

Woolly Worm Festival Draws 20,000 to Banner Elk

Written by

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Ideal weather in the High Country helped swell attendance at the Woolly Worm Festival today to 20,000 people. Tomorrow's finale will draw close to 15,000. The grand prize in the Woolly Worm race was copped by Armstrong, raced by Olivia King of Raleigh. Olivia walked away with \$1,075.00 for Armstrong's stellar performance.

The festival will continue tomorrow from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Along with woolly races and cash prizes, there will be crafts, food, games and music.

Starting at 8 a.m. today, the 2007 Woolly Worm Woad Wace is kicking off at Avery County High School. The race ends at the Lees-McRae College track in Banner Elk. The entry fee is \$25 in advance and \$30 today. The Wace is a 10-mile footrace that leads runners through Newland and across Hickory Nut Gap at the peak of the autumn foliage season in Banner Elk.