

PORTLAND

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Why I Love Pickathon



Pickathon is a little music festival, just a few miles southeast of my home in Portland. Although it has been churning out highlight reels of weekend experiences for 19 summers, I have only been for the past three. It's journalistically lazy to say that the reason I love Pickathon is because it is magic. But in a nutshell, I love Pickathon because it's magic.

The festival caps daily attendance to 4,500 people which given the 80 acre site at the Pendarvis Farm in Happy Valley, Oregon makes the performances feel intimate. Last night I saw singer/songwriter Courtney Marie Andrews perform in the delightfully air conditioned Lucky Barn with no more than hundred other people. Last year we were able to wiggle our way up to the front of the stage when Wilco front man Jeff Tweedy performed. We drank beers with our

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son's favorite musician Andy Furgeson of Red Yarn fame. It's hard to beat swinging on a hammock at the Woods Stage while listening to banjo tunes. On the first day of the festival this year I ran into my son's pediatrician, my optometrist, neighborhood friends, work friends, college friends, friends of friends and a couple thousand new friends.

Perhaps my favorite part of Pickathon is the family friendly atmosphere. Just because I am a mom doesn't mean I have to give up listening to good live music and the Pickathon folks totally get that. They have a kid stage set up, a circus tent staffed by the wizards from Circus Cascadia, a tree house next to the main stage and lots of exploration opportunities throughout the woods.

Pickathon is magic. I don't care if that is lazy if it's true.

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Ariel Frager



Ariel Frager is a school counselor and has a private therapy practice that specializes in treating children, adolescents and families. She lives in Portland with her husband, son, dog and kitty cat.



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