



Christmas in State Parks

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LBJ State Park & Historic Site



Barrington Living History Farm



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. CHECK WITH THE PARK AT THE NUMBER LISTED WITH EACH EVENT BEFORE HEADING OUT TO MAKE SURE THE EVENTS HAVE NOT BEEN CANCELED. THE EVENTS ARE LISTED BY TRAVEL REGION. CONSULT A TEXAS HIGHWAY MAP, CALL THE PARK OR VISIT THE PARK'S WEB SITE FOR DIRECTIONS.

TO FIND INFORMATION ABOUT PARKS, VISIT WWW.TPWD.STATE.TX.US/PARKS/ OR CALL (800) 792-1112 AND PRESS OPTION 3. AND ENJOY TEXAS STATE PARKS THIS SEASON!



BIG BEND COUNTRY

Barton Warnock Environmental Education Center *Christmas on the Border* – Dec. 11. Join us in celebrating the holiday season in West Texas border fashion. Local community performers will provide the entertainment. Refreshments and treats will be served, and we will have a special visit by Santa Claus for the children. Accessible for the mobility, visually and hearing impaired. 6:30-9 p.m., (432) 424-3327.

Fort Leaton SHS *Posada at the Fort* – Dec. 18. Come celebrate Christmas with a traditional Mexican posada. Walk and sing with Mary and Joseph as they search for shelter. Enjoy the play "Christmas with the Leatons" 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. 6:30-9 p.m., (432) 229-3613.



GULF COAST

Battleship TEXAS SHS *Yuletide TEXAS* – Dec. Christmas was a very special time for the sailors and officers who served aboard the Battleship TEXAS, and now you can get a glimpse of that history. See the battleship adorned with lights, ornaments and decorations in the spirit of the season, just the way the crew members who served aboard her did while serving their country. Accessible for wheelchairs on main deck only. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. daily, (281) 479-2431.

Battleship TEXAS SHS *Santa's Swingin' 40s Christmas* – Dec. 13. Visit the Battleship TEXAS and enjoy the spirit of the holidays. Write and mail letters to Santa, enjoy hot wassail, meet and have your picture taken with Santa, and much, much more. Accessible for wheelchairs on main deck only. 10 a.m.-5 p.m., (281) 479-2431.

Brazos Bend SP *Simple Christmas* – Dec. 6. 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. 3-7 p.m.; for more information, visit www.brazosbend.org. (979) 553-5101.

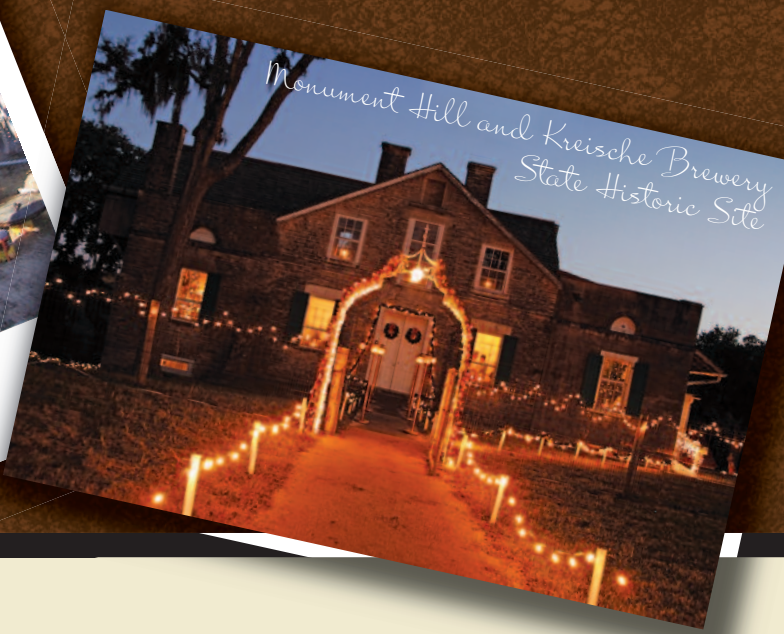
Goose Island SP *Christmas Campfire* – Dec. 20. Join us at the Recreation Hall for an evening of food and fun as we get ready for Christmas with an old-fashioned campfire gathering. Bring your s'mores fixin's and enjoy the hot chocolate and roasted marshmallows as we sing Christmas carols and share our favorite Goose Island holiday stories. 7-8 p.m., (361) 729-2858.



Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm



Tyler State Park



Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historic Site

Sheldon Lake SP *Wildlife Christmas in the Park* – Dec. 13. Children can make fruit wreaths, seed cones and other special ornaments to be hung outside as a special treat for backyard wildlife. There will be a special tree in the park that ornaments can be hung on. Holiday music and treats will be provided at this free event. Accessible for the mobility, visually and hearing impaired. 1-4 p.m., (281) 456-2800.

store, and the other holiday traditions in the park and farm are sure to get you in the holiday spirit. 10 a.m.-3 p.m., (830) 644-2252.

Lake Mineral Wells SP & Trailway *Cross Timbers Cowboy Campfire Christmas* – Dec. 6. Bring the whole family to the Lone Star Amphitheater for a Christmas-themed campfire program of cowboy music, poetry and a sing-along. Accessible for the mobility impaired. 6-7:30 p.m., (940) 328-1171.

 **HILL COUNTRY** 

Garner SP *Holiday Open House* – Nov 29. Take the opportunity to enjoy Garner and pick up some much-needed stocking stuffers before Christmas. Festive refreshments will be served. Event sponsored by the Friends of Garner and held at the Visitor Center. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.; for more information, call (830) 232-5999 or (830) 232-6132.

Lyndon B. Johnson SP & HS *Centennial Celebration Series: 39th Annual Tree Lighting* – Dec. 21. This year's events – "Celebrating the Life of a Man & the Land that He Loved" – are dedicated to Lyndon B. Johnson in the 100th year of his birth. Come join the Texas Hill Country community in this special tradition started 39 years ago by President and Mrs. Johnson. Enjoy carolers, 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. LBJ Park Bookstore and Gift Shop will be open and many other things to help you get into the holiday spirit. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight. Accessible for the mobility impaired. 6-10 p.m.; donations accepted, (830) 644-2252.

 **PINEYWOODS** 

Martin Dies, Jr. SP *Holiday Celebration in the Park* – Dec. 13. Help us celebrate the holidays with an afternoon of family fun! We provide all the materials needed to construct a gingerbread house and decorate a gingerbread man ornament. Join in singing carols and holiday songs with a live band. 2-4 p.m., (409) 384-5231.

Lyndon B. Johnson SP & HS *Centennial Celebration Series: Holiday Cookie Decorating and German Traditions* – Nov. 29. This year's events – "Celebrating the Life of a Man & the Land that He Loved" – are dedicated to Lyndon B. Johnson in the 100th year of his birth. Have fun decorating cookies as it was done for a German Christmas tree in the 1900s at the Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm. Enjoy hearing the legend of St. Nicholas. Experience other German holiday activities and traditions such as wreath and candle making on the farm. Christmas shopping in the park gift

 **PANHANDLE PLAINS** 

Tyler SP *3rd Annual Christmas Caroling and Pine Ride* – Dec. 6. Sing carols as you ride through the park on a fragrant bed of pine enjoying all the sights and sounds along the way! Don't miss the opportunity to pick up some unusual Christmas gifts at the park store, while enjoying hot apple cider and cookies. 5-8 p.m., (903) 597-5338.

Fort Richardson SHS *Christmas Fun* – Dec. 13. Start the day with a fishing tournament from 9 a.m.-noon, then Santa Claus will come and visit from 1-2 p.m., and finish the day with Dianne Martin who presents her "The Night Before Christmas" collection of Victorian stories, books, antiques, figurines, objets d'art, etc., from 2-4 p.m., (940) 567-3506.

Tyler SP *Holiday Dutch Oven Cooking Demonstration* – Dec. 6. Learn the basics of the fine art of historic camp cooking with cast iron! Visit with members of the Dogwood Chapter of the Lone Star Dutch Oven Society. Accessible for the mobility impaired. 10-11:15 a.m., (903) 597-5338.

PRAIRIES AND LAKES

Washington-on-the-Brazos SHS – Barrington Living History Farm *An Old-Fashioned Texas Christmas* – Dec. 13. A time for gathering with family and friends, for singing carols around the open fire, for making surprises tucked away in pretty packages, for feasting on goodies made with love, and for making special memories. Join the farm staff in decorating, singing and celebrating this wonderful holiday season with many more surprises to come. Accessible for the mobility impaired. 3-8 p.m., (936) 878-2213.

Bastrop SP *Christmas in the Pines* – Dec. 14. The Friends of the Lost Pines host this event featuring sugar cookie ornament decorating, clay ornament decorating, pine cone decorating, story corner and pine needle basket making. Santa Claus will visit from 3:30-5:30 p.m. with the opportunity for pictures. Refreshments will be provided. Held in the Refectory. 1-6 p.m.; fees \$2 adults, free for children 12 and under, (512) 321-2101.

Cedar Hill SP *Caroling Through Penn Farm* – Dec. 13. We will begin the evening with a lantern lit tour of Penn Farm. Followed by a Christmas carol sing-along around the campfire while enjoying hot chocolate, hot apple cider, cookies and other holiday favorites. 6-7:30 p.m., (972) 291-6641.

Cooper Lake SP – Doctor's Creek Unit *2nd Annual Christmas in the Park* – Dec. 12-13. Load up the family for a drive through the park and enjoy the holiday decorations. We will also have refreshments and Santa will be here for a visit. Sponsored by The Friends of Doctor's Creek. 6-10 p.m. For more information, call the Friends of Doctor's Creek at (903) 395-4314 or the park at (903) 395-3100.

Fanthorp Inn SHS *Twilight Firelight* – Nov. 29. Visit the 1850s stagecoach inn bedecked with lanterns, luminaries and holiday decorations. The inn comes to life with dulcimer music, the dulcet tones of Latrelle Lindon, cowboy poetry, living

history and period characters! Ride the stagecoach and wagon from the historic Grimes County Courthouse to the inn. Enjoy holiday fare and start the holidays off right. 3:30-7:30 p.m., (936) 873-2633.

Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHS *Early German Christmas* – Dec. Get into the season's spirit with us! Walk along the fantastic quarter-mile trail overlooking the town of La Grange and be delighted by the thousands of lights that illuminate it. Experience the more traditionally decorated, 1850s-era German home of H.L. Kreische, bedecked in Christmas splendor, in a Texas-German style. Enjoy the genuine seasonal hospitality of the Friends of Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery, who sponsor the event. Entertainment and refreshments provided. 6-8 p.m.; fee \$12 per person; available by reservation only to groups of 30 or more, deadline November 15; call for more information, (979) 968-5658.

Monument Hill & Kreische Brewery SHS *Trail of Lights* – Dec. 6, 12, 13, 19, 20. Enjoy a fantastic quarter-mile trail illuminated with thousands of lights that decorate the Monument Hill and Kreische House portions of the park. Walk a trail overlooking the town of La Grange. Experience the more traditionally decorated, 1850s-era German home of H.L. Kreische, bedecked in Christmas splendor, in a Texas-German style. Bring your children to tell secrets to Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus and enjoy the genuine seasonal hospitality of the Friends of Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery, who sponsor the event. No pets, please. 6-8 p.m.; fees \$3 adults, \$1 children 3-12, (979) 968-5658.

Purtis Creek SP *Christmas in the Park* – Dec. 6. Join park staff for the lighting of the park's Christmas tree. Stay for hot chocolate and hot cider, visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and watch a Christmas movie by the campfire. Campers, decorate your campsites for prizes. Accessible for the mobility impaired. 6-9 p.m., (903) 425-2332.

Sebastopol House SHS *Holiday Classic Movie* – Dec. 12. There's nothing like a classic holiday film to get you into the holiday spirit. The parlor at Sebastopol has been turned into an old-fashioned theatre in order to bring you a 1948 holiday classic

"Miracle On 34th Street," starring a very young Natalie Wood. If this warm family film doesn't soften the heart of the Grinch in your life, nothing will! Seating is limited. 6:30 p.m.; reservations required, (830) 379-4833.

Stephen F. Austin SP *Pancake Breakfast with Santa* – Dec. 13. Join Santa for a breakfast of pancakes with homemade syrup, sausage, juice and coffee and let him know all your dreams for this Christmas. 8-10:30 a.m.; fee \$4 per person, (979) 885-3613.

Stephen F. Austin SP *Christmas Caroling Hayride* – Dec. 13. Take a caroling hayride with us through the park and enjoy cookies and hot chocolate afterwards. 6-8 p.m.; admission is one canned good per person, (979) 885-3613.

SOUTH TEXAS PLAINS

Goliad SP *History in Lights* – Nov. 29-Jan. 4. See this lighted display inside the mystical walls of the Spanish Mission Espiritu Santo de Zuniga that tells the story of the mission life as you walk the same path as Native American Indians and Franciscan priests did over a century ago. 6-10 p.m. daily, (361) 645-3405.

Goliad SP *Christmas Concert* – Dec. 6. Experience the joyful music of the Beeville Community Chorus as they present their Christmas concert in the chapel of the Spanish Colonial Mission Espiritu Santo de Zuniga. 8 p.m., (361) 645-3405.

World Birding Center - Estero Llano Grande SP *Breakfast with the Birds and Santa* – Dec. 20. 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. 8:30-11 a.m.; fees \$7 adults, \$5 senior citizens, free for children 12 and under; reservations required, (956) 565-3919.



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