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Clemson to throw welcome party

Downtown, campus events will be held Monday

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CLEMSON — Clemson University starts the new school year with two events designed to welcome students back to the campus and the college town Monday.

This year's Welcome Back Festival, from 5:30 to 8 p.m. on College Avenue downtown, will be the biggest ever, with a wealth of food and entertainment, organizers said.

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A record 85 vendors and organizations will have tables with food samples and prizes that can be purchased with 50-cent tickets. Proceeds go to the Student Alumni Council Endowment Fund, which helps finance scholarships.

A new event this year, Tiger Prowl, will be held on Bowman Field on the Clemson campus from 4 to 6 p.m.

Tiger Prowl will be an opportunity for students to explore many options available to get involved in activities outside the classroom. The event includes a student organizations fair featuring more than 230 student groups; "meet the Greeks," featuring Clemson's 40 fraternities and sororities; and the volunteer fair, featuring 20 community agencies.

During the student organizations fair, performances will include a step show by Omega Psi Phi fraternity, a demonstration by the Drum Circle, comedy by Clemson Improv, songs by the Clemson University Gospel Choir and a performance by a cappella group TakeNote featuring the American Sign Language Club.

In addition, from 5 to 7 p.m., students can participate in the Tiger Service Project. Students will help bag food for Clemson Community Care, write letters to soldiers through Operation Gratitude and have the opportunity to buy T-shirts to raise money for the Coastal Conservation Association, which is helping clean up the Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

From 6:30 to 10:30 p.m., CLEMSON-LiVE and student media will host the Bowman Block, which will include games, music and other activities for students.