

What Does it Take to Pull Off Pioneer Days?

- Planning for the 150th Pioneer Days started about seven years ago. Many ideas for the big celebration were thrown around over those years. They also had a series of steins you could purchase. The first stein depicted St. Michael's Church!
- The Pioneer Committee is made up of 3 members of the Lions Club and 3 members of the Firemen. They serve a 3 year term. They meet about once a month in the year leading up to Pioneer and almost once a week in the summer months. The committee members basically use their vacation days from their job the week of Pioneer.
- Pioneer setup officially begins on Labor Day, but other projects are being worked on before that. For instance, a group of ladies painted the walls and steps of the restrooms. The restrooms used at Pioneer were built by local volunteers over the past 10 years.
- The Pioneer volunteers wanted to make it clear how vital the sponsors (local businesses) are to the success of Pioneer Days. They not only donate money and their time, they also allow the disruption of their business during Pioneer (which can be said for many residents, as well).
- One of the most uncertain aspects of this year's Pioneer Days were the rides. There were a lot less ride companies after the pandemic and the company we used to work with couldn't do it because of staffing. That company, though, helped find a new one out of Columbia City, Indiana, and we were very fortunate. Note: there have been rave reviews of the rides this year!
- The Golden Drawing was new this year, awarding \$150,000. They didn't know if it would take all summer to sell the tickets. They were sold out in 10 days!
- This was the first year they had fireworks at Pioneer...and they were spectacular!
- It was also noted how everyone comes together to make Pioneer Days a success....how the local organizations, from the school to the church to the Scouts, etc. all pitch in to provide the festivities. And also the volunteers in addition to the Lions Club members and Firemen. They wanted everyone to know how it truly does "take a village."
- But we wanted to recognize the Firemen and Lions Club members. There are over 30 committees on the work list, with hundreds of men willing to give of their time for the betterment of the community. From the restroom committee to the signage committee to the stage and table committee...you get the point...we are very grateful to all of you. Oh, and of course the Weather Committee, who miraculously helped the rain stop at the precise moment the parade started....thanks to everyone who helped make the 150th Pioneer Days Celebration an amazing success and one we won't soon forget. Thanks to Bill Rieman, Jackie Schimmoeller & Erin Kerner for helping with information and Jeff Salisbury for pictures.

