

# RODEOS TO RUSHMORE, CORN MAZES OFFER FALL FUN

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If anyone knows how to get out of a maze, it's probably Shawn Stolworthy.

The Idaho man has designed and cut about 75 corn mazes across the country this year, including ones in Van Wert, Ohio, and Dundee, Mich.

His personal solution?

"Most of the time, I have GPS when I'm in a maze. That tends to work fairly well," said Stolworthy, president of a business called MazePlay.

For the rest of us, though, he has another idea, and it's not just to walk around at random, paying attention to where you've been before.



Corn mazes come in many sizes and designs. This maze near Waterville in 2004 featured Noah's Ark. (THE BLADE)

## REGIONAL CORN MAZES

Here are some mazes in the region where you can get lost:

- Corn Maze at Fleitz Pumpkin Farm, 7133 Seaman Rd., Oregon. Sizes: 5-acre maze and 1-acre maze. Hours: Daily from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Open through Oct. 31. Cost: \$2 for 5-acre maze, \$1 for 1-acre maze. Design: General maze. Information: 419-836-7613 or [www.fleitzpumpkinfarm.com](http://www.fleitzpumpkinfarm.com).
- Crots Corn Maze, 4800 West Temperance Rd. near Lambertville. Size: 40 acres. Hours: 11 a.m. to dark Saturdays and 1 p.m. to dark Sundays. Open through Oct. 29. Cost: \$5.50 adults, \$4.50 children ages 5 to 15, and free for kids under 5. Group rates available. Design: Various shapes. Information: 734-856-7183 or [www.cornmaze.itgo.com](http://www.cornmaze.itgo.com).
- Farmer J's Corn Maze, Pherdon Road behind Cabela's in Dundee, Mich. Size: 15 acres for three mazes. Hours: 5 to 9 p.m. Fridays, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Open through Oct. 29. Cost: \$9.50 adults, \$5 children ages 6 to 11, and free for kids 5 and under. Group rates available. Design: Safari. Information: 734-216-6230 or [www.cornmazefun.com](http://www.cornmazefun.com).
- Kernel Coopers Corn Maze, 9867 Mendon Rd., Van Wert. Size: 15 acres. Hours: 7 p.m. to midnight Fridays, noon to midnight Saturdays, and 1 to 9 p.m. Sundays. Open through Nov. 4. Cost: \$7 adults, \$5 children ages 5 to 12, and free for kids 4 and under. Group rates available. Design: Mount Rushmore. Information: 419-968-2536 or [www.kernelcoopers.com](http://www.kernelcoopers.com).

Stolworthy suggests you keep your hand on one "wall" and keep it there until it leads you to the exit. It may not be the shortest route, he said, but it should get the job done.

Local maze-goers will need all the help they can get this fall as corn mazes sprout up around northwest Ohio and southeast Michigan.

As the foliage turns colors, area cornfields turn up with all sorts of shapes and designs cut into them. This year that means everything from a rodeo to Mount Rushmore.

The trouble isn't finding your way into these labyrinths of fun; it's getting out. In fact, that's kinda the idea.

"We tell [people] to come out and get lost," said Evie Leaders, owner of Leaders Fun\*Time Farm and ScreamAcres haunted cornfield in Napoleon.

Her operation - a seven-acre maze in the shape of a pirate ship - offers clues to patrons.

"If they get the right answer, it tells them the right way to turn," she said.

Some mazes hand visitors a map before they go in; others hide them at stations throughout the maze.

Trisha Truman, whose parents own the corn mazes at Fleitz Pumpkin Farm in Oregon, said they have a lookout tower to help give visitors a better view of their surroundings.

- Leaders Fun\*Time Farm and ScreamAcres haunted cornfield, O-064 Henry County Road 16, Napoleon. Size: 7 acres. Hours: 6 to 10 p.m. Fridays, 1 to 10 p.m. Saturdays, 1 to 9 p.m. Sundays. Open through Oct. 29. Cost: \$8, adults, \$6 children ages 5 to 11, free for kids 4 and under. ScreamAcres is \$10. Group rates available. Design: Pirate ship. Information: 419-599-1570 or [www.funtimefarm.com](http://www.funtimefarm.com).

- Riehm Farms Corn Maze, 7244 North State Rt. 53, between Tiffin and Fremont. Size: 5 acres. Hours for full activities: 4 to 7 p.m. Fridays, noon to 7 p.m. Saturdays, and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays. Just the maze is open weekdays during daylight hours. Open through Nov. 5. Cost: \$6, free for kids 2 and under. Group rates available. Design: Rodeo. Information: 419-992-4392.

For those visitors who get helplessly lost, some mazes have people inside to offer directions.

Rod Cooper, owner of Kernel Coopers Corn Maze in Van Wert, said it's not so bad.

Sure, his twisting paths are spread over 15 acres and there are 5.7 miles of maze in which to lose yourself. And once it gets dark, well, that doesn't help.

But after you've been in there a few times, it's just plain easy, he said.

"After about three weeks of being out there, I can pretty much do the whole maze without a map," he said.

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