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WKU to host blacksmiths with Hammer-In

AARON MUDD amudd@bgdailynews.com 1 hr ago



Cameron Lewis of Bowling Green heats a steel rod in his propane forge during the second annual Hammer-In blacksmithing celebration on Saturday, Oct. 7, 2017, at the Kentucky Museum. (Austin Anthony/photo@bgdailynews.com)

Austin Anthony

Some of Kentucky's best knife makers, gunsmiths and metalworkers will come together at Western Kentucky University this weekend for its third annual Hammer-In.

"It's a celebration of the traditions and crafts of blacksmithing," said Charles Hurst, an exhibits technician at the Kentucky Museum, which will host the event Saturday.

The event is organized by the Kentucky Forge Council, a group that was formed by blacksmiths who participated in the first successful Hammer-In two years ago.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., the grounds of the museum will host forge demonstrations, aluminum pours and a narrative stage where demonstrators will answer questions about their craft.

The event is free and parking is available in the Kentucky Street lot, which will be marked with Hammer-In signs.

Hurst, president of the Kentucky Forge Council, said the goal of the event is to pass on traditions to the next generation and help preserve metal working crafts.



Along with demonstrations, the event allows guests to get their hands dirty by taking forging classes. This year's classes are full.

He said his group has 30 active members and people interested in joining can sign up at the event Saturday. Despite being only a few years old, he said the event has already succeeded in attracting members, including students from WKU and Southcentral Kentucky Community the Technical College.

“We feel like we’re getting through to some of the younger folks that want to learn some hand skills,” he said.

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Hammer-In celebrates blacksmithing at WKU



Aaron Mudd

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