

Grab your lederhosen and a good beer — Oktoberfest is here!

Authentic German food, beer and entertainment will be on tap for the annual Oktoberfest, with festivities set for Saturday, Oct. 3. German bands, Scandinavian dancers and Polka playing accordions are just parts of a full day offering entertainment for the entire family.

Last year, more than 700 people celebrated with authentic German food — bratwurst, sauerkraut, pretzels, apple strudel, German chocolate and more — along with beer and lots of entertainment. Gather with the crowd to watch the fleet-footed (use your imagination) Weiner Dog Races in the afternoon, with awards handed out to the top Dachshunds in several categories. In addition, there will be three chances to hear Oktoberfest favorite the Alpine Echoes Band, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m., 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. and 5 to 6 p.m. Other entertainment will include Sam's Polka Gems, the Tirolean Dancers, the Scandia Dancers and a booth from Atlas Cider of Bend will be selling cider.

The fun starts at 8:30 a.m. with a pancake breakfast hosted by the Florence Kiwanis Club until 11 a.m.

There will be fun activities for the little ones in a Kinder-corner, until 4 p.m., including balloon tying and face painting. During the entire festival participants can enjoy German beer, brats, plus local wines and other delicious authentic German food served up by local nonprofit organizations.

Bring the whole family and meet friends you've never met before, or dress up in your best German attire. So dust off that lederhosen and join the fun!

The event is hosted by the Florence Area Chamber of Commerce and will end at 7 p.m..

