

Kilgore Cultural District Annual Events

KilGogh Arts Festival

Just completing its sixth year in March 2018, the KilGogh Arts festival draws visitors from all over East Texas for the two day festival, a Friday night Art & Wine Exhibition followed by the Saturday free family focused event affectionately called KidsGogh. Providing an outlet for local artists and student artists to exhibit and sell their art the festival aims to make art accessible to people of all ages while paying homage to impressionist artist Vincent Van Gogh.

www.kilgogh.com



Rangerette Revels

The Rangerettes are the world's best-known collegiate drill team and the Rangerettes Revels is the annual spring show and the culmination of their performing season. The show includes a wide variety of dance genres including the Rangerettes signature "high kick" production for the finale. The Revels started in 1948 as an in-school talent show and fund-raiser called "Ranger Roundup" which took place in the school gymnasium and this Spring tradition continues, attracting over 6,000 people from across the country including over 80 high school dance and drill teams.

<https://www.rangerette.com/events/annual-events/revels>

Annual Secondary Art Symposium

The art symposium gives students a chance to immerse themselves in local art and become familiar with other local artists. It also gives them a chance to receive feedback on their work and see a cross section of work from other local schools. The symposium, which started at Kilgore College in the early 90's offers 10 scholarships ranging from \$800 to \$2,000 and saw over 300 students attend in February 2018 from 20 counties.

<https://www.kilgore.edu/academics/classes-listed-by-division/liberal-and-fine-arts/art>

Lone Star Lugnuts Car Show

Taking place for the 12th year in Kilgore, the Lone Star Lugnuts Early Bird Car Show had more than 160 vehicles turn out to Kilgore City Park in March 2018. This charity fundraising vintage car show attracts car owners and spectators from across Texas and surrounding States to raise money for the Percy R. Johnson Burn Foundation Youth Camp. With door prizes, food vendors and an Elvis tribute artist the event attract car owners, nostalgic tourists and families in the surrounding communities.

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

Texas Radio Hall of Fame Annual Induction

The Texas Museum of Broadcasting & Communications in Kilgore is the new venue for the Texas Radio Hall of Fame Annual Induction hosting the event for the first time in Fall 2017, it will continue to be the host venue due to popular demand after selling out the event for the first time in its 12 year history. The Texas Radio Hall of Fame was founded in 2002 and has over 1,200 members with 200 inductees from across Texas.

<http://trhof.net/>

Lions Club Spring Carnival

The Kilgore Lion's Club held its second annual Spring Carnival in Historic Downtown Kilgore in April 2018 across two days. The fundraising event brought carnival rides and fair food vendors for families and thrill seekers and saw hundreds of people enjoying the atmosphere along the World's Richest Acre.

The Kilgore College Bach Festival

In its sixty-third year, the Kilgore College Bach Festival is held annually to offer area piano students the opportunity for formal adjudication of an original composition by J.S. Bach. The festival is open to elementary, middle and high school aged students, outstanding students are then chosen to perform in the Bach Festival Performers' Concert at 7pm that night.

<https://www.kilgore.edu/additional-text/8957>

The David Karp Piano Festival

Started in 1993, the festival honors a nationally known pianist, composer and educator Dr David Karp, in which students perform and are judged on Karp compositions. Dr Karp selects the winners each year from elementary to high school aged students that enter across East Texas.

<https://www.kilgore.edu/additional-text-category/piano-festival-information-0>



Geekend

A local homegrown geek/pop culture convention that takes place the first weekend of May in Historic Downtown Kilgore. This event for the past five years has coincided with free comic book day where organizers provide free comic books for event attendees within the downtown stores. This event continues to expand in both duration and attendance, now a two-day event with attendees travelling as far as Dallas.

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

Fridays After 5 Concert Series

A Kilgore Main Street event, the free outdoor concert series takes place on the first Friday of the month from April – September on the stage at the World's Richest Acre. Starting in 2009, the concerts feature a diverse lineup of local bands to entertain people of all ages and attract attendees from surrounding cities as well as the Kilgore community.

<https://www.kilgoremainstreet.com/events>

Porch Fest

Reigning ETX Music Awards Venue of the Year, The Back Porch held its third annual music festival in May 2018. A two-day festival that features over 23 musical acts, food vendors, market stalls, a children's area and more it brings a great lineup of local award winning artist in one place. This ticketed event draws people from the East Texas region as well as Dallas.

<http://www.thebackporchkilgore.com/live-music.html>

Texas Shakespeare Festival

Established in 1986, the Texas Shakespeare Festival began as Kilgore College's contribution to the Texas Sesquicentennial celebration. Today it continues as a strong and vital cultural asset and tourist attraction for all of East Texas, bringing visitors from across Texas and surround States as well as from New York, Los Angeles and Chicago over the month long season. Featuring two plays by Shakespeare, a classic, a musical, and a children's show the over 9,000 attendees each year range from children to grandparents.

<http://www.texasshakespeare.com/>



SAFFE Day

The Kilgore Fire Department sponsored S.A.F.F.E. (Special Abilities Family Fun Event) Day takes place annually on the third Saturday of September. The event is for anyone with special needs and/or abilities. The carnival like atmosphere revolves around fire safety taking place under the oil derricks at the historic "World's Richest Acre". The event is in its seventh year with attendance estimated at 4000 in 2017 and attracts attendees across the Ark-La-Tex region.

www.saffeday.org

Oktoberfest

Celebrating all things German since 2014, this Kilgore Main Street event takes place in the streets of Historic

Downtown Kilgore. Lots of fun for the whole family with vendors, kids' activities, Kilgore's Got Talent, German food, live entertainment and of course a beer garden. Last year the event saw over 1,000 people attend from the local and surrounding communities.

<https://www.kilgoremainstreet.com/events>

East Texas Pipe Organ Festival

The *East Texas Pipe Organ Festival* is a five-day festival that honors the life and work of Roy Perry and features the world-renowned Aeolian-Skinner pipe organs located in the First Presbyterian Church of Kilgore. Starting in November 2010 this festival has grown over the last few years and now includes a Spring Silent Movie Festival. It continues to attract a unique market of pipe organ and music enthusiasts from across the country.

<http://www.easttexaspipeorganfestival.com/>

East Texas Oilmen's Chili Cook Off

The annual East Texas Oilmen's Chili Cook-off packs downtown Kilgore as over 100 teams dish out bowls of chili, all claiming to be the best in town. Oilfield workers from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas have their homemade chili judged. Since 2010, the cook-off has benefited the East Texas Treatment Center, which offers services such as physical and language therapy. Celebrating 25 years in 2017, this event has grown to over 7,500 attendees for the one-day event attracting oil field employees, families and tourists from across the state.

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

Reel East Texas Film Festival

Making a huge impact in its inaugural year, the Reel East Texas Film Festival is back again in November 2018. A festival hosted by filmmakers for filmmakers, RETFF loves great films, and bringing together audience, filmmaker and film industry representatives in celebration of artistic and independent spirit. The three-day event spotlighted 55 independent films in the historic Texan Theater bringing together filmmakers and film lovers from across Texas and interstate.

<http://reeleasttexas.com/>



A Very Derrick Christmas

This unique event brings thousands of people, young and old, to the annual lighting of the oil derrick stars in the City of Kilgore's signature skyline. Organized by the Kilgore Historical Preservation Foundation the event includes live entertainment, games and activities and a Winter Wonderland for everyone to enjoy under the multicolored derrick stars.

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