



*Estes Park Convention & Visitors Bureau  
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## Estes Park Promises Stirring July 4 Weekend

Estes Park – Celebrating the Fourth of July in Estes Park means more than spectacular light flashes and the sound of fireworks reverberating from the peaks surrounding this mountain village. There also are a horse show, an antique auto show, children’s theater production, and several free concerts.

### **Arabian Horse Show Championships**

This will be the 52<sup>nd</sup> year that Arabian horses will be on display and compete in Estes Park during the July 4 holiday period. Now host to the **Region 8 Arabian Sport Horse Championships**, riders and their mounts will compete in a variety of competitions ranging from looks to dressage (a competitive event in which horse and rider are judged the elegance, precision and discipline of the horse’s movements) and hack competition.

Activity generally begins daily at 9 a.m. and continues into evening hours. At about 9 p.m. on July 4, arena lights at the Stanley Park Fairgrounds are turned off so Arabian Horse Show spectators can enjoy the fireworks from their grandstand seats. There is no admission fee to the horse show. Stanley Park Fairgrounds are located at 1209 Manford Ave. More information about the horse show can be obtained by calling 970-586-6104.

### **Coollest Car Show**

From 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on July 4, Bond Park in the center of downtown Estes Park, cars that are at least 30 years old will be on display in the “**Coollest Car Show in Colorado.**” This is the seventh year that antique autos make their mark on the Independence Day holiday here, although it will be the first year the show is held in the park square that fronts Elkhorn Avenue, Estes Park’s main street. The cars will be parked on the grass as well as along MacGregor Avenue between Elkhorn Avenue and Wonderview Drive (U.S. Hwy. 34 bypass), which will be closed to driving traffic during show hours.

Admission to see the vehicles up close is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children. Those under six will be admitted free of charge.

### **Fireworks**

Estes Park’s annual **fireworks** display over Lake Estes will begin at about 9 p.m. when the skies are dark enough for the spectacular show, heralded as one of the best in the entire state. There is no charge to watch the fireworks at lakefront, however parking near the lake is \$5 per car.

Locals say the best viewing spots for seeing the fireworks show are anywhere there is a view corridor toward the lake. The fireworks are sponsored by the Estes Park American Legion.

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As is tradition in Estes Park, many of the lodges and hotels host special activities for visitors on July 4. Among them this year is the Lake Shore Lodge on the banks of Lake Estes near where fireworks are sent toward the sky. Burgers, brats, hotdogs and all the picnic accouterments will be served all day long as people await the nighttime light show. Information about Lake Shore Lodge's offerings can be obtained by calling 970-577-6400.

Those wanting a view from a bit further way might be interested in the family and music day at the Stanley Hotel. From 2-5 p.m. 12 Cents for Marvin, a ska band playing upbeat music will perform on the lawn in front of the hotel. Rockabilly and swing music from Rodney James and the Blueflames will perform from 6 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Details about the Stanley Hotel fun can be obtained by calling the hotel's event hotline at 970-577-4019.

### **Theater**

From June 30 through July 3 a musical adaptation of **The Hobbit**, the tale inspired by Tolkein's Lord of the Rings story, will be presented as a children's production for children, and done by children, through the Fine Arts Guild of the Rockies. Estes Park High School Auditorium at 1600 Manford Avenue, is the venue. Tickets for Adults: \$12; Children 18 and younger: \$6. Curtain is at 2 p.m. for all performances.

### **Music**

Free musical performances are a mainstay of summertime at various venues in Estes Park and this year's lineup proves the point. From Western crooners to jazz musicians and the Colorado Music Festival performing patriotic tunes, it's all available. Specifics:

- July 2        **Sounds of Summer Concert.** A summer performance sponsored by the Estes Park Sunrise Rotary Club featuring the duo of Western music specialists, Brad and Kathy Fitch . Performance Park, 417 W Elkhorn Ave. 7 p.m. 970-586-6104
- July 3        **Estes Park Jazz Big Band in Concert.** Performance Park, 417 W Elkhorn Ave. 3 p.m. 970-577-9900; 800-44-ESTES
- July 3        **Praise in the Park**, an offering from Rocky Mountain Evangelical Free Church at Performance Park, 417 W Elkhorn Ave. 7:30 p.m. 970-586-6104
- July 4        **Jazz musician Max Wagner** performs in this Independence Day edition of the free Riverside Rhythms summer series. 3 p.m. Riverside Plaza in the Heart of Downtown Estes Park. 970-577-9900; 800-44-ESTES
- July 5        **Roger James** performs worldbeat and jazz tunes during this edition of the free Riverside Rhythms summer series. 3 p.m. Riverside Plaza in the Heart of Downtown Estes Park. 970-577-9900; 800-44-ESTES
- July 5        **Colorado Music Festival Orchestra** will present a Pop & Patriotic Concert at Performance Park, 417 W. Elkhorn Ave. 6 p.m. 970-577-9900