



For More Information:
Chris Chance
Director of Ridgeland Recreation & Parks
601-853-2011
Christopher.Chance@ridgelandms.org

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**14th ANNUAL KIDFEST! RIDGELAND
PRESENTED BY BLUE CROSS & BLUE SHIELD OF MISSISSIPPI
APRIL 9-10 & APRIL 16-17, 2016**

Ridgeland, Miss. – Four fun-filled days. KidFest! Ridgeland, presented by Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi, promises to deliver more fun and flexibility than ever before with new attractions and the return of some crowd favorites! The City of Ridgeland Department of Recreation & Parks and Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Mississippi will host KidFest! Ridgeland for four days over two weekends (April 9-10 and April 16-17). As always KidFest! Ridgeland will feature a variety of shows, interactive activities and lots of other attractions which are all included in the price of admission.

NEW THIS YEAR, Wild about Monkeys. When a movie producer needs a performing baboon more than likely they will call **Kevin and Martina Keith**, the hosts of **“Wild about Monkeys.”** You have probably seen their baboons with Tom Cruise in *Rock of Ages*, Steve Carell in *Evan Almighty* and one of the best Super Bowl commercials of all time. Combining their skill as trainers and the instincts of baboons, Kevin, Martina and their baboons delight and amaze audiences with a fun, educational and very entertaining show for the whole family. (Appearing both weekends – four shows on Saturdays and three shows on Sundays).

A CROWD FAVORITE RETURNS for 2016, Skin & Bones Comedy Circus. A unique presentation of trained dogs and potbellied pigs whose human friends present a very entertaining kid-tested, parent-approved show of comedy and fun. (Appearing both weekends – four shows on Saturdays and three shows on Sundays).

NEW, Mutts Gone Nuts. This show unleashes havoc and hilarity as the mischievous mutts match wits with their human companions. More than a dozen amazing rescued dogs leave their audience howling for more! (First weekend only – four shows on Saturday and three shows on Sunday).

KIDFEST! RIDGELAND FESTIVAL FAVORITE, The Fearless Flores Family, will return Saturday, April 16 and Sunday, April 17 with their daredevil motorcycle stunts in the Globe of Death that impressed the judges and America on NBC TV’s hit show, *America’s Got Talent*.

ANOTHER EXCITING NEW SHOW! Gator Boys present Scales, Tails and Teeth. See Jimmy Riffle’s new road show. Along with his crew who are all featured on the hit Animal Planet show, Gator Boys, Jimmy will offer an up close and personal view of some of the South’s most loved and feared reptiles. Watch as he and his crew handle these wild animals and perform dangerous stunts and capture techniques. (Second weekend only – three shows on Saturday and three shows on Sunday).

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Children and adult festival guests will have the opportunity to dress up as frogs, fish, mushrooms or rainbow twirlers and be the featured performers for The Nylon Zoo.

Following a trip to The Nylon Zoo, take a ride on the carousel, a train, a pony or a carnival ride. Also, don't miss the chance to view the world's smallest horse, only at KidFest! Ridgeland.

The Temporary Tattoo booth is always a festival favorite, as children get their faces, arms and legs decorated with festival designs. With Kid Karaoke, children can perform their favorite songs on a kid-sized stage. Robert Day, Mississippi's favorite magician, will show families how to perform magic tricks at The Magic Tent.

Children can use their imagination and creativity to become clowns and ringmasters at the Backyard Circus.

For boys and girls of all ages Touch-A-Truck will have the opportunity to be up close and personal with large trucks and equipment provided by the Ridgeland Department of Recreation & Parks.

Gates will open at 9:00 a.m. on Saturdays and at noon on Sundays. The festival closes at 6:30 p.m. each day. Admission is \$12 at the gate, but coupons for \$2/guest savings off the regular admission price are available at www.kidfestridgeland.com. All performances, activities and attractions are included in the admission price. For children younger than two, admission is free.

KidFest! Ridgeland has been named a Family Favorite by *Parents & Kids Magazine* and was recently named "Top Twenty Event" by the Southeast Tourism Society.

For more information on KidFest! Ridgeland, see www.kidfestridgeland.com or contact the Ridgeland Recreation and Parks Department at 601-853-2011.

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