

## Christmas in Appalachia

This time of year is near and dear to my heart. Like many of us, we cherish the time spent with family as we gather around the table and reminisce of old times. And I'm sure many of us share the sentiment that we look on at the commercialization of the season with a bit of sadness as the true meaning for Christmas sometimes seems lost in all the hustle and bustle and rushing around that is so common this time of year.

However, Christmas in Appalachia is special. Different somehow. We are surrounded with some the most spectacular beauty that God created and we marvel at the sheer wonder of a snowy white Christmas.

We have a long history here in Appalachia, and considering the economic struggles throughout the entire region (some more than others) gifts in the past always tended to be minimal. By that, I mean that they weren't focused on how much something costs, but were more personal and touching. Many gifts resemble what we see at local crafts events and at local craft making tables at summer festivals throughout Appalachia. Toys were handmade as were the decorations that covered our Christmas trees. And we can thank the Scots that settled in our region for the tradition of fruitcake. Well, I say that with a bit of sarcasm, hehe!

So this Christmas as we all gather around the table and tree to celebrate, let's be grateful for the time together and for the memories of those loved ones who are no longer with us. Let's also use this time of celebration to reflect on the many blessings bestowed upon us by God and look forward with anticipation and joy to the blessings we

are still yet to receive. For all of the issues we face here in Appalachia (and there are a lot of them), we are truly blessed to be here in this place and this time that we have been appointed.

So on behalf of our team here at the Foundation For Appalachian Advancement we'd like to wish you and yours a very Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous new year. We appreciate each and every one of you and look forward to a great 2018!

J.C. Schweingrouber, President/Director  
[jc@supportappalachia.org](mailto:jc@supportappalachia.org)



## About Us

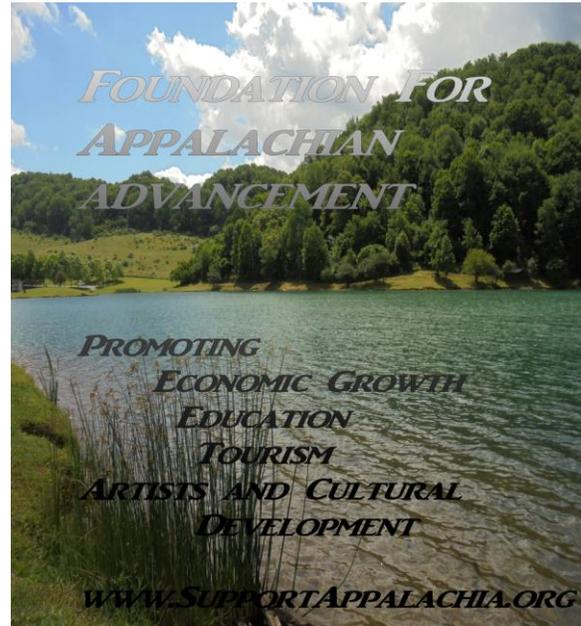
Our mission is simple. The **Foundation For Appalachian Advancement** (FAA) strives to promote educational opportunities, economic development, and the advancement of our culture, history and heritage through the arts.

We need your help to support this great region! The FAA is a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization and your donations are completely tax deductible. Absolutely 100% will go towards the FAA expenses. Operational expenses only include web site maintenance and the annual P.O. Box fee which has always been paid out of pocket. All directors/officers are volunteers, no one is salaried.

Programs we sponsor include the Appalachian Scholarship Fund and Appalachia Streaming. In addition, we are hoping to have funding available going forward to sponsor several events promoting artists throughout our region.

We can accept Credit Card and electronic donations through the PayPal button on our website or the "Old Fashioned" way by personal check. If writing a check you can mail it to P.O. Box 397, Richlands, Virginia, 24641. Any amount is greatly appreciated!

*Make  
generosity  
part of your  
growth strategy*



Visit us online:

[www.supportappalachia.org](http://www.supportappalachia.org)

<https://www.facebook.com/supportappalachia/>

Directors:

Melinda Elswick, Tazewell County, VA  
Dr. Gary R. Stratton, Wise County, VA  
James Hibbitts, Wise County, VA  
Dr. Ernie Benko, Norton, VA  
Adam Mason, Letcher County, KY  
J.C. Schweingrouber, Tazewell County, VA

Foundation For Appalachian Advancement  
P.O. Box 397  
Richlands, VA 24641

**Thanks for your support  
and generous donation! We  
greatly appreciate it!**