

Woodstock '99

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The Woodstock '99 music festival was in hopes to be a fun and exciting festival held in Rome, New York, in July 1999, which marked the 30th anniversary of the iconic original Woodstock festival. However, this festival was not the same as the last and contained lots of chaos. The event had many logistical issues, including overcrowding, insufficient facilities, and high prices for food and water. Not to mention the scorching heat which was not so pleasant for the attendees. Alongside these challenges, incidents of violence, vandalism, and sexual assault were reported. The performances were diverse, featuring artists from various genres including rock, rap, and electronic music. Despite the talented lineup, Woodstock '99 is often remembered more for its chaotic atmosphere and all the negative headlines that came from it. Woodstock '99 is not a festival to forget.



Criminal Activity

Neglecting Hydration

- waters were taken at the door
- temperature on day 2 was over 100 degrees F
- signed contract with Coca-Cola where they were allowed to set any price they wanted
- over 1,000 people got heat stroke
- water started at \$4
- prices spiked to \$12 per bottle due to shortage then out of stock

Lack of Sanitation Consideration

- threw bottles at the stage
- runoff from the porta-potty system contaminated the clean drinking water

Poor Security

- lack of security at the barricade ("We're gonna need a bigger boat")
- "Peace Patrol" kids with yellow t-shirts with lack of qualification
- anyone could be recruited with a yellow shirt
- lack of age verification (14-year-olds could attend)
- staff was fired causing lack of bag searches
- "Peace Wall" was knocked down and people broke in

Safety Concerns

- handed out candles
- concert-goers start fires causing damage to vendor areas and destruction to the site (RHCP play FIRE)
- ATMs were smashed and money was stolen

Sexual Assault

- 4 women reported being raped/sexually assaulted

Producer Disorganization

- overly positive press interviews
- CEO and producers weren't paying close attention to the issues



TIMELINE OF MAJOR EVENTS

WED 7/21



-Festival was hosted in Rome NY.

-100s of concert goers head to the festival ground.

-Some fans pitched tents in a lawn between the gates of the festival grounds, and the Mohawk River, but police removed them.

THU 7/22

-Around 200,000 with 35,000 camping on the grounds.



FRI 7/23



-Concert goers weren't searched properly due to poor security.

-Campground area turned into makeshift nudist colony; people screaming slogans, decorating tents.

-prices for water/food increased

-heat related injuries.

-Misogynistic attitude became prevalent.

SAT 7/24

-Camp grounds littered, portable bathrooms overflow.

-Kid Rock, Metallica, Dave Matthews Band, Fat Boy Slim, Limp Bizkit:

- woman wore minimal clothing
- truck driven through crowd stopping performance.
- set destruction, violence erupted instigated by band
- Sexual assaults reported.
- 1 death, 15 arrested.



SUN 7/25



-Fecal matter mixed with water. supply, people get ill from contamination.

-Producers celebrating "success." while mass exodus occurs.

-Candles were passed out during RHCP and mass fires occur.

-777 state troopers were sent.

-44 arrests were made, 4 rape cases, 4 deaths.

-1,200 people severely injured.

Lawsuits

- Oneida county seeks fines Woodstock organizers for 1.5 million dollars before the festival
 - The Oneida County Health Department levied the fines because Woodstock organizers had several violations of the mass gathering permit
- Death of David Derosa
 - David's mother sued the Woodstock organizers and doctors citing negligence and inadequate health care from festival staff as his cause of death
 - His mother is still trying to pursue this lawsuit 10 years later.
- An unidentified woman from Virginia sued the organizers of Woodstock 99 and Oneida county over sexual assault
- Federated Mutual Insurance Vs. Woodstock '99, LLC
 - The insurance company sued organizers because they did not want to cover claims against the festival due to not being warned about certain risks before the festival took place.

Potential Liability Suits

- Inadequate security and safety measures
- Not providing sufficient resources to prevent health issues
- Many sexual assaults- victims could have pressed charges against the event organizers for not providing a safe environment
- People from area or environmental organizations for the pollution the concert caused
- People could sue for confusion of advertisements of the show

Other Facts:

- The financial fallout of the festival was more than they festival cost (3.8 million)
- Woodstock producers ignored responsibility by blaming performers such as Limp Bizkit for the crowd
- If Woodstock '99. Wasn't mostly heavy metal bands people think it would've been like the other Woodstock

