

# FIRST DAY

JANUARY

# HIKES



MOTHER NEFF SP

Join a growing Texas tradition on New Year's Day 2015 by starting the year off on the right foot – take a **FIRST DAY HIKE** in a state park near you!

Last year, 59 Texas State Parks offered 75 hikes, walks, runs or paddles for all skill levels, for the whole family. Getting kids outdoors connects them with nature and makes them healthier, happier, smarter. Create memories that will last a lifetime. To find a First Day Hike near you, visit [www.TexasStateParks.org/firstdayhikes](http://www.TexasStateParks.org/firstdayhikes)

## GIVE THE GIFT OF THE TEXAS OUTDOORS!



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

Purchase a gift card for \$75 or more during the month of December, 2014, receive your choice of the 3 different 2014 Texas State Parks ornaments, **FREE!** Tax, shipping and handling still apply.

Free ornament promotion available by phone only before Dec. 31, 2014; not available in parks.

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!

\$8.95 each, or all three just \$19.95 plus tax, shipping and handling

2014 LASER-ETCHED WOOD ORNAMENTS ON SALE NOW!



Use your QR scanner to view the entire ornament collection.



Caprock Canyons SP



Big Bend Ranch SP



Washington-on-the-Brazos SHS

Previous years' ornaments are also available for purchase. Learn more at [www.TexasStateParks.org/ornament](http://www.TexasStateParks.org/ornament)



## Washington-on-the-Brazos State Historic Site

### *Christmas on the Brazos featuring Barrington's Candlelight Christmas*

Dec. 13

From 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., modern and historic activities will be staggered throughout the park. Independence Hall will host 19th century readings from some of our favorite Christmas literature at 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. The Star of the Republic Museum will host period crafts in the Discovery room from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Music and merriment will surround you in the Visitor's Center from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. as merchandise made by Texan artisans is featured and local Texas fare is available for sampling and tasting. Take advantage of a self-serve photo opportunity with Santa and enjoy the opportunity to mingle with the miniature horses standing in for his reindeer. While you are there, visit Washington Emporium, the State Park Store, to find the perfect holiday gift.

Barrington Living History Farm will begin its Candlelight Christmas event at 5 p.m. Get a glimpse of Christmas time in the 1850s through a candlelit tour of Barrington Farm. The event will include live 19th century music and dancing, bonfires and Christmas readings, 1850s Santa Claus, musket firing, cookies and hot cider. Tour the historic home of the last president of the Republic, Dr. Anson Jones, as the family enjoys their Christmas gathering. Visit the farm's quarters to hear how the enslaved at Barrington celebrated



WYLER AERIAL TRAMWAY SP

the season. Please allow at least one hour to complete the full experience. Standard site admission fees apply. Reservations for the evening program are strongly recommended. [Barrington.Farm@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Barrington.Farm@tpwd.texas.gov) or (936) 878-2214

### **Wylar Aerial Tramway State Park**

#### *Arts in the Parks: Making Christmas Ornaments*

Dec. 6 Noon-3 p.m.

Make a state park memory that you can hold in your hand and cherish through the years. We'll provide all the materials you'll need to make your very own Christmas ornament! (915) 562-9899

#### *Holidays at the Tramway*

Dec. 20 Noon-3 p.m.

Dec. 21 10 a.m. - 1 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

#### *Santa Christmas Hike*

Dec. 28 8 a.m.-noon

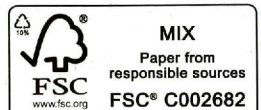
Join us for our 5th annual Santa Christmas Hike. Celebrate the season with a unique, fun and challenging hike up to the top of Ranger Peak where you can enjoy a cup of hot chocolate, apple cider or coffee. After you're done taking in the view be sure to stop in and shop for a unique gift in the state park store. Once you're ready to leave, enjoy the ride back down to the base in one of our tram cars. Wear a Santa hat on the hike and receive a free tram ride down the mountain! (915) 562-9899

Visit [www.TexasStateParks.org/holidays](http://www.TexasStateParks.org/holidays)  
for the most up-to-date information  
on State Park holiday events.



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## **Ray Roberts Lake State Park – Johnson Branch**

### *It's Turkey Time!*

Nov. 29 10:30–11:30 a.m.

Now that we've all eaten our fill of turkey, let's take some time to learn about these big birds! Together, we'll explore the history of turkeys in Texas, where they live now, and just what exactly is a snood?!? We'll also dispel some of the more common myths about our feathered, poultry friends. (940) 637-2294

### *Calling All Turkeys!*

Nov. 29 2–3 p.m.

Come learn all about the different types of calls made by tom and hen turkeys. You can practice making hen calls using a variety of turkey-calling tools. You'll even get to make your own turkey call! Meet at the amphitheater near the Kid Fish Pond. (940) 637-2294

### *Dreaming of a Wild Christmas*

Dec. 20 4–6 p.m.

Join us for a fun-filled holiday-themed evening. Make your own popcorn garland using popcorn cooked in a Dutch Oven, create a homemade present, and listen to a holiday story in front of a roaring fire. There will be hot cocoa and holiday treats to sample. Campers are encouraged to decorate their campsites, and following our holiday activities, there will be a drive through the park to see all the wonderful decorations! There will be a prize for the best decorated site as chosen by the park visitors. (940) 637-2294

## **Resaca de la Palma State Park**

### *Jolly Night Hike*

Dec. 13 5–9 p.m.

Join us for a night of Christmas cheer in the great outdoors! Join the holiday spirit by dressing up as an elf for the 5k Elf Dash fun walk. Take a hike on the Trail of Lights, sing Christmas carols on a merry hayride through the

park, enjoy live performances by local talents at the main stage, and create festive crafts the entire family can enjoy. Don't forget to stop by Santa's Workshop for your picture with our very own Green Santa! Special event fee applies: Adults: \$5, Children 12 and Under: \$1. (956) 350-2920

## **Stephen F. Austin State Park**

### *Family Breakfast with Santa*

Dec. 13 8:30–11 a.m.

Santa and his elves will be stopping at Stephen F. Austin State Park for breakfast on their way to the North Pole. Please join us for a pancakes and sausage, fruit, juice and coffee breakfast provided by The Friends of Stephen F. Austin State Park. Kids can bring their wish list to share with Santa as then enjoy a Holiday Nature Walk through our beautiful nature trail. Don't forget your camera! Event fee: Kids 9 and under: \$4, Adults and kids 10 and older: \$5, Kids under 3: free. Event fee includes park entry fee. (979) 885-3613

## **Sheldon Lake State Park**

### *Holiday in the Park*

Dec. 13 1–4 p.m.

Lots of holiday-themed activities await visitors at this special event: make reindeer ornaments, build fruit wreaths to feed backyard birds, or explore the park on a holiday-themed geocache hunt. Visitors will also have the opportunity to enjoy nature hikes or visit the John Jacob Observation Tower. Listening to festive music by the campfire is sure to put you in the

holiday spirit at this free event. Accessible for the mobility, visual and hearing impaired. (281) 456-2800

## **South Llano River State Park**

### *Christmas at the Ranch*

Dec. 6 12–5 p.m.

Come join us as the park celebrates Christmas at the Walter Buck, Jr. Ranch. With the original ranch home acting as the backdrop, several ranch-themed activities will be taking place at the park headquarters. Campers are encouraged to decorate their campsites in holiday splendor. In the evening, visitors can drive through the campground to take in the festive decorations. Entrance fees for day-use visitors will be waived. (325) 446-3994

## **Tyler State Park**

### *Pineywoods Christmas and Winter Wonderland Hike*

Dec. 13

Enjoy the sights and sounds of Tyler State Park on foot or in your car. The park will be decorated with Christmas lights, and campers are encouraged to decorate their campsites. The hike starts at 4:30 p.m., and the drive through starts at 6 p.m. Don't miss the chance to pick up some unique Christmas gifts at the park store. Refreshments will be served. Entry fees waived for participating visitors. Campers who agree to participate will be able to camp for free. Please call park office in advance to reserve a site; participating campers may begin arriving Wednesday, Dec. 10. (903) 597-5338

WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS SHS







MONUMENT HILL AND KREISCHE BREWERY SHS



PURTIS CREEK SP

## McKinney Falls State Park

### Winter Solstice Celebration

Dec. 20-21 5-9 p.m.

Celebrate the start of winter and the longest night of the year at McKinney Falls State Park! Join a ranger for winter crafts and activities, followed by a night hike around the park. A campfire and all materials will be provided. Participants are encouraged to bring their own holiday-themed snacks and foods, as well as a warm drink. Warm clothes, blankets, and water recommended. (512) 415-8793

## Monahans Sandhills State Park

### Sandhill Christmas

Dec. 13 6 p.m.

Who needs mountains of snow, when you have hills of sand? This evening promises to be full of unique, holiday-themed fun. The event will include a train ride for kids, a horse-drawn sleigh rides with Santa, hay rides, live music, a scavenger hunt, and even decorating a tumbleweed Christmas tree. (432) 943-2092

## Monument Hill and Kreische Brewery State Historic Site

### Trail of Lights

Dec 6, 12, 13, 19 & 20 6-8 p.m.

\$4/adult and \$1/child 3-12 years old

Celebrate Christmas in early Texas-German style! Enjoy a beautifully

illuminated quarter-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 wishes 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! Sorry, no pets or alcohol allowed. (979) 968-5658

## Palmetto State Park

### Old Fashioned Holiday Taffy Pull

Dec. 20 1-3 p.m.

Get ready for some holiday candy-making fun as we make batches of homemade taffy. We will explore some of the different taffy recipes from the Depression era and the sugar-rationed days of World War II. These all-time favorite recipes are sure to bring back memories or spark new interests. Join us as we get our hands covered with sweet buttery goodness. Regular entrance fees apply. (830) 672-3263

## Palo Duro Canyon State Park

### Hot Air Balloon Glow

Dec. 20 5-7 p.m.

As the night sets in, join us at the base of the canyon and take in the beauty of these glowing hot air balloons. The night will include holiday-themed activities for the family, hot chocolate and cookies being served and Santa Claus visiting with the children. Entry fees will be waived, but visitors are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to donate to the High Plains Food Bank. (806) 488-2227

## Purtis Creek State Park

### Christmas in Goshen

Dec. 5-6 5:30-9:30 p.m.

Step back in time to Goshen, the town adjacent to the park in the late 1800s. Drive through the campgrounds of Purtis Creek State Park and view Christmas light displays presented by our campers. Smokey the Bear and Santa Claus will be at the Picnic Pavilion for pictures. Enjoy hot chocolate and an old-fashioned Bake Sale and Cake Walk benefitting the Friends of Purtis Creek and building support for a new playground. Event fee of \$5 per carload will be charged for each evening. (903) 425-2332



provided by the Friends of Lake Brownwood. Hot chocolate will also be provided. (325) 784-5223

## Lake Colorado City State Park

### *All Around the Campfire Christmas*

Dec. 13 4-8 p.m.

Bring out your family, friends, and your Christmas spirit as we celebrate this wonderful holiday season. From 4 to 6 p.m., there will be games and crafts in the rec hall; afterwards we'll carol our way to the campfire for some classic Christmas stories. Feel free to bring snacks, like marshmallows or hotdogs, to roast. Santa is a fan of campfires, so be sure to have your Christmas wish list ready. Regular entrance fees apply. (325) 728-3931

## Lake Tawakoni State Park

### *Christmas Twinkle Tour*

Dec. 12-14 5-8 p.m.

Come camp with us and decorate your campsite with your favorite holiday decorations. Later that evening join us on a hayride, or drive your vehicle, through the park to view the Christmas decorations. Santa will be in the park to take your Christmas wishes, so bring your cameras. Refreshments will be served. If the weather should turn bad, visitors can use their own vehicles to tour the park. Event fee of \$5 per vehicle. (903) 560-7123

## Lake Whitney State Park

### *1st Annual Christmas at the Park*

Dec. 12-13

You're invited to come out and show your holiday spirit! Campsite fees will be waived for all visitors who decorate their sites on Friday and Saturday night. Visitor entry fees will be waived Saturday night from 5 to 10 p.m. for all visitors who would like drive or walk through the park and experience the decorated campgrounds. Don't miss the opportunity to pick up some unique Christmas gifts at the park headquarters! (254) 694-3793

## Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site

### *Holiday Cookie Decorating and German Traditions*

Nov. 29 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Bring the entire family and get into the holiday spirit by spending the day at the park. Join us in decorating cookies as it was done for German Christmas trees in the 1900s. Enjoy participating in the German holiday traditions of wreath making, candle making and await the arrival of St. Nicholas. Make sure to stop by the park store and get a jump on your holiday shopping. (830) 644-2252

## 45th Annual LBJ Tree Lighting

Dec. 21 6 p.m.

Come join the Texas Hill Country community in this special tradition started long 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 where you'll find special German cookies and cakes, 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

## Longhorn Cavern State Park

### *Caroling in the Park*

Dec. 13 & 20 6-8 p.m.

Join us at Longhorn Cavern as we celebrate the season with the singing of Christmas carols in the park and food and games in the administration building. A different musical artist will be showcased each week. Tour groups of the cavern will be departing on a regular basis throughout the event. Reservations highly recommended. (512) 598-2283

## Martin Creek Lake State Park

### *Christmas in the Pineywoods*

Dec. 5-6 6-9 p.m.

Take a drive through the Pineywoods and see campsites decorated with holiday lights. Kids will have the opportunity to visit with Santa Claus. Entrance fees will be waived if you bring an unwrapped toy for a local charity group. Campers may camp for free if they decorate their campsite, must contact office for reservation by Friday, Nov. 28. Campers may arrive starting Tuesday, Dec. 2 to decorate their sites. (903) 836-4336

LAKE TAWAKONI SP





### **Christmas Concert**

Dec. 6 6 p.m.

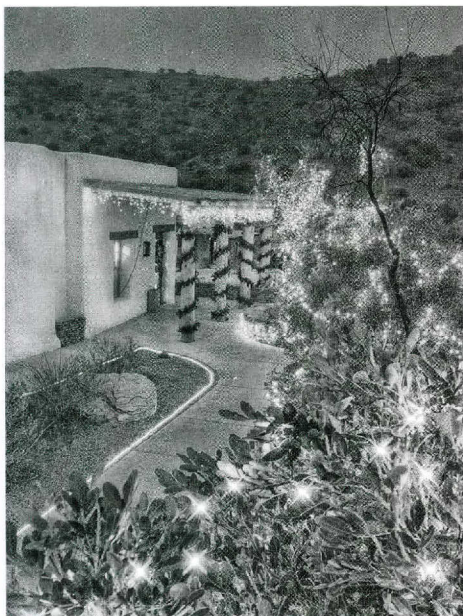
Experience the sights and sounds of the holiday season at Mission Espíritu Santo, Goliad State Park! Under the direction of Dr. James Lee, the Beeville Community Chorus will present a selection of sacred and secular Christmas music inside the old mission chapel. Flickering candlelight, phenomenal acoustics, and voices raised in song create a visual and auditory Christmas experience like no other. The park store will be open to provide you with unique gifts for everyone on your list. Park entrance fees apply. (361) 645-3405

### **Los Pastores – A Shepherd’s Play**

Dec. 20 2 p.m.

Franciscan priests created shepherd’s plays (which depict the shepherd’s journey to see Baby Jesus) in the 16th century to share the Spanish culture and religion with Meso-American Indians. Familiar cultural tools such as music, dance, action, and costumes were used to communicate the meanings of the plays to non-Spanish speaking Native Americans. This Spanish language presentation will give attendees a firsthand perspective of what life was like for those living at the mission. (361) 645-3405

INDIAN LODGE



### **Guadalupe River State Park**

#### ***T’was the Night at the Guad***

Dec. 6 6–8 p.m.

An evening of holiday fun awaits at Guadalupe River State Park. We’ll gather at the amphitheater, starting the night with a reading of *T’was the Night Before Christmas*. Afterwards, enjoy a Christmas-themed movie under the stars. Regular entrance fees apply. (830) 438-2656

### **Indian Lodge and Davis Mountains State Park**

#### ***Festival of Lights***

Dec. 13 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Experience seasonal displays of gingerbread houses, historic tree decorations, and a courtyard all aglow with lit trees and wreaths. Learn how to make edible tree ornaments for our feathered friends, sprays to decorate your home and much more at the Davis Mountain Interpretive Center. Take a stroll and sample homemade cookies and seasonal desserts as well as fresh mulled cider, hot cocoa and homemade eggnog. Entrance and activity fees waived for this event. (432) 426-3254

### **Lake Bob Sandlin State Park**

#### ***Christmas in the Park***

Dec. 12–13

Visitors are invited to drive or stroll through the park and see campsites “dressed in holiday style.” There will be hot chocolate at the headquarters after your tour of the lights. Entrance fees waived for participating visitors. Additional children’s activities on Saturday night. Campers who agree to decorate their campsites will camp for free, cabin campers decorating will receive a discount. Please call office in advance to sign up for a site; participating campers may begin arriving on Wednesday, Dec. 10, and must have displays ready by noon on Friday, Dec. 12. (903) 572-5531

### **Lake Brownwood State Park**

#### ***Holiday at the Lake***

Dec. 20

Come camp with us and bring your decorations with you! We will be having a competition for best decorated campsite. The winner will get their campsite fees waived for the evening. For visitors and overnight guests, at 7 p.m. there will be a campfire talk with a park ranger and Santa will make an appearance. Kids can have their photo taken on Santa’s lap and then decorate sugar cookies

LAKE BROWNWOOD SP





## **Fort Leaton State Historic Site**

### *Posada at the Fort*

Dec. 16 6:30–9 p.m.

Come celebrate Christmas with a traditional Mexican posada. Walk and sing with Mary and Joseph as they search for shelter. Follow the luminarias up to the front door, where you'll enjoy a Christmas carol concert performed by a local choir, a warm fire, and even a piñata or two. Refreshments will be served. Entrance and event fees waived for this event. Wheelchair accessible for most of the event. (432) 229-3613

## **Fort Richardson State Park and Historic Site**

### *Fort Richardson by Candlelight*

Dec. 13 5–6:30 p.m.

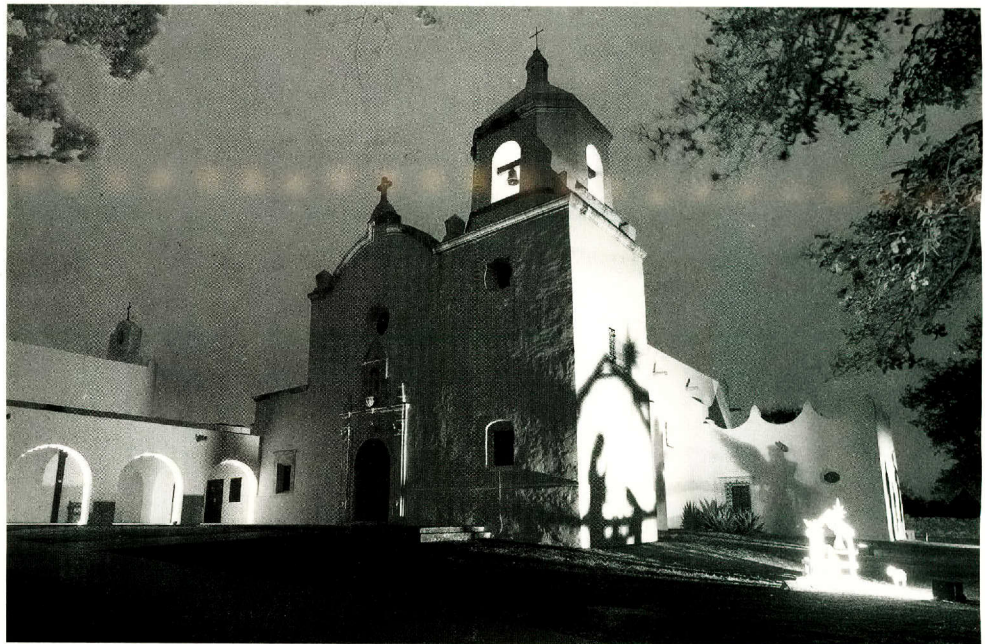
Join us as we recreate Christmas in 1870. Once the sun sets, you'll find the historic buildings filled with cavalry soldiers and their families as they go about their evening celebrations and the routines of a nineteenth century U.S. military post. Visitors are invited to stroll through the buildings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

## **Franklin Mountains State Park**

### *Turkey Trail Trilogy Hikes*

Nov. 27

Join us on a series of back to back hikes on Thanksgiving Day, a perfect way to erase any guilt from that extra slice of pumpkin pie. The adventure starts at 9:00 a.m., departing from the Tom Mays Unit, for the Lower Sunset Trail, a 2.5-mile hike that offers fabulous views to the west, followed by the Aztec Caves Trail at noon, a moderate level trail with several scenic overlooks. The last leg of the journey, starting at 2:30 p.m., is the Nature Walk Trail, an easy, level trail perfect for families. Each hike ends at



GOLIAD SP

its starting point; feel free to join for any part of the trip. Regular entrance fees apply. (915) 566-6441

### *T'was the Hike Before Christmas*

Dec. 13 & 20 9 a.m.

Take a break from the holiday rush and experience the beauty of the Franklin Mountains. On the 13th, meet at the West Cottonwood Springs Trailhead of the Tom Mays unit, and explore the Mundy's Gap Trail, a 3.5-hour, moderate to difficult hike. On the 20th, we'll discover the Upper Sunset Trail, a 2-hour, easy to moderate hike offering great vista views. This hike departs from site 39 in the Tom Mays Unit. Santa hats and festive attire is encouraged for both hikes! Regular entrance fees apply. (915) 566-6441

### *Jingle Dogs Hike*

Dec. 21 9 a.m.

Take a dog-friendly hike along the Lower Sunset Trail. This hike takes about 2 hours and is considered moderate difficulty; it offers views along the edges of the arroyos and off to the west. Come decked out in Santa hats and festive attire for both you and your pooch. Regular entrance fees apply. (915) 566-6441

### *Christmas Mine Tour*

Dec. 25 10–11:30 a.m.

Looking for something new this Christmas? You'll have quite the story to tell, after going on this guided hike. We'll begin on the West Cottonwood Spring Trail, and then enter the mine to explore the history and geology of the area and end on the Agave Loop. The exploration into the mines is fun and easy with one initial short belly crawl through the opening. (915) 566-6441

## **Goliad State Park**

### *History in Lights*

Nov. 30 – Dec. 31

Every evening, sunset until 10 p.m.

Come take an evening stroll at Mission Espíritu 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



## ***Christmas in the Park***

Dec. 13

Enjoy a Hill Country Christmas at legendary Enchanted Rock, where a variety of holiday-themed events will be happening throughout the day. Start the day with an Enchanted Hike at 9:30 a.m., where you'll join Santa for a hike to the summit of Enchanted Rock. At 4:30 p.m. join Santa and his elves for an old-fashioned hay ride through the park. Enjoy hot chocolate and cookies courtesy of Friends of Enchanted Rock. At 7 p.m. there will be a special Night Time Hike to the summit of Enchanted Rock with Santa Claus to ring in the Christmas season. Hot chocolate will be served. (830) 685-3636

## ***North Star Party***

Dec. 20 5:30 p.m.

The North Star is missing and we need your help to find it! Santa uses this star to find his way to your house. Join park staff in finding this star and others. This event promises to be fun for all ages. (830) 685-3636

## ***Christmas on "The Other Side of the Rock"***

Dec. 25 9:30 a.m.

Create a truly unique Christmas morning memory and join a park ranger on a hike to the other side of The Rock known as Little Rock. See the park from a different perspective than the summit. This hike is for those with an adventurous spirit that want a real treat on Christmas Day. (830) 685-3636

## **Estero Llano Grande State Park**

### ***Santa's Bird Hike***

Dec. 13 9-11 a.m.

It shouldn't be a surprise that Santa's a birder: he loves keeping a list and checks it twice during his annual trip to the RGV to spot those South Texas specialties like Green Jay, Plain Chachalaca, and the Great Kiskadee

to name a few. Join Santa and his favorite bird guide friends on a special bird walk. Regular entrance fees apply. (956) 565-3919

### ***Bunuelo Bites and Christmas Lights***

Dec. 13 7-10 p.m.

Come enjoy an evening of Christmas spirit. Walk the lighted path to the visitor's center where you can join us in crafts and activities for the kids. Christmas carols around the piano are sure to warm the soul. Travel by tinselled trolley to Pauraque Hall to enjoy traditional hot chocolate and bunuelos. Santa is sure to arrive to join in the festivities one of his favorite parks in Texas. (956) 565-3919

### ***Night Hike with Santa***

Dec. 22 8-10 p.m.

Join us for a night adventure full of Christmas cheer and nature discovery as we embark on a 2-hour journey searching for nocturnal creatures with Santa. We will discover owls, scorpions, tarantulas, and more on our journey. Regular entrance fees apply. (956) 565-3919

## **Fairfield Lake State Park**

### ***4th Annual Christmas in the Park***

Dec. 13 6-10 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate the season with a "Trail of Lights" in our newly renovated Cooks Ferry Camping Loop. Local businesses and campers decorate their campsites; camping fees will be waived for those who participate. Classic Christmas movies and music will be playing, and you'll also find hot cocoa, wassail and cookies being served to help put you in the Christmas spirit. Santa will stop by to visit and take pictures from 7 to 9 p.m. Entrance and event fees are waived for this event. (903) 389-4514 ext. 0



FANTHORP INN SHS

## **Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site**

### ***Twilight Firelight***

Nov. 29 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Take a journey back to the 1850s as the inn comes to life with lanterns, music and holiday traditions! Enjoy the ambiance of the candlelit inn, stagecoach rides, fireside stories, dancing, 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 other travelers from the period. They will entertain you with stories, poetry, period music, wassail and good cheer. No reservations are required as tickets are available near the courthouse parking from 4:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. Suggested ticket donations are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. (936) 878-2214



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 ornaments, 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, hot cider and cookies (while supplies last). Come join us for a truly unique Christmas experience! Wheelchair accessibility on main deck only. (281) 479-2431

## **Bentsen-Rio Grande Valley State Park**

### *Holiday Kickoff*

Dec. 6 1-8 p.m.

The entire family is invited to take in the fresh air and beautiful surroundings during the Holiday Kickoff. Enjoy a fun-filled holiday-themed day and evening with caroling, festive crafts, games, touch tables, bird watching, family activities and much more. There will be a competition for best decorated kid's bike and the kids can have their photo taken with Santa (bring your own camera). Once the sun sets, join us for a special holiday stargazing program. (956) 584-9156

## **Brazos Bend State Park**

### *A Simple Christmas at Brazos Bend State Park*

Dec. 6 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 and Victorian-era games, 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](http://www.brazosbend.org). (979) 553-5101

## **Cedar Hill State Park**

### *Caroling Through Penn Farm*

Dec. 13 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) 291-3900

## **Cooper Lake State Park – Doctors Creek Unit**

### *8th Annual Christmas in the Park*

Dec. 12-13 5-10 p.m.

Visitors will find the park and the entire campground decorated to match the beauty of the holidays. Those joining us on Saturday evening from 6 to 9 p.m. will also find refreshments and have the opportunity to visit with Santa (remember to bring your camera for pictures). Sponsored by the Friends of Doctors Creek. \$5 per vehicle. (903) 395-3100

## **Daingerfield State Park**

### *2nd Annual Piney Woods Christmas*

Dec. 19-20

Come experience a Piney Woods Christmas at Daingerfield State Park. Take a drive through the park to view sites decorated by our campers. Stop by Little Pine General Store (a Texas State Park store) to purchase gifts and souvenirs. Santa will be here taking your last minute requests just in time for Christmas! Refreshments and treats will be served. (903) 645-2921

## **Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area**

### *Thanksgiving Bake Sale*

Nov. 28-29 9 a.m. – Noon

Visit the Devil's Sinkhole Visitor Center and stock up on delicious holiday goodies, baked by local residents. While picking up your snacks, you may even learn a few things about the sinkhole and its residents. You'll also find a great selection of unique gift items in the souvenir shop. (830) 683-2287

## **Dinosaur Valley State Park**

### *Christmas in the Valley*

Dec. 13 7 p.m.

Bring the decorations and show your creative side in decorating your campsite! Campers may start decorating in the morning at 10 a.m., judging will begin at dusk. The winner will have that night's campsite fees waived. The park store will also be hosting the tree lighting at 7 p.m. where the winner of the campsite decorating contest will be announced. Rumors are "Ol' Saint Nick" might just show up for a visit. Don't forget your camera! (254) 897-4588

## **Enchanted Rock State Natural Area**

### *Turkey Trot with the Ranger*

Nov. 27 9 a.m.

Tired of parades? How about starting your Thanksgiving Day running the loop trail with a park ranger? Bring all of your running gear to burn off some calories before you indulge on your Thanksgiving feast. (830) 685-3636

### *Grinch's Full Moon Hike to the Summit*

Dec. 6 7 p.m.

Join park staff on an exhilarating hike to the summit of Enchanted Rock. Once at the top, enjoy a reading of the classic, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* Get in the spirit and wear a "Grinch Stocking Cap"; bring your own or pick one up in the park store. (830) 685-3636





ABILENE SP

## Abilene State Park

### *Fa-la-la in the Forest*

Dec. 13 6-9 p.m.

Campers will be asked to adorn their campsites, screen shelters, or yurts with lights and decorations. Campsite fees will be waived for the day of the event for those who stay two (or more) days and also decorate their site. The public will be invited to tour the park, free of charge, from 6 to 9 p.m. Cookies, hot chocolate, and other refreshments will be served from 6 to 8 p.m. and Santa is expected to make an appearance.

Anyone interested in decorating a campsite should contact the park in advance. (325) 572-3204

## Atlanta State Park

### *Christmas in the Park*

Dec. 12-13 Sunset - 9 p.m.

Decorate your campsite and join in bringing Christmas cheer to visitors as they enjoy a free drive through the park. Visitors will also get the chance to see Santa, Mrs. Claus, the Grinch and Smokey the Bear. Refreshments and treats will be served. Fees waived for those campers who participate in the festivities by decorating your campsite! (903) 796-6476

## Barton Warnock Visitor Center

### *Christmas on the Border*

Dec. 17 6:30 p.m.

Join staff and volunteers in celebrating the holiday season in West Texas border fashion. The Terlingua Chorus, Terlingua Community School Band, and a variety of community performers will provide entertainment. Refreshments and treats will be served while Santa Claus visits with the children. (432) 424-3327

## Bastrop State Park

### *It's a CCC Christmas!*

Dec. 21 3-7 p.m.

Join us at the Refectory building for a CCC Christmas experience. An interpretive presentation will be given at 3 p.m. and 5 p.m. You will hear how the young men who built Bastrop and Buescher state parks in the 1930s spent their Christmas far from home and family. Enjoy learning about the CCC and what life and the holidays were like for these men over 75 years ago. Take a leisurely drive up to the CCC-built cabins and marvel at these historic structures. Admission is free. (512) 321-2101



BATTLESHIP TEXAS SHS

## 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

### *Yuletide Texas "A Sailor's Christmas"*

Dec. 13 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

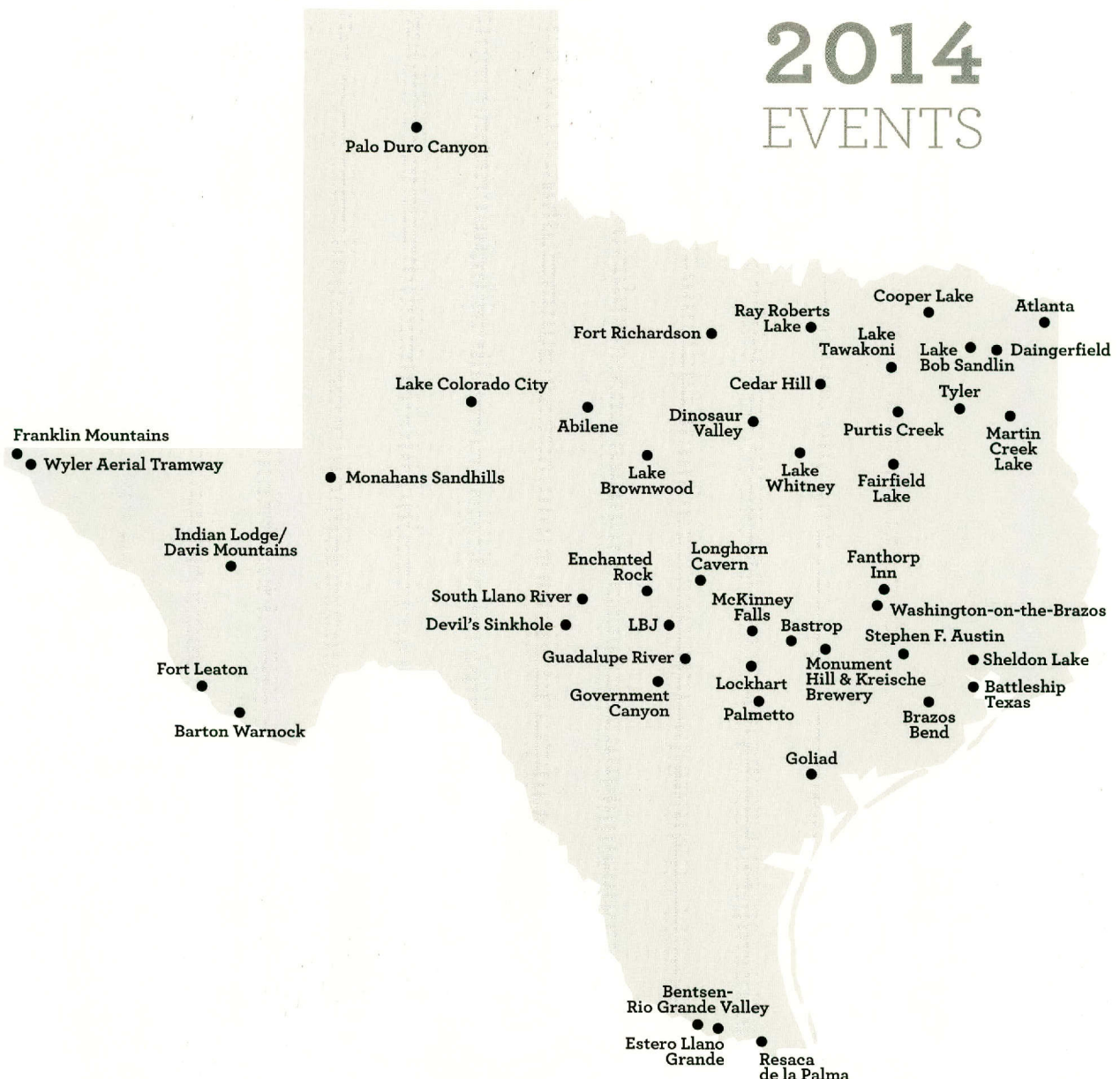




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KREISCHE BREWERY SHS

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. Visit [www.TexasStateParks.org/holidays](http://www.TexasStateParks.org/holidays) for the most up-to-date information on State Park holiday events and promotions.

To find information about parks, visit [TexasStateParks.org](http://TexasStateParks.org) or call (800) 792-1112 and press option 3.







2014

# Christmas in the Parks

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS AT  
TEXAS STATE PARKS



Life's better outside.®