

# THE EVENING SUN

## A tisket, a tasket: Let's weave a basket at Boyd's

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Kayla Helman, 11, of Chambersburg, left, uses a small hammer while creating her own basket with her mom, April, as Mark Patterson, a weaver for Longaberger, instructs them at Boyd's Bear Country Saturday. (Evening Sun Photos by Brett Berwager)  
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"Over, under. Over, under." This is a basket weaver's mantra. Or at least that of Kayla Helman as she began weaving her very own Longaberger basket.

Kayla, 11, and her mom, April, traveled to Boyds Bear Country from Chambersburg on Saturday morning to take part in Basketfest, co-sponsored by Boyds Bear Country and Longaberger. "Let me at it," April exclaimed as Longaberger weaver

Mike Patterson showed her the ropes of basket-making. April recently became a Longaberger consultant and thought attending the event and making a basket herself would be a great way to learn more.

Patterson said there are about 70 weavers helping Longaberger collectors create their own special-edition Boyds Bear Basket featuring a teddy bear.

(Evening Sun Photo by Brett Berwager)

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He expected that over the course of the event, which began Thursday and ends today, they would help people weave nearly 3,500 special-edition baskets.

Boyd's Bear Basketfest also features a factory store, door prizes, bingo for baskets and bears and exhibits. To make a basket, a reservation was required prior to the event.

Patterson has worked for the company for 20 years and travels across the country for Longaberger events. Patterson said Longaberger baskets appeal to all kinds of people, and his favorite part of events is interacting with the collectors. "I like working with different people, finding out their history and how many baskets they have," Patterson said. Over the years he and his wife have collected 900 Longaberger baskets. "We built our house around the baskets," Patterson joked.

April has 60 baskets. Her oldest is from 1985. "The quality is just exceptional and they're so versatile," she said.

Every basket is made of thin strips of maple stained different colors. The strips are soaked in water and then shaped over the weaving horse to create the basket.

"I'm in heaven," April said. "Baskets and bears." Hundreds of people that attended



April Helman, right, and her daughter Kayla, 11, of Chambersburg, create their own Longaberger basket at Boyd's Bear Country in Gettysburg Saturday. (Evening Sun Photos by Brett Berwager)  
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the event Saturday shared her love for baskets and bears, Patterson said this was one of the biggest Longaberger events he has been to.

### IF YOU GO

What: Basketfest 2008.

Where: Boyd's Bear Country, 75 Cunningham Road, Gettysburg.

When: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. today.

