In Louisiana's Cajun Bayou, It's All About …
Festivals!

It's no secret that here in Louisiana's Cajun Bayou we know how to throw a party. Let's face it: We know our way around delicious food and our music is the kind that makes everyone want to get up and dance. We work hard, but we also like to play … and as far as we're concerned, the more, the merrier. We have festivals all year round – all of them tied to our unique culture – and there's no better way to understand who we are than to participate in one.

It all starts in the winter months. Elsewhere in the United States, those months can be somewhat gray and dull … but not here. Winter is Mardi Gras time, and we do it up right in Lafourche Parish, with 17 different parades that are all completely family-friendly. Mardi Gras is February 28 this year, but our parades begin on February 12 and continue right up until "Fat Tuesday." There are bands and floats and plenty of "throws" – those colorful beads and other goodies participants toss to the crowds that line the parade route.

It' a memorable way to launch the year, and then for the remaining months we host events that celebrate the culture, music, foods, industries and natural resources for which our region is so famous.

In April we celebrate our unique food culture at the Lockport Food Festival, and every July we host the Golden Meadow/Fourchon Tarpon Rodeo to honor our sporting heritage. We bring back the "old culture" at Le Fete des Vieux Temps, stir up 600 gallons of chicken-and-sausage and seafood gumbos at the Louisiana Gumbo Festival, and dance to plenty of Cajun music at the French Food Festival, all in October. The Louisiana Swamp Stomp Festival shines the spotlight on our talented local musicians each November, and that same month Big Boy's Main Street Cook-Off and the Thibodeauxville Fall Festival round out the fall festivals up and down the Bayou.

There's always something to celebrate, plenty of food to share and enough music to keep us dancing for hours. Come on down the Bayou!