booster clubs, civic and fraternal organizations participate with the operation of food booths, souvenir sales, parking, etc. For many it is their largest fundraiser of the year.

Most of the foods are pumpkin related such as: pumpkin pies, donuts, pancakes, cookies, burgers, taffy, ice cream, cake, waffles, cream puffs, fudge, brownies, pumpkin blossoms and many other concoctions that can be made with pumpkin. Other festival type foods are readily available as well.



During the 4-day show there are 30-35 bus tours that stop at the Circleville Pumpkin Show with more than 3000 passing through the senior hospitality center at the Methodist Church on Main St.

Since there are no tickets or gates it is hard to determine the crowd, but we know it requires 9000 persons to line the parade route 1 person deep. The average number of persons deep during the parade is determined and multiplied by 9000 to get a reasonable estimate of the crowd at parade time.

A landmark that is unique to Circleville is the Pumpkin Water Tower located on Town Street. The water tower holds one million gallons of water and was built in 1976 and repainted in 1997 to resemble a Pumpkin. Approximately 1300 gallons of paint were needed to repaint the water tower on the inside and the outside. A stem was added for authenticity.

The Pumpkin Show is so popular it has its own song, "The Punkin Show". Words and music are by M.W. "Burk" Burkhart and was assigned to the Kiwanis Club in 1977. The song is performed each year at the opening ceremony.