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NH Ski Areas offer Fourth of July Fun *Winter destinations host summer celebrations*

Those looking for a unique Fourth of July experience in the Granite State will be able to find plenty mid-summer celebrations at many of the state's winter destinations.

Many of New Hampshire's ski resorts also happen to be some of the state's best locations for outdoor family summer fun. While there's an endless amount of activities during weekdays throughout the summer, many of NH's resorts host events on the weekends, and Independence Day will be no exception this summer.

Bretton Woods for instance will be hosting its 8th Annual Salute to Freedom. From Friday, July 1 through Monday July 4, families and visitors will salute American soldiers over a four-day celebration at the Omni Mount Washington Resort. Visitors will enjoy musical performances, barbecues, beverage tastings as well as a pie eating contest and the annual Firecracker 5K Run.

On Saturday, July 2, Waterville Valley will hold its Independence Day Family Carnival. The annual carnival will be held from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Town Square where there will be games, t-shirt tie-dying, a bounce house and obstacle course as well as a cash barbecue. Live music will continue after the carnival with Fatha Groove until 9 p.m.

If you're looking for something even more different, the Gunstock Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, July 2 and Sunday, July 3 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day at Gunstock Mountain in Gilford, NH. The array of arts and crafts will be accompanied by live music and food. Better yet, both parking and admission are free.

For a unique Independence Weekend meal experience, head to Mount Sunapee for the resort's Lobster and Clam Bake. Experience this traditional New England Clam Bake complete with littleneck clams, lobster and corn-on-the-cob on the

patio of the Sunapee Lodge with live entertainment. Dinner includes a trip to the summit on the Sunapee Express Quad chairlift.

For those needing more adventure, on Sunday, July 3 Loon Mountain is set to host the Loon Mountain Race. Named the "Most Competitive Hillclimb" by Runner's World Magazine, this race forces athletes to climb 2,100 vertical feet in less than six miles. This year, the race will play host to the USATF Mountain Running & Collegiate Mountain Running National Championships, with the top 6 men and 4 women advancing to the World Mountain Running Championships, making this not just a great race to compete in but to be a spectator at as well.

For more information on all the other great events and activities at ski areas around New Hampshire this summer visit www.SkiNH.com.

Ski NH is the statewide association representing 34 alpine and cross country resorts in New Hampshire. For more information on ski areas, vacation planning, and updated winter events at Ski NH resorts, call Ski NH at 603.745.9396 or visit the Ski NH website at www.SkiNH.com. For statewide travel info, visit www.VisitNH.gov.