

# Hobo Days and the Hobo Committee

The National Hobo Convention has been held in Britt, IA every year since 1900. Hobos were workers that traveled around America by train to find work and were "homeless" by choice. Ryan Arndorfer, a Hobo Committee member and the mayor of Britt said, "Britt was looking for something for the town to celebrate, so some of the town founders went to Chicago and convinced the hobos to move the festival from Chicago to Britt."

The Hobo Committee helps the National Hobo Convention by having a weekend celebration that tells the story of the hobos. "Our group wanted to make Hobo Days similar to what it was when we were kids," said Ryan about the the Hobo Committee that was started in 2011. "We remember big carnivals, lots of events going on uptown; things for kids to do, things for adults to do. Over the years it seems Hobo Days got smaller & smaller, so our team wanted to come back and make it as big as it used to be."

The city pays for half of what Hobo Days cost, so the Hobo Committee raises the rest of the money themselves throughout the year by doing many different fundraisers. It takes a lot of work to make Hobo Days happen.

Hobo Days is all about having fun and "to keep the history of the hobos alive," said Connecticut Shorty, a committee member and also a hobo. This is the week the hobos elect their new king and queen.

Hobo days is important to our community. Connecticut Shorty said, "There are two very important things Hobo Days does for the community. One is to keep the history of the hobos alive by educating people about them, and the other is to help Britt economically by having many people come to Britt and support the local merchants."

When asked how the committee makes a difference Shorty responded, "I, Connecticut Shorty and my sister NY Maggie started making a difference in the community in 1990." Since then Shorty and her sister have helped teach about the hobos throughout the country as they travel.

Hobo Days and the committee are important because it keeps the spirit of the hobos alive. The committee works hard all year long to make hobo days happen. Also if you see a person on a train, don't worry it's probably a hobo heading to Britt.