
OTR 75: The Original Underground Party; Come As You Were!

The countdown is on for **OTR 2026!**

Join us over Labor Day weekend for the 75th OTR, where we will reminisce on the last 75 years of OTR! The theme, you ask? **COME AS YOU WERE!** Choose your favorite themes, costumes, and decorations from OTRs past, and relive it. For those new to OTR, we invite you to reimagine any previous theme in your own special way!

Here's what's on tap for the 75th OTR!

THURSDAY: Gates open at Noon! Evening activities include the Opening Ceremony, Memorial Tribute, Virgin Welcome, Bonfire Lighting, Virgin Reception, and Grateful Gary on acoustic guitar.

FRIDAY: Shanty Irish joins us for their final OTR performance at Cooters. Evening activities include an OTR Trivia Night followed by live music by Jeremy Short delivering his own unique blend of gritty blues, deep funk, and Southern soul that he affectionately calls Appalachian Space Funk.

SATURDAY: Daytime activities include Speleo-Contests for all ages, the Bubbles Fun Run, Batman the Magician for the kiddos, the 3rd annual Caving Festival with live music by local



duo Tim White & JB Stalnaker, and a 75th OTR aerial photo. Evening activities kick off with the DooDah Parade followed by an exciting evening of live music by Steely Dan cover band Not Reely Dan and crowd favorite Queen City Funk and Soul playing familiar favorites for us to dance the night away. Saturday's after-dark activities also feature a special 75th Reunion Fireworks show!

SUNDAY: Daytime activities include the Yard Sale, TRA Elections, and the ever popular River Party with live music by The Jugbusters. Evening activities include the OTR and TRA Awards ceremony followed by live music by OTR's own Buzzzzz City Grotto.

Throughout the weekend, attendees are invited to patronize our vendors on Vendors Row, attend a presentation at the Event Tent, have a craft beer or root beer at Cooters, learn about OTR's storied history at the Museum, relax at the Sauna area or on the banks of the river, explore the Wildside, and otherwise immerse yourself in the OTR community!

For more info, please contact otr2026@otr.org.

IMPORTANT NEWS YOU CAN USE

TRA Membership: Attendance at OTR is restricted to TRA members and their guests. The application deadline to join TRA is **July 31**. Apply online or print your application form here: <https://otr.org/about/membership/>. If you have questions about the process, e-mail Scott Baker, Membership Secretary, at membership@otr.org.

Preregistration: opens in early July at <https://otr.org/>.

2026 OTR Registration Fees				
Arrival Day	Adult 18+	Junior 12-17	Child 3-11	Guest fee
Preregistration	\$60	\$47	\$37	+\$20
Thursday	\$60	\$47	\$37	+\$20
Friday	\$58	\$45	\$35	+\$20
Saturday	\$56	\$43	\$33	+\$20
Sunday	\$50	\$37	\$30	+\$20

*Infants under 3 years are permitted free entry.
A 'Day' begins at 4 AM*

Guests: Guests are welcome at OTR, when invited and sponsored by a TRA regular member. TRA regular members may sponsor up to five adult guests. Guests of all ages (except infants) pay the regular registration fee plus a \$20 guest fee. Family companions 18 and older are considered guests unless they are TRA members. Minor guests must be children of adult sponsors or under the legal custody of their adult sponsor;

adult sponsors must provide **notarized proof of guardianship** authorizing the adult sponsor to authorize medical care if needed. OTR cannot permit entry to guests under 18 who are not lawfully in the custody of their adult sponsors. Legal verification is required. **Please choose your guests carefully.** This is a cavers' event; please invite only cavers or other outdoor enthusiasts. **Note that guests cannot check in onsite until their sponsor has checked in.**

Children/Youth: Children of TRA members up to the age of 17 are not considered guests and do not pay the guest surcharge. Active cavers under age 18 may apply for their own membership (\$10) at <https://otr.org/about/membership/>.

Day Passes: Day passes are good from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM on the day purchased. All day passes must be paid by credit card. If you stay past 4:00 PM, your day pass will be converted to a full registration, and your payment method will be charged accordingly. Regardless of the length of your stay, **day passes are \$10**, which includes a non-refundable insurance surcharge.

Memorial Registration: Register your loved ones who are no longer with us in body but still attend OTR in spirit. Honor their memory by purchasing a **Memorial Registration** for **\$25**. You will receive a special name badge that you can wear with your name badge. Makes a great conversation starter!

Forms of Payment: OTR accepts cash, check, and credit card. Checks must be written in U.S. funds and on U.S. banks. OTR charges \$30 on returned checks and reports nonpaying registrants to the authorities.

Photo ID: *You must provide legal photo ID at registration*, even if you do not intend to consume any alcoholic beverages on site. You **MUST** be 21 or older to consume any alcoholic beverages onsite; OTR staff may ask for validation at any time.

Arrival and Departure: OTR begins on **Thursday, Sept. 3**. Gates open at noon, and we will do everything we can to get you through registration quickly. The line of cars that forms outside of the gate prior to noon is a traffic hazard, so please be considerate of our neighbors and try to arrive after the noon gate opening. **OTR closes at noon on Monday, Sept. 7**. The only people permitted to be on site before and after OTR are those who with advance permission to support setup or cleanup.

Pets: Pets are NOT permitted at OTR.

OTR Merchandise: Limited edition OTR merch is available through preregistration and onsite at OTR. This year's featured merch includes t-shirts, hats, stickers, collectible pins, patches, a commemorative 75th OTR stoneware mug, and a bandana featuring OTR grottos! Quantities are limited, and we will sell out; order early to guarantee your merch!

Vendors: Vendors at OTR must make prior arrangements with our friendly neighborhood Vendor Coordinator David Fricke (vendorcoordinator@otr.org). Wednesday is setup day for vendors; please don't arrive before then. Food concessions will be available throughout the day and late into the night all

weekend. All food vendors will be inspected by the Health Department before OTR begins.

Crafty Cavers Coalition: If you're a crafty caver with handmade wares to sell, Crafty Cavers Coalition is for you! Our consignment-based vendor booth offers handmade arts, crafts, bags, beaded lanyards, and whatever else our attendees can dream up. Crafty Cavers should contact Norma Dee Peacock to sign up to sell: craftycavers@otr.org.

Caving at OTR: If you are planning on caving during OTR, be sure to let someone in camp know where you are going and when you expect to return. Please complete a **Caver Alert Information Sheet (CAIS)** before you go and leave it with your callout person; forms can be found at Registration and on the Information boards throughout the campground. If you go caving, please check the VAR Closed Cave list first to ensure that your destination is open: <https://tinyurl.com/closed-caves>. Note that White Nose Syndrome (WNS) continues to be a problem in the region, and many caves with significant bat population are closed because of it. Please practice proper cave gear disinfection procedures before and after caving.

Volunteers: OTR happens because of its many volunteers. We can always use help with many different tasks before, during, and after OTR. Some areas requiring help are Registration, Gate, First Aid, Sauna, Audio/Video, IT, Contests, daily shower cleaning, trash collection, Wild Side, Security, Cooters, and Brew Crew. If you are interested in helping in any of these areas, see the volunteer page on <https://otr.org/> or contact the Chair.

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

Introduction of the Virgins: Bring your first-timers for a warm welcome at the Bonfire Lighting on Thursday evening, where they will receive their very own "OTR Virgin Guide." Then head over to the Event Tent for a special OTR Virgin Reception!

DooDah Parade: OTR's own DooDah parade puts the eclectic zaniness of OTR's diverse attendees on display. Reprise your favorite costumes and parade entries from OTRs past!

Contests: The Speleo-Olympics at OTR allows attendees to test their mettle against other cavers in vertical contests, an obstacle course, carbide lamp assembly, and even a beer-chugging contest. Attendees of all ages and stages are welcome to participate. Even if you don't plan to compete, come watch!

Entertainment: OTR 2026 promises a fantastic musical lineup, from our own **Grateful Gary** playing familiar favorites on Thursday evening in the Pavilion to crowd favorite **Shanty Irish** playing Cooters on Friday afternoon. Friday night, **Jeremy Short** brings us his signature Appalachian Space Funk. Saturday afternoon, **JB Stalnaker & Timmy White** bring their vocal

harmonies to the Pavilion during the Caving Festival. Saturday night, we've Steely Dan cover **Not Reely Dan** followed by crowd favorite **Queen City Funk & Soul**. Sunday afternoon, **The Jugbusters** are back on the River Stage. Finally, **Buzzzzz City** wraps things up on Sunday night.

Event Tent: Offerings often include a Virgin Reception, yoga, painting classes, speleoprintmaking, and presentations on various cave-related topics, such as cave science, cave rescue, cave photography, and the History of OTR. Check in at the Event Tent to see what's on the schedule this year.

Kids' Activities: The Kiddie Korral offers a play space by day and kids' movies by night! Batman, the magician is back to wow the young ones. Many contests are open to kids, and kids are welcome at all-ages craft sessions at the Event Tent. Check out the Caving Festival on Saturday afternoon for more!

Awards Ceremony: The Awards Ceremony on Sunday evening includes presentations of TRA awards, TRA election results, OTR contest awards, virgin prizes, and a preview of OTR 2027.