

Summer Festivals in Yonezawa

Many festivals continue to be held in Yonezawa during August. Go check them out and enjoy the summer in Yonezawa!

○Costume Bon Odori Dance

Wear a costume and join a Bon Odori dance!

Date: August 14th (Fri)

Time: 18:45~

Place: Yonezawa Station Square

○Yonezawa Lantern Floating Festival

Paper lanterns are lit and float in the river to pray for the spirit of one's ancestors.

Date: August 16th (Sun) Time: 19:00~

Place: Hottate River

○Noryo Citizen's Bon Odori Dance

Wear a yukata and enjoy Bon dancing!

Date: August 15th (Sat) & 16th (Sun)

Time: 19:30~

Place: Machi no Hiroba (Town Square)

○Zusayama Lion Dance

This traditional dance has been passed down and performed in the Bansei area of Yonezawa for several hundred years.

Date: August 16th (Sun) Time: 15:00~

Place: Hoshoji Temple in Bansei-cho Zusayama

○Tsunagi Lion Dance

Three "lions" perform three powerful dances in which they pray for an abundant harvest.

Date: August 15th (Sat)

Time: 10:00~

Place: Tsurugi/Enshoji Temple Ruins

○Aramachi Samba at the Dramatic Ebisu Festival

Dancers and musicians in elaborate costumes perform in an exciting samba parade!

Date: September 13th (Sun) Time: 10:00~

Place: Aramachi Shopping District

Come Participate in the Tanbo Art Rice Cutting Event

The rice field uses 3 types of rice to depict an image of Naoe Kanetsugu, the protagonist of NHK period drama, "Tenchijin" and his wife. You will be able to see the beautiful Tanbo-Art from the viewing platform until the day of the event. Please go check it out!



Date: 10/4 (Sun) Time: 9:00~13:00

Meeting Place: Misawa Community Center (near Onogawa Hot Springs)

Cost: Adults (SHS students and older) 1,500 yen
Children (Jr. HS students and younger) 1,000 yen

Limit: First 280 people to apply

Registration Deadline: 8/28 (Fri)

What to Bring: Long sleeve shirt, rubber boots, gloves, change of clothes, towels, rain gear. Please wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty.

Gifts: Free lunch (rice balls and imoni), 2kg of harvested rice and kodai mai (ancient rice), Free ticket for Onogawa Hot Springs (only valid on day of event)

Inquiries: City Tourism Division TEL 22-5111

Did You Know ? ?

Atago Shrine



Atago Shrine is located on top of Mount Atago in the South-Western part of the city center. The god of fire is enshrined inside. The shrine was originally built in 807 and was revered by the successive rulers of Yonezawa. It is also known as the place where Uesugi Yozan performed a rain ritual to pray for rain in 1771. There was very little rain that year and people were very worried about its effect on their harvest. However, it is said that rain began to fall soon after Yozan prayed at the shrine.

The annual festival for Atago Shrine is held on August 1st. It is known as the Atago Fire Festival where people carry portable shrines and torches and parade up the mountain. A citizen's hike is also held early on the morning of August 1st. The hike was first held in 1928 and every year many citizens climb the mountain and go pray at the Shrine. It is said that if you eat the rice cakes that are sold at the base of the mountain on the day of the hike, you will be able to overcome the summer heat for that year.



Detect Cancer Early by Getting a Cancer Screening!



With recent medical advancements, survival rates for cancer have increased if the cancer is detected early. If you have never had a screening for cancer, be sure to get one starting this year. If you have already been screened, be sure to continue to get periodic screenings!

Screening	Who Are Eligible
Gastric Cancer	Men and women age 40 and over
Colon Cancer	
Lung Cancer	
Breast Cancer	Women age 40 and over (every other year after age 40)
Cervical Cancer	Women age 20 and over

Be careful of Food Poisoning between June and September!

Food poisoning is very common during the summer and fall. Make sure to do the following to prevent infections:

- Be sure to cook food thoroughly!
- Cut back on using well water!
- Always wash your hands before eating!
- Go see a doctor right away if you have symptoms of food poisoning!



Other Events & Information

○Machi No Hiroba (Town Square) Events

Morning Market:

8/2 (Sun), 8/9 (Sun), 8/12 (Wed), 8/16 (Sun), 8/23(Sun),
8/30 (Sun) 6:00~7:00

Flea Market:

8/9 (Sun) 9:00~16:00

Inquiries: City Commerce Division TEL 22-5111

○Yamagata Symphony Orchestra Yonezawa Concert

When: 8/21 (Fri) 18:30~

Where: Denko No Mori Okitama Bunka Hall

Cost: Reserved Seating- 4,000 yen

Non-Reserved Seating- 3,000 yen, Students- 1,500 yen
(500 yen extra for tickets bought at-the-door)

Tickets Available at: Onuma Yonezawa, Yonezawa Saty, Denko No Mori

Inquiries: Denko No Mori TEL 26-2666

○Noh Dancing and Singing

Local Noh performers will be providing a complimentary Noh dance and song performance.

When: 8/29 (Sat) 13:30~

Where: Denko No Mori Entrance Noh Stage

Cost: Free

Inquiries: Denko No Mori Okitama Bunka Hall TEL26-8001

○Meiji University Mandolin Club Yonezawa Concert

When: 8/29 (Sat) 18:30~

Where: Yonezawa Shimin Bunka Kaikan

Cost: 2,500 yen (All non-reserved seating)

Tickets Available at: Shimin Bunka Kaikan, Onuma Yonezawa, Yonezawa Saty

Inquiries: Yonezawa Shimin Bunka Kaikan TEL 23-8510

Yonezawa City International Relations Association (YIRA) Information

YIRA Café



If you are interested in international exchange or want to chat with people in different languages including Japanese, English, Chinese or Korean, bring your friends along and join us for a cup of tea!

When: 8/19 (Wed) 14:30~16:00

Where: City Hall 7F Meeting Room 701

Cost: Free

Be a Volunteer at the YIRA Tent!

YIRA will be having a tent at the Yonezawa City Lifetime Learning Festival this year. We will be introducing different foods, games, and cultures of the world at our tent. We are looking for volunteers who can come help us make the tent a success!

When: October 10th (Sat) 9:30~17:00

October 11th (Sun) 10:00~16:00

Where: Parking Lot of Yonezawa City Gymnasium

Sign Ups/Inquiries: YIRA Office

TEL 22-5111 Email: yira@omn.ne.jp

Home Page: <http://www.omn.ne.jp/~yira>

If you would like to be put on our mailing list, or if you have any feedback for the newsletter, please contact us at:

Civic Exchange Section

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