



January 18, 2026

Dear Old Fort Supporter,

As someone once wisely noted, "Small towns are shaped by the land that sustains them and by the people who triumph over adversity." With this inspiring thought in mind, I'm thrilled to share that Old Fort's beloved Trails and Trains Festival is returning for its fourth year! Mark your calendars for an exciting weekend from Thursday, June 4th, to Saturday, June 6th.

The Trails and Trains Festival is a vibrant celebration of our town and region's extraordinary heritage, showcasing the beauty of outdoor adventure, the rich history of railroads, and the incredible spirit of our community. This annual event is a wonderful gathering place for families, outdoor enthusiasts, local artists, and businesses. Join us for a fantastic weekend filled with live bluegrass music, captivating art, delicious food from local vendors, guided trail tours, and engaging exhibits that highlight our history, nature, and trains. Last year, the festival brought a delightful boost to our local businesses! We were pleased to expand opportunities for visitors to join in demonstrations, scenic hikes, informative talks, and shopping in our charming vendor village and downtown shops. Many businesses celebrated their highest sales ever, thanks to the energy and excitement generated by the festival.

In 2025, we were incredibly fortunate to host an internationally renowned athlete and author as our keynote speaker, along with thrilling performances from nationally recognized bluegrass acts. The joy and camaraderie that emerged during these events truly united our community and visitors as we celebrated our resilience, natural beauty, and shared spirit. We would love for you to join us on this journey! Please connect with us through our social media channels and website to read reviews of past events, receive announcements, and get updates on this year's festival:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OldFortTrailsAndTrains>
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/oldfortfest/>
- Website: [oldfortfest.com](http://oldfortfest.com)

As we strive to make each festival even better, your support is invaluable to us! Your contributions will enhance the event experience and benefit our local businesses. Sponsorship funds are essential for logistics, entertainment, keynote speakers, and programming, allowing us to keep the festival accessible while celebrating our local culture and growth.

We invite you to review our sponsorship packet and explore how you can support us in 2026!

Here's to joyful adventures ahead!

With gratitude,

Chuck Aldridge  
Trails and Trains Festival Director  
828-460-3438  
[trailsandtrainsfest@gmail.com](mailto:trailsandtrainsfest@gmail.com)



June 4 - 6, 2026

## 2026 Old Fort Trails & Trains Festival

### Sponsorship Opportunities

#### CATAWBA FALLS TRAIL SPONSOR- \$5000

- Exclusivity as main event sponsor
- Feature as the most prominent logo on festival banners at prime venues throughout the festival weekend
- Feature as a year round sponsor with logo and link to your website on festival webpage, [www.oldfortfest.com](http://www.oldfortfest.com).
- Naming rights on 2 specific festival themed events/activities. Example: Kids' Zone sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_, Friday Night Music sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_, Train Expo sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_, Key Note event sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_.
- Ability to customize mentions in press releases, social media, interviews, public discussions and print publications.
- Recognition in promo video to be shared with local media outlets, social media, and in face to face meetings with trails and trains related organizations such as McDowell Trails Association, Destination McDowell, etc.
- Mentions on radio advertisements related to the festival to be aired on WNCW , Big Foot Radio, 103.9 and other stations that become available.
- Complimentary booth at festival for your group that can be donated to a group of your choice

#### GATEWAY TRAILS SPONSOR- \$2500

- Level specific company logo recognition on [www.oldfortfest.com](http://www.oldfortfest.com)
- Level specific company logo recognition on festival banners at prime venues throughout the festival weekend
- Naming rights on specific trail-themed event/activity: Example: Kids' Zone Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_, Key Note Event Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_, Train Expo Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_, etc Music Events Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_
- Complimentary Booth at Vendor Village on Saturday, June 7th
- Mentions on radio, interviews, public discussions and print publications
- Individual social media shout outs and logo placements

#### HEARTBREAK RIDGE TRAIL SPONSOR- \$1,000

- Level specific company logo recognition on [www.oldfortfest.com](http://www.oldfortfest.com)
- Level specific company logo recognition on festival banners at prime venues throughout the festival weekend
- Naming rights on your choice of guided hike: Point Lookout Sunrise Hike Sponsored By \_\_\_\_\_, Birding Hike Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_, Forest Disruption Hike
- Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_, etc
- Social media shout outs with other sponsors of the same level



### **POINT LOOKOUT TRAIL SPONSOR- \$500**

- Level specific company logo recognition on [www.oldfortfest.com](http://www.oldfortfest.com)
- Level specific company logo recognition on festival banners at prime venues throughout the festival weekend
- Naming rights on festival events- Examples: Speaker Panel Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_, Henry Hiker Scavenger Hunt Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_, Kids Zone Climbing Wall Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_, Fly Fishing Demonstration Sponsored by \_\_\_\_\_, etc Social media shout outs with other sponsors of the same level

## **BE A FRIEND OF OLD FORT TRAILS AND TRAINS FESTIVAL**

### **FOOTPRINT FAMILY or SMALL BUSINESS - \$250**

- Friend of Old Fort Trails and Trains Fest Gift
- Company/Name recognition on [www.oldfortfest.com](http://www.oldfortfest.com)
- Company/Name recognition on event banners throughout the festival weekend  
Opportunity to display promotional materials at the information booth

### **MILEMARKER COUPLE/INDIVIDUAL- \$100**

- Friend of Old Fort Trails and Trains Fest Gift
- Name recognition on [www.oldfortfest.com](http://www.oldfortfest.com)

### **TRAIL CREW In-Kind Sponsorships**

- In-kind contributions such as food, beverages, printing, equipment, or volunteer support are welcome.  
*Recognition will be based on the value of the contribution and may include logo placement, program listing, and on-site signage.*
- Sponsorship funds support festival logistics, entertainment, keynote speakers and programming opportunities. Contributions ensure the event remains accessible and continues to celebrate local culture, creativity, resources and growth.

Thank you for your consideration and continued investment in the Old Fort community! Please reach out to Trails and Trains Festival Chair, Chuck Adridge, or any committee members with any questions or potential collaborations at 828-460-3438 or [trailsandtrainsfest@gmail.com](mailto:trailsandtrainsfest@gmail.com).