


itinerary

top picks for fun northwest happenings september/october 2019

CHANTERELLE
MUSHROOMS

Scavenger Hunt

STALKING 'SHROOMS IN THE
QUINAULT RAINFOREST



Fall in the Northwest brings a sprinkling of ephemeral colors to the forest floor — if you know where to look. Autumn is prime mushrooming season, and while most come in shades of brown, a surprising number of orange, purple, green and even blue fungi can be found on a walk through the woods. The annual mushroom festival at historic Lake Quinault Lodge is a great place to start. “You can walk across the street and go up one of the trails, and at any particular spot there are at least several hundred kinds of fungi living in the soil,” said renowned mycologist Steve Trudell. Experts take novices on guided hikes to help them find and identify fascinating fungi, from stocky, brown boletes (most of them are edible, but only some are worth tasting) to delicate, fairy-like lavender laccaria. “If you want to look for edible mushrooms, learn the deadly ones first,” Trudell said. As he set off on a field trip, he shared some mushroom humor: “If you find something really, really good, we’ll tell you it’s poisonous and keep them.” But Trudell prefers photographing mushrooms to eating them, and for many, mushrooming is more about the fun of a treasure hunt than rooting out edible species. This year’s mushroom festival is October 18-20, featuring seminars, mushroom-centric meals, a spectacular display of fresh-picked fungi and even mushroom bingo. At day’s end, share your foraging adventures with fellow festivalgoers as sunset colors streak the lake. — **LESLIE FORSBERG**

State, county and fall fair events are online at aaa.com/celebrate