

Christmas in the Parks



2011

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT
TEXAS STATE PARKS



Life's better outside.®

Christmas is a great time to get out and visit a Texas state park or historic site. Whether it's a festive event with family and friends, or a solitary nature walk on a crisp evening, there's something for just about everyone this time of year in a state park. Before attending any event, please check with the park to confirm applicable fees and charges, availability, and to ensure the event is still taking place.

To find information about parks, visit www.texasstateparks.org
or call (800) 792-1112 and press option 3.

Atlanta State Park

Decorate Your Campsite

Dec. 9-10

Decorate your campsite when you camp with us! (Fees waived for participants.) Join in bringing Christmas cheer when visitors delight in a free drive through on December 9 and 10. (903) 796-6476

Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center

Christmas on the Border

Dec. 13 6:30-9 p.m.

Join our staff and volunteers in celebrating the holiday season in West Texas border fashion. Local community performers will provide the entertainment. Refreshments and treats will be served while Santa Claus visits with the children. (432) 424-3327

Battleship TEXAS State Historic Site

Yuletide TEXAS

Dec. 1-31 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

(Closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day) Free for Texas State Parks Pass members and for children 12 and under, \$12 non-members, \$6 senior citizen 65+

Missing family and friends, the crew of the TEXAS did their best to make the ship feel more like home during the holidays. Come share the sights and sounds of the season as the ship is adorned with lights and ornaments, reminiscent of the crew's traditional decorations. Wheelchair accessibility on main deck only. (281) 479-2431

"A Sailor's Christmas"

Dec. 10 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Free for Texas State Parks Pass members and for children 12 and under, \$12 non-members, \$6 senior citizen 65+

Come join us for truly unique Christmas experience! Step back in time with the Battleship TEXAS for some holiday fun! Drawing on the ship's history, the crew will recreate some of the Christmas moments shared by the sailors who served on her. Send a Morse code message to the North Pole, make your very own Battleship orna-

ments, listen to the sounds of the season with live performances by area bands and choirs, and take a picture with Santa. While onboard, tickle your sweet tooth with hot chocolate, wassail and cookies (while supplies last). Come join us for a truly unique Christmas experience! Wheelchair accessibility on main deck only. (281) 479-2431

Brazos Bend State Park

A Simple Christmas

Dec. 3 3-7 p.m.

Escape the hustle and bustle of the season and enjoy the simple life: making s'mores, Dutch oven cooking, children's crafts, hayrides and more, plus a visit from a "Southern Santa." Cap off the evening with "The Brazos River Pickers" old-time, bluegrass band. Refreshments available. Bring a picnic supper to enjoy while you listen to the performance at the outdoor amphitheater. Accessible for the mobility impaired. For more information, visit www.brazosbend.org. (979) 553-5101

Cedar Hill State Park

Caroling Through Penn Farm

Dec. 10 6:30-8 p.m.

Take a lantern-lit tour of Penn Farm. As we explore this historic farm, you will hear stories of the Penn family and their pioneering spirit. Learn what life on the farm was like for this family as they farmed and raised livestock for over a century. The tour will wrap up with a Christmas carol sing-a-long around the campfire while enjoying hot chocolate, hot apple cider, cookies and other holiday treats. (972) 291-6641

Cooper Lake State Park – Doctor's Creek Unit

5th Annual Christmas in the Park

Dec. 9-10 5-10 p.m.

Take a drive through the park to enjoy the festive holiday decorations. On the 10th, from 6-9 p.m., bring a camera and take pictures with Santa; refreshments will be served during this time. Sponsored by The Friends of Doctor's Creek. (903) 395-3100

Dinosaur Valley State Park

Christmas for the Birds

Dec. 17 2-4 p.m.

Join us for an informative workshop that will teach you how to build a wild bird feeder out of a log. This "gift" to our feathered friends will aid them through the cold winter months. Ol' Saint Nick may make a special appearance as well. Come and join the fun! (254) 897-4588

Estero Llano Grande State Park

Full Moon Hike with Santa

Dec. 10 8-10 p.m.

Join us for a special holiday version of our guided nighttime hike through the park. Santa will join our interpretive guides on a night time journey of mystery and excitement as we explore the boardwalks and trails of the park under the beautiful nighttime sky of the Rio Grande Valley. (956) 565-3919

Breakfast with the Birds and Santa

Dec. 17 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Come have breakfast on our magnificent covered deck situated right on one of our lakes and spend some time visiting with a special guest, Santa. There will be photo opportunities galore, with both Santa and the birds that often come very close to the deck. Join Santa as we have a light holiday breakfast on the deck and then follow our knowledgeable guides as they take you on a guided nature walk. Fees: \$7 adults, \$5 senior citizens, free for children 12 and under; reservations required. (956) 565-3919

Bunuelo Bites and Christmas Lights

Dec. 17 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Come enjoy an evening full of Christmas spirit. Walk the park's colorfully lit walkway up to the visitor center where you can join our park naturalists around the piano playing music and singing Christmas carols. Stroll down another lit path to Pauraque Hall and learn to make and enjoy traditional hot chocolate and bunuelos. You'll also have the opportunity to explore

the park on a ride in our tinsel trolley! Be sure to visit the park store, where you're sure to find the perfect gift for anyone on your list. (956) 565-3919

Fairfield Lake State Park

Christmas in Fairfield Lake State Park

Dec. 10 & 17 6-10 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the season with a trail of lights and a hayride. Santa will be stopping by from 7:00 to 9:00 for pictures. Campers will be encouraged to decorate their campsites; fees will be waived per the park manager for those that participate. At the dining hall you'll find classic Christmas movies playing along with hot cocoa and wassail to help put you in the Christmas spirit. The park is also serving as a drop off point for Toys for Tots. (903) 389-4514

Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site

Twilight Firelight

Nov. 26 4:30-7 p.m.

Suggested ticket donations are \$6 for adults and \$4 for children 12 and under

Holiday Time is Family Time at Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site. Take a journey back to the 1850s when the Inn comes to life with lanterns, luminaries and holiday traditions! Enjoy the ambiance of the candlelit Inn, period music, poetry, stagecoach rides, chuck wagon cooking, carol singing and a host of living history characters! Arrive in style, as you board a stagecoach at the Grimes County courthouse to carry you to the Inn. There you will meet your hosts from 1850, Henry and Rachel Fanthorp, along with cowboys and other travelers from the period. They will entertain you with stories, poetry, music, wassail and good cheer. Take a break from the hectic holiday pace and re-focus on your family and friends at Fanthorp Inn's Twilight Firelight celebration! No reservations are required as tickets are available near the courthouse parking from 4:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. (936) 878-2214

Fort Leaton State Historic Site

Posada at the Fort

Dec. 15 6-8 p.m.

Come celebrate Christmas with a traditional Mexican posada. Walk and sing with Mary and Joseph as they search for shelter. Enjoy a Christmas carol concert performed by a local choir and see the historic structure come to life in the candlelight of 600 luminarias. Refreshments will be served. Wheelchair accessible for most of the event. (432) 229-3613

Fort Richardson State Park and Historic Site

Fort Richardson by Candlelight

Dec. 10 5-7 p.m.

Join us as we recreate a Christmas Eve in 1870. Once the sun sets, you'll find the historic buildings filled with re-enactors as they go about their evening celebrations and the routines of a nineteenth century cavalry post. Visitors are invited to stroll through the buildings and watch these "Ghosts of Christmas Past." Event is free but park entrance fees still apply. (940) 567-3506

Goliad State Park

Christmas at the Mission

Dec. 3 8 p.m.

Experience the sights and sounds of the holiday season at Mission Espiritu Santo, Goliad State Park! Under the direction of Dr. James Lee, the Beeville Community Chorus will present a selection of sacred and secular Christmas music inside the old mission chapel. Flickering candlelight, phenomenal acoustics, and voices raised in song create a visual and auditory Christmas experience like no other. Park entrance fees apply. (361) 645-3405

History in Lights

Nov. 26 - Dec. 31

Every evening, sunset until 10 p.m.

Come take an evening stroll at Mission Espiritu Santo and discover the history of the site. Flickering light and shadow tell the story of the mission from its long ago role as a Spanish Colonial mission, through its reconstruction by the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s, to its refurbishment as a state park under TPWD starting in the 1970s. Park entrance fees apply; please use self pay station. (361) 645-3405

Government Canyon State Natural Area

Pioneer Kids Christmas

Dec. 17 10 a.m.-noon

Join us at Government Canyon State Natural Area for a Pioneer Kids Christmas! Experience what a typical Christmas would have been like for pioneer children in this region. Learn about the origins of pioneer Christmas traditions; create your own nineteenth-century Christmas decorations; listen to Christmas stories pioneer children may have heard; and play with traditional nineteenth-century children's toys. Reservations requested beginning on Nov. 15 and ending at noon Dec. 16. For reservations or more information, e-mail reservations@friendsofca.org or call (210) 688-9055 x289. Include the name of each participant/guardian, age of participant, contact e-mail and telephone number. Entrance fees apply.

Lake Tawakoni State Park

Christmas Twinkle Tour

Dec. 10 7-9 p.m.

Come camp with us and decorate your campsite with your favorite holiday decorations. Later that evening join us on a hayride through the park to view the Christmas decorations. We will begin and end at the park headquarters, where hot chocolate and other treats will be served. The Tawakoni Trading Post (a Texas State Park Store) will be open for shoppers wanting to find that unique gift. If the weather turns bad visitors can use their own vehicles to tour the park and then stop for goodies on the way out. (903) 560-7123

Longhorn Cavern State Park

Caroling in the Cave

Dec. 3, 10 and 17 5-8 p.m.

Join us at Longhorn Cavern as we celebrate the season with the singing of Christmas carols inside the cavern, and food and games in the administration building. Different musical artist each week. Reservations highly recommended. (512) 756-4680

Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site

42nd Annual LBJ Tree Lighting

Dec. 18 6-9 p.m.

Come join the Texas Hill Country community in this special tradition started 42 years ago by President and Mrs. Johnson. Enjoy music, a live nativity, Santa Claus, refreshments and, of course, the spectacular tree lighting. Then step back in time to the Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm for cookies amid glowing lanterns and a traditional candlelit German Christmas tree. The park store will be open to help you find all your holiday gifts. (830) 644-2252

Holiday Cooking Decoration & German Traditions in the 1900s

Nov. 26 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Bring the family and spend a day in the park getting into the festive holiday spirit. Have fun decorating cookies as it was done for a German Christmas tree in the 1900s. Enjoy participating in the German holiday traditions of wreath making, candle making, and other holiday activities. Listen as interpreters discuss German holiday traditions such as the legend of St. Nick, and the special "Pickle" ornament tradition. This event has become a tradition for many families eager to begin the festive holiday season. (830) 644-2252

McKinney Falls State Park

Twilight Hike

Dec. 10 5:30 p.m. Regular entrance fees apply.

Take a twilight hike starting at 5:30 p.m. and watch as the full moon rises over the evening skies. Walk the 1.5 miles to visit the ruins of the historic McKinney homestead, where Thomas F. McKinney lived and worked in the early 1850s. Enjoy hot cocoa, holiday goodies and an old-fashioned taffy pull at the Smith Visitors Center following the hike. (512) 243-1643

Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historic Site

Trail of Lights

Dec. 3, 9, 10, 16 & 17 6-8 p.m.
\$4/adult and \$1/child 3-12 years old

Celebrate Christmas in early Texas-German style! Enjoy a beautifully illuminated ¼-mile trail transformed by thousands of lights that decorate Monument Hill and Kreische House. View the lights of the town of La Grange from the trail's hillside overlook. Experience the home of H.L. Kreische decorated in traditional Texas-German 1850s-era Christmas splendor. Bring your children; they won't want to miss an opportunity to whisper Christmas wish-lists to Mr. and Mrs. Claus! Enjoy the genuine seasonal hospitality of the Friends of Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery, who sponsor the event. Get into the Christmas Season's spirit with us - Texas-German style! (979) 968-5658

Early German Christmas Event

December: By Reservations only.

Gather your friends and family for a special Early German Christmas event. Enjoy the ¼-mile trail of lights and the beautifully decorated Kreische home, while the Friends of Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery provide you with entertainment and refreshments. Reservations required and available for groups of 30-50. Call the park for details and to make reservations. (979) 968-5658

Sheldon Lake State Park

Holiday in the Park

Dec. 10 1-4 p.m.

Lots of holiday-themed activities await visitors at this special event. Children will have the opportunity to make fruit wreaths to feed their backyard birds or the park's wildlife. Crafts, face painting, nature hikes or a visit to the new John Jacob Observation Tower are some other activities you can enjoy. Holiday music, wassail, cocoa and sweet treats are sure to put you in the holiday mood at this free event. Santa may be planning to stop by for a visit as well. Accessible for the mobility, visual and hearing impaired. (281) 456-2800

Tyler State Park

5th Annual Christmas Caroling Pine Ride

Dec. 10 5 p.m.

Take a caroling pine ride through beautiful Tyler State Park! Enjoy all the sights and sounds of the park and don't miss the opportunity to pick up some unusual Christmas gifts at the park store, while enjoying hot apple cider and cookies. (903) 592-6790

Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site - Barrington Living History Farm

Barrington Farm Holidays

Dec. 3, 10 & 17 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Join us for an all new celebration and discover the joy of Christmas! Together we will enjoy the simplicity of farm life by making decorations and toys for the home and family, enjoying period music and discovering the true meaning of "Peace on Earth, Good Will towards all Men." Activity fees: \$5/adult; \$3/student 7 years and over; free for TSPP holders. (936) 878-2214

Wyer Aerial Tramway State Park

Santa Christmas Hike

Dec. 10 9 a.m.-noon

Join us for our 2nd annual Santa Christmas Hike. Celebrate the season with a unique, fun and challenging hike up to the top of Ranger Peak where you can enjoy a cup of hot chocolate, apple cider or coffee. After you're done taking in the view be sure to stop in and shop for a unique gift in the state park store. Once you're ready to leave, enjoy the ride back down to the base in one of our tram cars. Be sure to bring a Santa hat to wear on the hike! All tram fees will be waived for those that participate in the event. (915) 562-9899

Holidays at the Tramway

Dec. 16-18 Noon-5 p.m.

Start a new family tradition and have your picture taken with Santa Claus at the top of Ranger Peak. Take time to see our Christmas decorations and to enjoy a cup of hot chocolate, apple cider, or coffee at our "Mile High" gift shop. You'll find unique gifts like candles, books, apparel, toys and other one-of-a-kind items for everyone on your shopping list. (915) 562-9899



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Gift cards can be purchased in any amount (minimum \$5) and may be redeemed for entrance and camping fees, state parks passes, purchases at the state park store, and more!

And if you purchase a gift card for \$75 or more, receive this Texas State Parks ornament, FREE!

With a \$50 gift card purchase, get a 20% discount off the ornament price (tax, shipping and handling still apply).

Call (512) 389-8900 to order yours today.

2011 ORNAMENTS ON SALE NOW!

only \$8.95 plus tax, shipping and handling



Free/discounted ornament promotion available by phone only during December 2011; not available in parks.

Previous years' ornaments are also available for purchase. Learn more at www.texasstateparks.org/ornament