



Garden Grove Strawberry Festival Association

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FIVE FAMOUS CHARACTERS WILL CHARM THE CHILDREN AT THE 59th ANNUAL GARDEN GROVE STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL

Snoopy, Two Despicable Me3 Minions, Wiley the Wolf and Emoji Movie's Poop Daddy

GARDEN GROVE, CA (May 11, 2017) – Five famous characters will be on hand to charm the children at the 59th annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival on May 28th, 2017. Knott's Berry Farms' Snoopy will return for his eighth year to thrill the special needs families on Special Kids Day and will return to ride in the Saturday, May 28th parade. This will be the second year the festival parade will have two Minions from *Despicable Me* and Wiley the Wolf from Great Wolf Lodge. The new addition is the popular Poop Daddy from the new soon-to-be-released *Emoji* movie.

Instead of riding in the parade, this year the two Minions will be on festival grounds from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. near the Courtyard Center ready to have their photos taken with kids of all ages.



The festival will be held Memorial Day Weekend Friday, May 26th through Monday, May 29th, 2017. Friday hours are 1:00 p.m. to 10 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Monday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Admission is free. The four-day event, which is the second largest city festival in the Western United States, will be held at the Village Green between Main Street and Euclid Avenue in downtown Garden Grove. Last year's attendance was over 300,000.

SNOOPY

Knott's Berry Farm is celebrating its 30th year and Snoopy has been around for most of them. He is a big attraction with many rides and adventures bearing his name. **Camp Snoopy**, the park's six-acre wonderland for kids, opened July 1, 1983 as the official home of Snoopy and the Peanuts gang. It is the first area of **any** amusement park designed solely for kids under 12. This year he'll be wearing his special patriotic gear as he greets his many fans at the parade.

DESPICABLE ME3 MINIONS

Illumination, who brought audiences *Despicable Me* and the biggest animated hits of 2013 and 2015, *Despicable Me 2* and *Minions*, continues the adventures of Gru, Lucy, their adorable daughters—Margo, Edith and Agnes—and the Minions in *Despicable Me 3*. Joining Steve Carell and Kristen Wiig in the new movie is Emmy, Tony and Grammy Award winner Trey Parker who voices the role of villain Balthazar Bratt, a former child star who's grown up to become obsessed with the character he played in the '80s, and proves to be Gru's most formidable nemesis to date. The film will be released in theaters on June 30, 2017.



WILEY THE WOLF

At Great Wolf Lodge Wiley the Wolf is considered leader of the pack because he is outgoing, hopeful, courageous, exuberant and charismatic and because he leads by example. Kids may



like to know that Wiley's birthday is February 4th, his favorite color is green and his favorite sport is hiking.



THE EMOJI MOVIE'S POOP DADDY

The parade will feature Poop Daddy who is voiced in the Emoji film by Patrick Stewart. This new animated comedy takes place in Textopolis, a world inside a smartphone that's inhabited by various emojis. There, an emoji named Gene (voiced by T.J. Miller) is ashamed that he has multiple facial expressions while his colleagues only have one each, and he embarks on a quest to be like everyone else. James Corden, Ilana Glazer, Jennifer Coolidge, and Maya Rudolph also lend their voices to this film from Sony Pictures Animation. The Emoji Movie is opening at Regal Cinemas Garden Grove Stadium on July 28th.

Joining the characters in the parade will be 10 marching bands from local high schools including Garden Grove High School, La Quinta, Santiago, Bolsa Grand, Rancho Alamitos, plus Sierra Preparatory School, McGarvin Intermediate School, Soundwaves Homeschool Band, Norwalk All-City Youth Band, and St. Columban Catholic School Drum & Kazoo Corps. And returning are two colorful equestrians from Rancho Arroyo and Rancho Jalisco.

In addition to the Theme Grand Marshal Randy Barth and Celebrity Grand Marshal Burt Ward will be fourteen other celebrities to be honored in the parade. They include Mekia Cox, Kate Flannery, Raphael Alejandro, Alicia Willis, Dalila Bela, Trinitee Stokes, Tom Choi, Grace Kaufman, Daniel DiMaggio, Ryan Ochoa, Beth Hall, Bruce Saloman, Brandon Russell, Mary Scheer and California Miss Outstanding Teen Jenna Tower.

The 59th Annual Garden Grove Strawberry Festival is a non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds for the community. This annual event has brought in over \$6 million for local charities since its inception in 1958. Last year profits of \$150,000 will be donated to local charities who apply for funds. The Festival also annually benefits many non-profit groups who set up festival food booths and collectively raise over \$100,000 more for their charities. The board also awards scholarships to local school students and underwrites parade participation for school bands. And annually, the festival treats over 2,000 special needs kids to a day of free rides and food.

For more information, visit www.strawberryfestival.org

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