



## Heads-up: Saturday is World Sword Swallower's Day

Whitney Matheson, USA TODAY

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Saturday marks what I consider to be one of the most anxiety-inducing holidays of the year: World Sword Swallower's Day.

For the seventh annual celebration, several U.S. cities are holding a "simultaneous sword swallow" at 2:22 p.m. local time. Facilitated by Ripley's Believe It Or Not! Odditoriums, the swallows can be seen in New York, Baltimore, Gatlinburg, Tenn., Key West and more spots.

I've seen my share of sword swallows — a visit to Coney Island isn't complete without 'em — and feel both amazed and incredibly nervous each time I watch it done. As Ripley's notes, the technique dates back centuries; sword swallows were part of its first Odditorium at the Chicago's World's Fair in 1933.

Saturday's performers include Haley Hall, who, at 15, is considered the [world's youngest sword swallower](#). (While I'll support my daughter in just about any endeavor, I think I'd keel over if she ever suggested she might want to do this for a living.)

For details on Saturday's events, head to [ripleys.com/swordswallowersday](http://ripleys.com/swordswallowersday). Ripley's also has a [free iSword app](#) if you'd like to try it (very safely!) yourself.