



KENTUCKY AGATE HUNTS

Tuesday, April 23, Wednesday, April 24, and Thursday, April 25, 2024

15th annual Agate, Gem, & Mineral Show
Friday, April 26, Saturday, April 27, & Sunday, April 28

32nd annual Mountain Mushroom Festival
Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28

City of Irvine, Irvine City Hall, 101 Chestnut Street, Irvine, KY 40336

Mountain Mushroom Festival: 606 723-2554

Email: mushroomfestival@irvineonline.net Website: www.mountainmushroomfest.org

Estill County is an Appalachian rural area in southeast Kentucky where the “Bluegrass Kisses the Mountains.” There is an abundance of minerals such as iron ore. Millions of years ago agates were formed by minerals filling a cavity in a host rock, creating the “gem of the hills.” The Kentucky agate is prized by collectors world-wide for its bright red bands and other spectacular colors. The rare agate has only been found in Estill and a few other surrounding counties. Agate became Kentucky’s official state rock by the Kentucky legislature in 2000.

General Information:

1. Application forms (one name per application) and payment **MUST** be received prior to the hunts in order to make a reservation. Once the registration is accepted an email will be sent to confirm the reservation. A limited number will be accepted per day.
2. Must register in advance to participate.
3. Refunds can’t be made if a reservation is cancelled.
4. All hunt locations have rough terrain in places and those hunting the agates will be in and out of the creek. However, the rough terrain locations are challenging, ranging from moderate to extreme. In addition, there will likely be some hiking up and down hills to get to the hunting site.
5. The agate hunts are in a very rural area on private property. There are no bathroom facilities and cell phone service is very limited.
6. Local agate hunters will be the guides. Do not wander away from the group without telling the local guide. Hunters are expected to stay in the area approved by the local property owner.
7. Children must be accompanied by an adult who is willing to accept responsibility for their safety, liability, and behavior. The rough terrain hunts will be open only to those youth who are 16 years of age and older.
8. The Southeast KY Gem, Mineral, & Fossil Club is the assisting organization.
9. Items needed for the day.
 - Appropriate clothing and wading boots.
 - Bag and or bucket to hold rocks, safety glasses, walking pole, and digging tool such as a shovel, pick, or trowel. Whatever is picked up will have to be hand carried back to your vehicle.
 - Sack lunch, snacks, and drinks.

Registration Fee:

Moderate Terrain \$25

Rough Terrain \$25

Location to meet: Estill County Fairgrounds, 38 South Irvine Road, Irvine, KY. Turn at the Hwy 52/Hwy 89 intersection by Irvine Shell Mart onto Hwy 89. Drive a short distance and enter parking lot just past D&J Hardware. (GPS coordinates: latitude 37.68206, longitude -83.97925).

- Arrive by 9 a.m.
- Check-in with festival officers at the registration table, sign the “Acknowledgement and Assumption of Risk” form, and meet your agate hunt guide.
- Hunters will need to carpool due to limited parking space on site.
- Once on site, vehicles will be parked and hunters will walk to the creek.
- Expect to be out until middle to late afternoon as the weather allows.



**Kentucky Agate Hunts
April 23, 24 and 25, 2024**

**Mountain Mushroom Festival
Irvine, KY**

PLEASE PRINT: (Required - One Name per application)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: (Day) _____ (Evening) _____

Email: _____ Age (if under 18 years old) _____

Phone number of someone who may be reached in the event of an Emergency:

Name _____ Phone # _____

Fee: Return application form and payment (payable to): Mountain Mushroom Festival, Irvine City Hall, 101 Chestnut Street, Irvine, KY 40336.

Check date(s) and terrain.	Moderate Terrain	Rough Terrain
Tuesday, April 23 (\$25/day)	_____	or _____ = _____
Wednesday, April 24 (\$25/day)	_____	or _____ = _____
Thursday, April 25 (\$25/day)	_____	or _____ = _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

Disclaimer: I understand that there are inherent risks involved in participating in the agate hunts and that I will assume all risks and hazards incidental to such participation and I do hereby waive, release, absolve, indemnify, and agree to hold blameless the city of Irvine, organizers, supervisors, participants, and staff personnel.

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature required if under 18 years of age: _____

Office use: Date registration received _____ Cash or check/money order _____ Confirmation date _____