

Short Version



The 15th annual Umoja / Unity Festival will take place August 12 & 13 in downtown Johnson City. As always this premier event will include great music, African drumming and dancing, the ever popular Saturday parade, The Zulu Connection stilt walkers, storytelling, food and craft vendors, a free medical screening, children carnival, and some new items to enhance the festival.

This year the inaugural 5K Unity Race will take place on Friday evening, We Run Events are coordinating this run and walk event and the tree streets is the course. We will have a good variety of show cars that will be on display. These will be in competition for prizes and trophies. To get in out of the heat we will have a film festival with the theme of unity running throughout the films.

Also this year our second stage is dedicated to the young adult and youth. Many new activities will take place there such as Kings of the Black Top; a 3 on 3 basketball tournament, a large soccer demonstrations, corn hole tournament, a chicken wing eating contest, and a glamorous hair show. That stage would not be complete without music so look for Praise teams, Dance groups, the group Mountain Dubs, and Saturday night headliner Reezon, a Reggae band.

As always Umoja features some of the country's finest local talent as well as nationally acclaimed recording artist and this year is no exception. On hand for Friday is the talented Amethyst Philips, the Delta Playboys, nationally renowned Shirley Murdock will be with us along with gold record holders Zapp. Back again by popular demand is the comedian and MC; M.C. Lightfoot who will entertain both days. A terrific gospel fest is being lined up for Saturday afternoon with soloist and mass choirs and a special and unusual praise team called Party Praise.

Local favorite 4.0 will be with us and from Ohio the R & B sound of Chocolate Buttermilk will entertain and the headliner for Saturday is the high energy group Confunksun. The ETSU/Umoja Storytelling Fest will feature great storytelling taking place from the cool gazebo in the middle of downtown with storytellers from the international venue.

Please visit our website www.umojaajc.org to get the registration information on the 5k run, car show, 3 on 3 tournament, wing eating contest, hair show and corn hole competition. Also you can reach us at 423.426.2851 or 423.943.9162 or visit us on face book. Look for more on Umoja in the coming days.