



Art. Culture. Entertainment.

Celebrate Greensboro North Carolina

BY BRIAN COOK

Barbecue, basketball, and business: It's a conveniently alliterative trio that's synonymous with Greensboro, the historic hub of North Carolina's picturesque Piedmont region.

Putting the "Greene" in Greensboro



With its abundance of trees and parkland, you might think the city's name is tied to the natural setting. Actually it's a tribute to **Gen. Nathanael Greene**, a Rhode Islander who led Continental Army forces against the British in the Revolutionary War's pivotal Battle of Guilford Courthouse in 1781. It remains a mystery why the third "e" in the general's surname was dropped when "Greensborough" (as originally spelled) was established in 1808, but you'll see it in various places including Greene Street, General Greene Elementary School, and Natty Greene's Brewing Co.

Yet there's so much more to the city's identity — museums, galleries, festivals, parks, music, and the dramatic arts. The combination of a pleasant, four-season climate, a deep menu of restaurants, and a gracious Southern style is tough to top.

A signature event is the annual Eastern Music Festival, celebrating its 50th anniversary summer 2011 (June to July). Other ways to enjoy the performing arts: a concert by the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra; a play at Triad Stage or from the Community Theatre of Greensboro; or a Broadway-style show (plus a meal!) at The Barn Dinner Theatre, the oldest continually operating dinner theatre in America.

Concerts and classic films are staples at the beautifully restored Carolina Theatre, a landmark since 1927 and an example of downtown's dramatic rebirth. Greensboro's urban core has been infused with new life over the past decade, and today it's a vibrant commercial and residential district with restaurants, pubs, boutiques, and condos.

Paintings and sculpture more your style? The Weatherspoon Art Museum at the



Tanger Family Bicentennial Garden

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top collections of African culture, and the Greensboro Cultural Center at Festival Park includes galleries, gift shops, studios, and rehearsal space. Nearby, Center City Park is a popular spot for concerts, art shows, and other events.

Got kids? Get face-to-face with meerkats, tigers, and more at the Natural Science Center's Animal Discovery Zoological Park. The interactive Greensboro Children's

When Taking a Stand Meant Sitting Down

On February 1, 1960, four African-American students from Greensboro's NC A&T State University sat down at the "whites only" lunch counter at the F.W. Woolworth store on South Elm Street. The four were all denied service and asked to leave, but they refused. The watershed sit-in movement was born, a bold but simple nonviolent protest that garnered widespread attention and inspired similar actions throughout the segregated South. The former Woolworth store is now the **International Civil Rights Center & Museum**.





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ACC Men's Basketball
Tournament

Sports fans have plenty to cheer about in the place dubbed "Tournament Town."

Wordplay: The Rich Legacies of Two Native Sons

William Sydney Porter was born in Greensboro in 1862, studying pharmacy until his late teens before pursuing a writing career in New York. Working under the pseudonym **O. Henry**, he wrote the classic Christmas tale "The Gift of the Magi" and hundreds of other short stories, many featuring locations and characters from Greensboro. A bronze, life-size statue of the author, along with his beloved dog and a book, is located downtown on Bellemeade Street.



Pioneering radio and television broadcaster **Edward R. Murrow** was born in southern Guilford County in 1908. He left with his parents when he was a child, went on to graduate from Washington State University, and eventually landed a job with CBS Radio. Murrow's distinctive baritone voice became famous when he broadcast from a besieged London

in the early days of World War II. Later, as a TV commentator, he signed off with his signature line, "Good night, and good luck." A bust of Murrow is located behind the Greensboro Historical Museum.

Museum offers a wealth of exhibits and educational programs. ArtQuest, a hands-on studio at Green Hill Center for NC Art, fosters artistic talent in young ones. May through September, have a blast at Wet 'n Wild Emerald Pointe Water Park, the largest of its kind in the Carolinas.

Sports fans have plenty to cheer about in the place dubbed "Tournament Town." Some of the PGA TOUR's top players compete annually in August at the Wyndham Championship. The city is home for the Atlantic Coast Conference. Founded here in 1953, the conference's heritage is showcased in the new ACC Hall of Champions adjacent to the 23,500-seat Greensboro Coliseum, site of more ACC basketball tournaments than any other venue, and host of the prestigious U.S. Figure Skating Championships in 2011. Also in the shadows of the coliseum is the city's new \$19 million aquatic center, site of the 2012 U.S. Masters Swimming Spring National Championships. The Single-A Greensboro Grasshoppers baseball team

plays in a state-of-the-art downtown stadium, while fans of pro soccer get their kicks with the Carolina Dynamo at Bryan Park each summer.

History buffs, don't miss Guilford Courthouse National Military Park, where a key battle of the Revolutionary War was waged, or Tannenbaum Historic Park and the Colonial Heritage Center, just a short walking distance away. At the Greensboro Historical Museum, learn about many aspects of the city's past. Featured exhibits include the new 8,000-square-foot Voices of a City exhibit, Jugtown Pottery and more.

And you can't overlook Greensboro's bounty of parks, lakes, and gardens. Stroll through the 17-acre Greensboro Arboretum at Lindley Park, the new Gateway Gardens, and the Tanger Family Bicentennial Garden. The popular Bog Garden, across the street from the Bicentennial Garden, has a half-mile, wooden walkway leading to a neighborhood lake, as well as the tranquil Serenity Falls.

There's plenty to do and see in Greensboro — the hard part is figuring out where to start!

(For more information, contact the Greensboro Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at 800.344.2282, 336.274.2282, or VisitGreensboroNC.com.)

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Center City Park