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WHAT TO EXPECT AT CHURCHILL DOWNS SEPTEMBER MEET

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Friday, Sept. 8, 2023) – Get ready for an exciting September because Churchill Downs is gearing up for an action-packed autumn with four unmissable events on the horizon: Twilight Thursdays every Thursday starting Sept. 14; Road to the 150th Kentucky Derby kick off on Sept. 16; Downs After Dark on Sept. 23; and Family Adventure Day on Oct. 1.

Twilight Thursdays – Sept. 14, 21 and 28

Get ready for racing under the Twin Spires with Twilight Thursdays from 5-8 p.m. (all times Eastern) every Thursday in The Grove during September Meet. Gates open at 4 p.m.

Highlights for Twilight Thursdays include **\$2 select domestic beers, live local music and food trucks from vendors Seafood Lady, Red Top Hot Dogs and more.**

Road to the Kentucky Derby – Saturday, Sept. 16

The anticipation is building as Churchill Downs hosts the “Road to the 150th Kentucky Derby” on Sept. 16. This kickoff event will feature two stakes races that are part of the Road to the Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks: the Iroquois and the Pocahontas. Horse racing enthusiasts and novices alike can witness the excitement as these magnificent 2-year-olds race towards Derby glory.

As a special treat for guests, Churchill Downs is offering a pop-up Kentucky Derby experience. This unique photo opportunity provides Derby fans with the chance to capture unforgettable memories with the engraved 149th Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks trophies before they are given to this year’s Kentucky Derby and Kentucky Oaks winners.

Downs After Dark: Bourbon and Boots – Saturday, Sept. 23

Music City meets Derby City with the perfect combination of music, bourbon, fashion and horse racing. It’s “Downs After Dark: Bourbon and Boots.” Dust off your cowboy boots, grab your finest bourbon and join us for Louisville’s biggest “Honky-tonk.”

The theme for the evening is inspired by the vibrant culture of Nashville, ensuring an unforgettable night of entertainment, live music and, of course, thrilling horse racing. Whether you’re into the classics or something more cutting edge, dress like you are ready to rock the front row. Hats and boots are strongly encouraged.

Highlights for Downs After Dark: Bourbon and Boots include iconic **Nashville-inspired murals; Sherwin-Williams Sponsored Live Art; a mechanical bull; a Tootsie’s-inspired photo booth; an Old Forester Cocktail Demonstration; and live music from DJ Stingy and the Tim Cote Band with special guest Lana Scott.**

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Family Adventure Day – Sunday, Oct. 1

For families looking for a day of fun and excitement, Churchill Downs has two dates you'll want to circle on your calendar: Oct. 1 and Oct. 29 (during the Fall Meet). October 1 kicks off Family Adventure Day with a spectacular blend of family-friendly activities and heart-pounding horse racing. It's the perfect opportunity for kids and adults alike to enjoy a day of fun under the Twin Spires.

Highlights for Family Adventure Day include **face painting; inflatables; a bubble station; music; an arts and craft station; and a Kona ice truck.**

Churchill Downs invites you to be a part of these thrilling events that capture the essence of Kentucky's rich horse racing tradition. Whether you're a seasoned racing enthusiast or just looking for a fantastic day out with the family, these events promise something for everyone.

The 11th annual September Meet at Churchill Downs will run for 14 days from Sept. 14-Oct. 1. After the racing circuit shifts to Keeneland for the majority of October, the 21-day Fall Meet at Churchill Downs will be staged from Oct. 29-Nov. 26

For ticket information, event schedules, and more, visit Churchill Downs' official website at <https://www.churchilldowns.com/tickets/>.

ABOUT CHURCHILL DOWNS RACETRACK

Churchill Downs Racetrack ("CDRT"), the world's most legendary racetrack, has been the home of The Kentucky Derby, the longest continually held annual sporting event in the United States, since 1875. Located in Louisville, CDRT features a series of themed race days during Derby Week, including the Kentucky Oaks, and conducts Thoroughbred horse racing during three race meets in the Spring, September, and the Fall. CDRT is located on 175 acres and has a one-mile dirt track, a 7/8-mile turf track, a stabling area, and provides seating for approximately 60,000 guests. The stable area has barns sufficient to accommodate 1,400 horses and a 114-room dormitory for backstretch personnel. CDRT also has a year-round simulcast wagering facility. www.ChurchillDowns.com.

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