

# Gunma Events

## November 2018

### 七五三(or 7-5-3) *Shichigosan*

A ritual to celebrate healthy 3-year-old boys and/or girls, 5-year-old boys, and 7-year-old girls

It's a ritual to celebrate sound upbringing of girls (3 and 7 years old) and boys (3 and/or 5 years old) on November 15 by visiting a shrine. Accompanied by their parents and family, they are dressed up in either Kimono or nice western clothes and carrying *Chitoseame* candies. Family photo is also customary.

It originates in 800 A.D. Back then, infant mortality was high. Medicine was backward, and nutritious foods were scarce. Court people and nobles have practiced rituals of all kinds for the sound upbringing of their newborn babies. For some reason, rituals were performed for 3-year-old boys and/or girls, 5-year-old boys and 7-year-old girls. In the Edo Period (1603-1868), Samurai and rich merchants began to follow suit. Sometime in the Meiji Period (1868-1912) people called the ritual as 七五三, and ordinary people started to do them, too. This is the present-day *Shichigosan*.

Modern 七五三 is practiced more freely and simplified manner. In a formal *Shichigosan*, you would take your child (ren) to a shrine and request for a purification prayer. In a slightly less formal version would be just visiting a shrine with your child (ren), toss a coin or two and pray for the child's good health and happiness. In this Heisei age, the majority would follow simpler version. The date to visit a shrine is more flexible now. Between October 15 and November 15, you may see parents in nice clothes with their small child (ren) carrying Chitoseame candies in your neighborhood.

Parents' wishes for their children's sound upbringing are timeless.



### Fujioka Festa 2018

Fujioka

Fujioka C-1 Grand Prix is the main event of the festival in this annual autumn festival in Fujioka. A range of delicious local foods will be sold, and by a vote of visitors, the dish that got most votes will be awarded the grand prix. Other events include stage performances, local produce market, and kids programs.

**When:** Nov. 4 (Sun) 10:00-15:00

**Where:** Fujioka Chuo Koen Park (1567-1 Fujioka, Fujioka) [MAP](#)

**Contact:** 0274-40-2317



### Tomioka-shi Sangyo-sai

Tomioka

Tomioka's famous local produce, including konjac foods, fresh milk, rice cakes, *yakiniku* grilled meat, etc. will be sold. Attractions like raffles, free giveaways, events for kids, etc. will also be offered.

**When:** Nov. 18 (Sun.) 10:00-14:00

**Where:** Silk-ru Hiroba, Tomioka City Hall  
(1460-1 Tomioka, Tomioka) [MAP](#)

**Contact:** 0274-62-1511



### King of Pasta 2018

Takasaki

Takasaki Restaurants that serve pasta dishes will compete for the top prize at this annual event. The 10<sup>th</sup> Pasta King will be decided by a vote of visitors who actually tasted the contenders' pasta dishes.

**When:** Nov. 10 (Sat) & 11 (Sun) 10:00 - 16:00

**Where:** Motenashi Hiroba Square  
(Takamatsu-cho, Takasaki) [MAP](#)

**Contact:** 027-321-1257



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### Joshu Numata Sanada Matsuri Festival

For those who love Japanese Samurai, this is your chance to see something of scenes from feudal age. Numata, where the famous Sanada Clan used to rule, is the venue. Festival programs include procession of samurai warriors in feudal army combat uniforms, demonstration of shooting feudal guns, festival of foods from old Sanada countries.

**When:** Nov. 10 (Sat) & 11 (Sun) 10:00 -17:00

**Where:** Hon-machi Dori Avenue (vehicle-free street),  
Suga Jinja Shrine, Numata Koen Park,  
Numata Elementary School

**Contact:** 0278-23-2111

Numata



### Ebisuko Festival

*Ebisuko* is an occasion to go to a shrine and pray for good business for the coming New Year. Many well-wishers visit their favorite Shinto shrine which is busy until late at night.

**When:** Nov. 19 (Sun) & 20 (Mon)

**Where:** *Nishinomiya Jinja Shrine*  
(2-chome, Miyamoto-cho, Kiryu) [MAP](#)

**Contact:** 0277-22-4395

Kiryu



### Shimonita Negi (green onion) Matsuri

Shimonita has long been known for the two of its produces: negi (green onion) and konnyaku (konjac). A negi PR event is scheduled where you can sample barbecued negi or buy and take home some to fix a Sukiyaki dish for dinner. A free bowl of negi soup will be offered to visitors, too. Why not venture the world of Shimonita negi on the first day of the 3-day long weekend?

**When:** Nov. 23 (Fri., & holiday) 9:00-15:30

**Where:** *Konjac Tezukuri Taikendojomae Hiroba*  
(390-1 Oaza Shimonita, Shimonita-machi,  
Kanra-gun) [MAP](#)

**Contact:** 0274-82-2111

Shimonita-machi



This is the famous Shimonita negi.  
They are indispensable ingredients in Sukiyaki dishes.

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### [Sakurayama Illuminations](#)

Fujioka

The Prefectural Sakurayama Forest Park has approx. 7,000 cherry trees that bloom in winter from early November to early December. The park has a Japanese garden, too. Here, you can enjoy cherry blossoms and autumn colors at the same time. In the evening, trees are illuminated until 9 p.m.

**When:** Early November through early December 16:00-21:00

**Where:** Prefectural Sakurayama Forest Park  
(2166-1 Sanbagawa, Fujioka) [MAP](#)

**Contact:** 0274-52-3111



### [Ikaho's Kajikabashi Bridge Autumn Color Illuminations](#)

Shibukawa

Illuminations of the trees near Ikaho Onsen's *Kajikabashi Bridge* vermilion-lacquered humpback bridge are a well-known annual fall event of Gunma. Lighting will change every ten minutes, both in the amount and angle. Visitors can enjoy different autumn foliage scenes.

**When:** Until Nov. 18 (Sun)

**Where:** Ikaho Onsen Hot Springs  
Ikaho, Ikaho-machi, Shibukawa [MAP](#)

**Contact:** 0279-72-3151

**Autumn Color Gunma 2018** [PDF](#)

