

## Fun Stuff for Kids at The Berkshire Blueberry and Books Festival

Preparations are under way for the 11th Annual Blueberry & Books Festival on July 19, 2025, at The Berkshire Free Library and Fire Company grounds. The festival is a great event that brings people from far and wide to celebrate our local blueberries and all the library has to offer our community. It truly is a community effort with vendors and local organizations offering a variety of things from food to crafts, artwork and music, and children's activities.

This year we have an event that will be sure to please and may bring back some memories for some from the former Berkshire Fire Department Field Days. We will be having a kiddie parade for ages 12 and younger. Lineup will take place by the Kids Booth on the south side of the Fire Station at 10:00am. The parade will start at 10:30. The route will be "around the block" heading north on driveway, turning right onto the sidewalk along Jewitt Hill Road and right again to follow the sidewalk along Route 38 to finish in front of The Berkshire Fire Station. To participate just show up dressed in your favorite blueberry themed outfit or as your favorite book character. No motorized transport of any kind please. All participants will receive a goody bag. There will also be prizes awarded for the Funniest, Most Creative, and Most Original.

Another first at the Festival will be Horseback Rides provided by ACES Stables from Homer, NY. We are excited to have them join us this year and look forward to watching many children make happy memories riding a horse. We will also have a balloon artist roaming the festival grounds to provide free balloon animals. Returning favorites activities from past years are Face Painting by Jenn Willard, Kiddie games, Free Make & Take Crafts, a Scavenger Hunt, Bounce House, and guess the number of "bookworms" in the jar.

The festival is a fun event that helps to fund the library. Our hope is that everyone who comes can enjoy some good food, good times, and go home knowing it was all for a good cause.

-Lisa Michaud