



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

APRIL 5, 2011

FOR INFO: Lorraine Dion, 302-734-7511 or ldion@visitdover.com

(Photos available upon request.)

**78th ANNUAL DOVER DAYS FESTIVAL SET FOR HISTORIC DOVER, DE
MAY 6-8 WITH A SALUTE TO FIRST STATE HISTORY AND FUN!**

DOVER, DE -- For the past 78 years, people from all over the Mid-Atlantic region adopt Delaware's Capital City -- Dover -- as their honorary state capital and join in the celebration of the annual Dover Days Festival, set this year for May 6-8. And, after 78 years, festival admission and parking are still free of charge!

The three-day festival celebrating history, heritage and First State fun kicks off on the evening of Friday, May 6 at 411 Legislative Avenue in an open-air park surrounded by shade trees and historic buildings including the Old State House, built in 1791. The following are Friday night's events:

- Three-day Civil War Encampment begins featuring the 2nd Delaware Regiment Volunteers. Campsite candlelight tours, drills, open-fire cooking demonstrations, weaponry and more;
- Judged Car Show with 25 large trophies and 150 commemorative dash plaques;
- "Tourism Gives Back" outdoor oldies concert featuring The Honeycombs;
- Carnival rides and activities for children;
- Corn Hole Tournament, featuring 32 teams competing for cash awards; and
- Guided lantern tour with historic interpreters of Dover's Green.

Saturday's events kick off with a costumed pet parade featuring cash awards ranging from \$10 to \$50 and ribbons, followed by the City of Dover's largest parade featuring Delaware Governor Jack and First Lady Carla Markell, dressed in Colonial finery and transported by horse and carriage, as the grand marshals. The following are some of Saturday's features:

- 200+ artisans, crafters, home and trade show, information and food vendors;
- Tours of the Old State House, John Bell House, Woodburn (the Governor's House) and Hall House (the Governor's guest house);
- Close to 20 Colonial and Victorian artisans demonstrating age-old crafts such as blacksmithing, lace bobbin-making, wood-working, spinning, miniature boat building, silhouette cutting and tile-making;
- Kids Zone featuring chalk mural, skating on a synthetic ice rink, water gun games, bungee jumping trampoline, carnival rides, face-painting, sand art and moon bounces;

-- more --

2-2-2

- Delaware celebrity peach pie eating competition and a children's hula-hoop contest with cash awards; a visit from Mother Goose telling nursery rhymes to toddlers; plus a Colonial musician with a wagonload of historic instruments. A barbershop quartet will stroll and sing on The Green, named among America's Top 10 Public Places in 2009 by the American Planning Association;
- Take action-packed ride in a modern "monster truck" or take a step back in time with steam car rides around The Green as they chug-a-lug along;
- Enjoy the animal show by the Brandywine Zookeepers;
- See Civil War era musicians and dancers;
- Kids carnival rides and a home and trade show for parents;
- Full slate of entertainment at the Schwartz Center for the Arts including the nationally-known Joe Baione Jazz Trio, Centerpoint Christian Rock and Jazz Band; Twilight Ballet and Children's Theater of Dover; and
- The Dover Symphony Orchestra's Dover Days concert Saturday evening.

Sunday's events will include:

- Final day of the Civil War encampment activities;
- Special church services at the historic Christ Church; and
- Delaware Antiques Show and Sale at Spence's Bazaar.

Special weekend lodging packages are available starting at \$65 per night. For a complete schedule of entertainment and lodging packages, visit the festival's official website at www.doverdaysfestival.com or call Kent County Tourism, producers of the event, at 800-233-5368.

###