

# Shop 'til You Drop at Shenandoah Valley's Route 11 Yard Crawl

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Bargain hunters, rejoice! Virginia's largest yard sale, the Route 11 Yard Crawl, will return for its 14th year this summer on Saturday, August 11, 2018. Held rain or shine, the Crawl offers a bonanza of treasures for sale in the scenic heart of the Shenandoah Valley. The Crawl's route extends more than 43 miles through nine historic towns that include (from south to north) New Market, Mount Jackson, Edinburg, Woodstock, Maurertown, Toms Brook, Strasburg, Middletown and Stephens City.

"Yard sales are very big in the valley," says Sharon Baroncelli, executive director of the Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce. "This event developed as a takeoff from that. We've lost track of how many people participate because it's become so large."

"Most of our visitors come from outside the area," Sharon adds, and suggests that they come earlier to explore the Shenandoah Valley's multiple attractions, check out the merchandise and better plan their shopping strategy. With as many as 40 to 100 vendors clustered in large areas, not to mention additional vendors filling any available space, a shopper can be easily overwhelmed by the amount of merchandise on display. Before the Crawl officially begins Saturday, early attendees can relax and enjoy Friday's Crawl kick-off party at the Flea Market in Edinburg.

So what's for sale? Almost anything you can think of – collectibles, books, furniture, tools, clothing, sporting goods, toys, and the list goes on. Several local businesses offer discounts and hold sales during the Crawl, with some benefitting local nonprofits. Shopping can work up an appetite, so vendors will be on hand to offer a variety of food choices to satisfy a wide range of tastes.



To enhance the Crawl experience for all, organizers have assembled some helpful tips:

- Consider driving a spacious vehicle so you'll have room for all your booty. Consider bringing rope, straps or bungee cords to tie down any large purchases.
- Start at one end or the other – New Market or Stephens City – for the best experience.
- Safety first! Drive slowly and watch for pedestrians and other vehicles.
- Park your vehicle completely off the road and do not block driveways.
- Take care of yourself. Stay hydrated, eat when you're hungry, get out of the sun when uncomfortable and take breaks as needed.

Two special events add to the Crawl fun: the Route 11 Yard Crawl Flip and the Route 11 Yard Crawl Scavenger Hunt. Inspired by HGTV's *Flea Market Flip*, the Route 11 version challenges individuals or teams of two to find the best item to refurbish or transform into something that can be sold for a profit. The winning piece will be displayed and resold at auction during the Shenandoah Autumnfest at the Shenandoah County Fairgrounds on Saturday, October 13. Proceeds of the sale will be split between the seller and the Leadership Shenandoah County scholarship program. The Scavenger Hunt, a virtual event involving social media, kicks off bright and early at 6 a.m. on Saturday, August 11. Items included in the Hunt will be listed at [www.facebook.com/OfficialRoute11YardCrawl](https://www.facebook.com/OfficialRoute11YardCrawl). On Saturday, participants must identify and photograph all listed items on display at the Crawl, and then send these photos to [director@shenandoahcountychamber.com](mailto:director@shenandoahcountychamber.com). The first person to successfully do so will win a \$50 gift card good at the Flea Market in Edinburg, plus a Crawl t-shirt that comes in different colors every year. The 2018 version features tangerine with navy blue letters and can be purchased for \$10 at several locations scattered throughout the Crawl.

Whether or not Crawl attendees make a purchase or vendors make a sale, all are sure to leave the event with vivid memories and perhaps some new friends. "It's a destination and a community gathering," Sharon says. Some might say it's Yard Sale Heaven.

