



*Christmas  
in the  
Parks*

2023



GOLIAD SP

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, a nature walk on a crisp evening, or re-living Christmases past in a historic home there's something for just about everyone this time of year. Before attending any event, please check with the park to confirm applicable fees, availability, and to ensure the event is still taking place. Events marked with a **!** are taking place at a site managed by the Texas Historical Commission.

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 state parks, visit [TexasStateParks.org](http://TexasStateParks.org) or call (512) 389-8900. Visit [www.thc.texas.gov/historicsites](http://www.thc.texas.gov/historicsites) to learn more about Texas Historical Commission State Historic Sites and events.



COVER PHOTO:  
LAKE CORPUS CHRISTI SP

## **Atlanta State Park**

### *Lights in the Park*

Dec. 15 & 16 5-9 p.m.

Atlanta State Park buildings and campsites are decorated with light displays. Visitors donate canned foods for admission and drive through the park to view the light displays. (903) 796-6476

## **Balmorhea State Park**

### *Christmas in the Desert*

Dec. 16 & 17 6-7:30 p.m.

Celebrate the holiday season with a stroll down the decorated tree grove at Balmorhea State Park. Enjoy scenic sites as Christmas lights twinkle against the spring-fed swimming pool. (432) 249-9908

## **Barton Warnock Visitor Center**

### *Birdhouse Building*

Dec. 24 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join us at Barton Warnock Visitor Center for hot chocolate and build a birdhouse for your backyard! Around the holiday season we usually build gingerbread houses. At Big Bend Ranch State Park we build bird houses. Join us for a jolly time building and decorating your very own birdhouse. Feel free to wear your favorite "ugly" holiday sweater. (432) 424-3327

## **Bastrop and Buescher State Parks**

### *Gobble Till You Wobble Backcountry Hike (Bastrop)*

Nov. 25 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

#Optoutside on Black Friday and take a ranger-led 3- to 4-mile hike through areas of the park not often seen by the public! We'll discuss

history of the park and how we manage our special natural resources along the way. (512) 718-0211

### *Fa La La Through the Forest - Scavenger Hunt (Both Parks)*

Nov. 4 - Dec. 31

There are hidden paper ornaments around both Buescher and Bastrop state parks! Start off at either park headquarters building and find the first ornament. Each ornament will have a riddle for you to find where the next ornament will be! Have fun Fa La La-ing through the lost pines forest! (512) 718-0211

### *Happy Holly-Days (Buescher)*

Dec. 16 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Come out for a holly jolly good time at Buescher for a day filled with fun activities. From a guided Holly Jolly Hike to experiencing native holly tea, then on to Christmas yaupon holly wreath making and Home for the Holidays wildlife trivia, we're sure you'll have a happy holiday at Buescher! (512) 237-2241

### *A Lost Pines CCC Christmas (Bastrop)*

Dec. 22 5-8 p.m.

Join us for some Christmas fun! Tour the inside of the historic Refectory and see how the Civilian Conservation Corps celebrated Christmas away from home! Enjoy making a nature inspired ornament, pinecone bird feeder, write a last-minute letter to Santa, and other crafts! (512) 718-0211

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

### *Bentsen Holiday Fun Day*

Dec. 16 1-4 p.m.

Spend a Saturday afternoon in the park to kick off the holiday season!

Ride the shuttle to the park Pavilion for some fun and challenging activities. Make a holiday ornament to decorate your tree. Check out our touch tables, open a present from nature (owl pellet), play the Backyard Bass fishing game or go birdwatching with an expert. (956) 584-9156

## **Big Spring State Park**

### *Watercolor Holiday Cards*

Dec. 16 1-2:30 p.m.

See how art and parks are connected, learn some basic watercolor techniques, and create your own cards to share with your family and friends. Meet us at our headquarters building. All supplies will be provided. (806) 241-5741



BONHAM SP

## **Bonham State Park**

### *Light up the Park*

Dec. 15 & 16 6-9 p.m.

Celebrate the holidays and Texas State Parks' 100 years! Campers are encouraged to "deck the halls" by decorating their campsite - camping fees will be waived for those that participate. Visitors are welcome to come see all the decorated sites. Entry fees will be waived for this State Parks 100 Year Celebration event! Donations of new children's gifts will be collected for the Fannin County Children's Center. Participating campers must contact the park directly for campsite reservations. (903) 583-5022

## Brazos Bend State Park

Dec. 9 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Celebrate the holidays outdoors with Brazos Bend State Park. Bring your family and friends and join us for a day full of fun programs and activities. There will be birding hikes, alligator and snake programs, holiday crafts, a visit from Santa, hayrides and much more. (979) 553-5101

## Caddo Lake State Park

### *Hike Off The Turkey*

Nov. 24 9–10 a.m.

Take a hike through the forest with a ranger. Learn about the various natural habitats at Caddo Lake State Park. Bring water, comfortable footwear, and dress appropriately. (903) 578-0160

### *A Crafty Caddo Christmas*

Dec. 9 & 15 1–3 p.m.

Deck in the halls in our CCC Hall. Join us by the fire for hot chocolate, cookies, and creating your own Christmas tree ornaments. All supplies will be provided. (903) 578-0160

## Cedar Hill State Park

### *Christmas on the Farm*

Dec. 1-6 4–7 p.m.

Join us for a fun-filled evening of history, caroling, hot chocolate and more as we celebrate Christmas on Penn Farm. Christmas was a very important time of year for the Penn family and others living on the North Texas prairie. It was a time for families to settle down for winter and take a break after the hectic fall working months. Music, community, and joy filled the farm, and we continue that tradition with our annual Christmas on the Farm celebration. (972) 291-3900



GOODNIGHT RANCH

### Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight Ranch

#### *Prairie Christmas Sing Along*

Dec. 9 5:30–7 p.m.

Come experience Christmas on the Prairie! Enjoy a cup of wassail as you visit Charles and Mary Ann Goodnight's beautiful historic home decked out for the holidays followed by an old-fashioned sing-along by the campfire as you enjoy the aroma of chuckwagon cooking wafting through the crisp Panhandle air. Regular admission cost. (806) 944-5591

#### *Christmas Crafts on the Ranch*

Dec. 16 11 a.m., 1 p.m. & 3 p.m.

Recreate the beauty of the stained-glass windows in the Goodnight home by making your very own Christmas ornament using colored tissue paper to replicate the stained glass. The 3 p.m. program will be for adults only—it will use real stained glass and be led by a master craftsman. Reservations are required for the 3 p.m. program and the cost will be \$20. The 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. programs are free and open to all ages. (806) 944-5591

## Cooper Lake State Park

### *Winter Wonderland*

Dec. 8 & 9 6–9 p.m.

Escape the hustle and bustle of the city and kick off the holiday season with a visit to Cooper Lake State Park. Campsites will be decorated



COOPER LAKE SP

to celebrate the season. Visitors can enjoy a free, leisurely drive through the park to view the decorations. Please bring canned goods for donations and your camera to join in the fun! (903) 395-3100

## Copper Breaks State Park

### *Cowboy Christmas*

Dec. 9 6 p.m.

Join us for Cowboy Christmas music and poetry! Learn how cowboys have celebrated the season on the open range for over 150 years. Sing along to your old favorites and learn some new holiday tunes and poems. This is a great program for all ages, so bring the whole family! (940) 839-4331



DAINGERFIELD SP

## Daingerfield State Park

### *11th Annual Christmas in the Park*

Dec. 13 & 14 6–9 p.m.  
Dec. 15 & 16 6–10 p.m.

Come experience a Pineywoods Christmas! Follow the lights through the pine forest where you will find the campsites and day-use area decorated with Christmas cheer! Feel the excitement of Christmas everywhere and maybe

catch a glimpse of Jolly Old St. Nick himself! Free entrance with canned food donation. (903) 645-2921

## **Davis Mountains State Park**

### *Holiday Ornament Workshop*

Dec. 3, 10, 17 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Come feel the holiday spirit at the Interpretive Center as we create a variety of handmade ornaments. Bring your creativity and we'll provide the rest. Open to all ages and wheelchair accessible. (432) 426-3337

### *Winter Solstice Hike*

Dec. 22 4–6:30 p.m.

Celebrate the shortest day of the year on this moderate-level hike up Skyline Drive Trail to the Keesey Canyon Overlook. At the top, we'll share stories about the historic significance of this seasonal highlight. Meet at the Interpretive Center by 3:45 p.m. (432) 426-3337

## **Devils River State Natural Area**

### *Holiday Gift for our Feathered Friends*

Dec. 16 1–5 p.m.

Join us for hot chocolate and cookies, and decorate a bird feeder for our feathered friends in your backyard this holiday season! (830) 395-2133

## **📍 Eisenhower Birthplace State Historic Site**

### *Holiday on the Home Front*

Dec. 1-23

Eisenhower Birthplace invites visitors to learn more about the history of the holiday season. Throughout the month, the Birthplace will host

a series of arts and craft events. Check the Eisenhower Birthplace website for specific event days and times. Visitors can also view our historic Christmas tree display with trees decked in 1890s, 1940s, and 1950s decorations, grab some recipes to try at home, and learn more about the holidays at the Birthplace and in the White House. The tree display is free and open to the public. Join us throughout the month for holiday fun! (903) 465-8908



EISENHOWER SP

## **Eisenhower State Park**

### *Holiday Charity Toy Drive*

Nov. 25 – Dec. 11 8 a.m. – 10 p.m.

Support the Eisenhower State Park Charity Toy Drive! The park is collecting, new, unwrapped toys for the Grayson County Welfare Board for kids in need this holiday season. If you're visiting the park and donate during this time your entry fee will be waived per vehicle. For more information, email [Amanda.Parsons@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Amanda.Parsons@tpwd.texas.gov). (903) 465-1956

### *4th Annual Light Up the Park*

Dec. 8 & 9 5–10 p.m.

The tradition continues! Pull out your Jingle Bells because it is Christmas time at the park! The campground will be decorated, and visitors can drive through and see our camper displays. We will have candy canes and DIY treats for the kiddos and a visitor from the North

Pole – Santa will be there, don't forget your camera! Standard entry fees will be waived when you bring a new unwrapped toy for donation to support the kids at the Grayson County Welfare Board. For more information, email [Amanda.Parsons@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:Amanda.Parsons@tpwd.texas.gov). (903) 465-1956

## **Enchanted Rock State Natural Area**

### *Turkey Peak Turkey Trot*

Nov. 24 & 25 8:30 a.m. on Friday through 4:30 p.m. on Saturday

Join in on a self-guided turkey trot challenge through Turkey Pass and around Turkey Peak. A photo scavenger hunt will guide you through this 3-mile trail challenge. Once you complete the photo scavenger hunt and the turkey trot, pick up your prize at Headquarters between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. (830) 685-3636

### *Christmas at the Rock*

Dec. 16 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Santa is back this year at one of his favorite places: Enchanted Rock! Join a park ranger or volunteer in the Day-use Area to create a holiday craft or greeting card while sipping on hot chocolate. (830) 685-3636

## **Estero Llano Grande State Park**

### *Nature Walk with Santa*

Dec. 9 & 16 2–4 p.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 Rio Grande Valley to spot those south Texas specialties like Green Jay, Plain Chachalaca, and the Great Kiskadee. He also loves to look for butterflies, lizards, and other native critters. Join Santa and his favorite nature guide

friends on a special nature walk. Attendance is limited; call to reserve your spot. (956) 565-3919

## Fort Leaton State Park

### *Giving Thanks for a Desert Haven*

Nov. 25 2-6 p.m.

Come to Fort Leaton for a glimpse of life on an historic trade route. The fort provided one of the only stopovers along the Chihuahua Trail between San Antonio and the city of Chihuahua. This Thanksgiving visitors will have the chance to see what frontier life was like for countless travelers in a deadly landscape. (432) 229-3613



FORT LEATON SP

### *Posada*

Dec. 16 6-9 p.m.

The Posada is a Mexican Christmas tradition and here at Fort Leaton you will get a chance to experience a Posada with a Texas State Parks flavor. Food, music and a festive atmosphere highlight a welcoming night to a trade fort in the borderlands. (432) 229-3613

## Fort McKavett State Historic Site

### *A Very Military Christmas at Fort McKavett*

Dec. 16 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Join the soldiers, officers, ladies, and children of Fort McKavett as they explore the holiday season on the Texas frontier! See how mem-



FORT MCKAVETT SHS

bers of the United States Army and citizens of West Texas celebrated Christmas on an isolated military post in the Texas Hill Country. Activities include historical Christmas vignettes, craft making, Christmas tea, caroling, and pictures with Saint Nicholas. (325) 396-2358

## Fort Parker State Park

### *Lakeside Christmas*

Dec. 9 2-5 p.m.

Join Fort Parker State Park and the Groesbeck Volunteer Fire Department for a toy drive holiday event. Bring a new, unwrapped toy for waived entry, benefiting local area families. Take a picture with the Christmas Beaver and the fire truck, decorate Christmas cookies and ornaments while sipping hot chocolate and apple cider, and learn how to make desert in a Dutch oven! (254) 562-5751

FORT PARKER SP



## Franklin Mountains State Park

### *Turkey Trot*

Nov. 24 10 am.

Recipe for Thanksgiving leftovers: pack up the turkey and dinner rolls, hike up to Aztec Caves in the

Franklin Mountains, and enjoy with friends, family and other enthusiastic hikers. Total distance: 1.5 miles. Moderately difficult trail. Bring good hiking shoes and plenty of water. (915) 444-9121

## French Legation State Historic Site

### *Swift Fit Events x Texas Wellness*

Dec. 2 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Slow down this holiday season and enjoy some health and wellness at the French Legation. This family-friendly event is for all ages, offering ways to rest and recalibrate this season. Celebrate the history and culture of Texas and East Austin while incorporating wellness vendors and activities into your visit of the historic French Legation. (737) 226-1454

FRENCH LEGATION SHS



### *Cooking Demonstration: Holidays in the 1850s*

Dec. 9 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Savor the smells of a full 1850s holiday meal in preparation in the home's detached kitchen. Holiday celebrations in early Texas always included good food, and entertaining family and friends. Turkey, chicken, duck, beef, pork, and wild game, seasonal fruits and vegetables, and imported delicacies graced many tables in Austin during the holiday season. No reservations needed; demonstration included in price of admission. (737) 226-1454



GOLIAD SP

## Goliad State Park

### *History in Lights*

Dec. 1-31 6-10 p.m.

Enjoy the holidays with a beautiful evening stroll through the grounds of Mission Espiritu Santo. Light and shadow tell the story of this remarkable site as visitors walk the same path taken by Native Americans and Spanish Franciscan Priests so long ago. Park entrance fees apply. Advance day-use reservations recommended. (361) 645-3405

## Goose Island State Park

### *Christmas in the Park*

Dec. 9 6-8 p.m.

Join us for our 3rd Annual Christmas in the Park! Drive through our wooded campsites to enjoy festival decorations. Then join us at the Recreation Hall to vote for your favorite site and participate in fun activities and enjoy some hot cocoa and cider. (361) 729-2858

## Government Canyon State Natural Area

### *Pioneer Kids Christmas*

Dec. 9 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Come experience what the holidays were like for kids during the 1860s, when ranchers began to settle in the Government Canyon area. Participants will learn about and make traditional pioneer toys and crafts,

as well as sing traditional carols. (210) 688-9055

### *Kids Christmas Bird Count*

Dec. 22 9-11 a.m.  
Dec. 28 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

A ranger will teach the basics of bird identification, share some helpful hints and tools, and lead a short, guided bird walk. A journal to record data will be provided and some binoculars to share but please bring binoculars if you have them. (210) 688-9055

GOVERNMENT CANYON SNA



## Guadalupe River State Park

### *Storytime and Craft: Wild Turkeys*

Nov. 22 10-11 a.m.

Join us for an unforgettable wild turkey story and craft! Immerse your little ones in the fascinating world of these majestic birds through captivating tales and a hands-on craft. Fun for the whole family amid nature's beauty. Meet at the Amphitheater behind the Discovery Center. (830) 214-3635

### *Turkey Talk*

Nov. 23 10 a.m.

Join us this Thanksgiving Day for a gobble-tastic experience! Our Turkey Talk program brings the fascinating world of wild turkeys to life. Discover their habits, calls, and more. Make your holiday unforgettable with nature's own Thanksgiving story! Meet at the Amphitheater behind the Discovery Center. (830) 214-3635

## *Art in the Park: Christmas Cards*

Dec. 9 10-11 a.m.

Join us for a festive celebration of National Christmas Card Day! Embrace the holiday spirit amidst breathtaking natural beauty. Create personalized cards, sip cocoa, and make cherished memories to share with friends and family this season. Don't forget your camera! Meet at the Amphitheater behind the Discovery Center. (830) 214-3635

### *Christmas for the Birds*

Dec. 23 10-11 a.m.

Experience a festive feathered celebration this holiday season! Join us for "Christmas for the Birds," a delightful program that brings you closer to our winged friends. Discover their unique winter habits and make holiday treats for our avian pals. Fun for the whole family! Meet at the Amphitheater behind the Discovery Center. (830) 214-3635

GUADALUPE RIVER SP



## Huntsville State Park

### *Santa Watch*

Dec. 24 7-8 p.m.

Join Ranger John on Ravens Lodge patio as we look to the constellations. View the stars through a telescope and maybe, see Santa flying by. (936) 295-5644

## Inks Lake State Park

### Highland Lakes Holidays

Dec. 16

Come one, come all, to our Annual Highland Lakes Holidays. We will be inviting our campers to decorate their campsites the weekend before Christmas in the spirit of the holidays. Imagine thousands of twinkling holiday lights reflecting on the lake! The winner will receive a gift card equal to the cost of an Annual Pass, with smaller prizes for honorable mentions. Visitors are invited to join our celebration of the season, drive through and enjoy the radiance of lights at Inks Lake. (512) 793-2223



KREISCHE BREWERY SHS

### ➤ Kreische Brewery ➤ State Historic Site

#### Trail of Lights

Dec. 8, 9, 15, 16, 17 5:30-8 p.m.

The sites' grounds will be transformed with beautiful holiday lights. While walking the trail, guests can explore living history programs at the Kreische House and enjoy live music, holiday refreshments, visits with Santa, crafts, and more. (979) 968-5658

#### Trail of Lights Encore

Dec. 19-23 5:30-8 p.m.

Enjoy scenic vistas and light displays while walking on the grounds

of the sites. The "Encore" nights do not feature entertainment, refreshments, and other programming included during the regular Trail of Lights. (979) 968-5658



LAKE ARROWHEAD SP

## Lake Arrowhead State Park

### Christmas in the Park

Dec. 2 Sunset - 9 p.m.

Join us by decorating your campsite and help spread the Christmas cheer! Visitors will be allowed a free drive through the park on Saturday to see the lights. Fees will be waived for those campers who participate by decorating their campsite (sign-up required). Prizes will be awarded for the best decorations. Join the park ranger staff for coffee and hot cocoa at the administration building. Kiddos can make Christmas-themed arts and crafts and write letters to Santa. (940) 528-2211

## Lake Bob Sandlin State Park

### 12th Annual Christmas

Dec. 8 & 9 6-9 p.m.

On Friday, December 8, take a drive through the park to see the campsites covered in twinkling lights. On Saturday, December 9, you can drive through the park, as well as visit Santa in our day-use area. Free entrance with canned food donation. (903) 572-5531



LAKE BROWNWOOD SP

## Lake Brownwood State Park

### Holiday at the Lake

Dec. 8 & 9 6-8 p.m.

Campsites will be decorated to embrace the holiday cheer. Come visit for a twinkling drive and find holiday-themed activities at the park to enjoy. (325) 784-5223



LAKE CORPUS CHRISTI SP

## Lake Corpus Christi State Park

### Dutch Oven Friendsgiving

Nov. 22 10-11 a.m.

Dutch oven history, take-home recipes, and tasty samples? Join your friends at Lake Corpus Christi State Park! Meet at the kayak rental station. (361) 547-2635

### Little Rangers: Terrific Turkeys

Nov. 22 2-3 p.m.

Gobble, gobble! Children read, play, and craft to celebrate the critter of the week: the turkey. Meet at the Castle. (361) 547-2635

### Opt Outside Hike

Nov. 24 10-11:30 a.m. & 1-2:30 p.m.

Forego the stores, walk off yesterday's meal, and take some time to enjoy nature. Meet at Catfish Point Trail (0.9-mile hike). (361) 547-2635



## ***Holiday Light Drive-Thru***

Dec. 9 6-9 p.m.

Take a free drive through the holiday-decorated park. Check out the campsites that visitors decorated with holiday lights to get yourself in the holiday cheer! (361) 547-2635

## ***Watercolor Holiday Cards***

Dec. 16 10-11 a.m.

Make a holiday card with watercolor paints for a loved one this year. Meet at the Castle. (361) 547-2635

## ***Holiday Gift for the Birds***

Dec. 16 1-2 p.m.

Share the holiday season with our feathered friends and decorate a recycled bird feeder to take home. Meet in the birding area. (361) 547-2635

## ***Here's to S'more Happy Years!***

Dec. 31 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Send off the old year and celebrate the new year with us. S'more supplies will be available (while supplies last). 7:30-8 p.m. is a children's book read-aloud, 8-9 p.m. is a craft session, and 9-9:30 p.m. is a chance to burn away the bad memories of the last year and send your hopes for the new year to the stars. (361) 547-2635

## **Lake Mineral Wells State Park**

### ***Cross Timbers Cowboy Christmas***

Dec. 16 7 p.m.

Bring the whole family to the Lone Star Amphitheater and experience Christmas cowboy style. Join us around the campfire for an evening of cowboy culture through music, sing-alongs, stories and poems. Enjoy Chuck Wagon Dutch Oven treats. Accessible for the mobility



LAKE MINERAL WELLS SP

impaired. The program is free with paid park entrance fee or a State Parks Pass. (940) 328-1171

## **Lake Somerville State Park**

### ***Holiday Hayrides & Hot Chocolate***

Dec. 15 - Nails Creek 6 p.m.

Dec. 16 - Birch Creek 6 p.m.

Join us for a holiday hayride through a loop in the park. There will also be hot cocoa. Don't forget to wear your favorite Christmas outfit. (979) 200-0193

### ***Campfire & Marshmallow Roasting (Birch Creek)***

Dec. 23 6 p.m.

Join us for a holiday night of warmth, and delicious marshmallow roasting! Dress comfortably and bring your coffee or hot cocoa. Don't forget your camping chair. (979) 200-0193



LAKE TAWAKONI SP

## **Lake Tawakoni State Park**

### ***Twinkle Tour***

Dec. 16 5-8 p.m.

Come camp with us and decorate a campsite with your most festive

Christmas decorations. There will be a campsite decorating contest with prizes for the favorites. Guests who decorate their site will receive their second night of camping for free. Visitors can drive through the park to enjoy the festive Christmas lights and stop by the amphitheater to participate in a holiday craft. (903) 560-7123



LAKE WHITNEY SP

## **Lake Whitney State Park**

### ***Christmas in the Park 2023***

Dec. 16 6-8 p.m.

Share your holiday cheer with the community by decorating your campsite, get a discount for it, and possibly voted the best site! Park admission is free 6-8 p.m. for a drive through our park to view the campers' creativity. Visitors will get candy canes and a chance to vote for your favorite site, too. (254) 694-3793

## **Landmark Inn State Historic Site**

### ***Castroville Candlelight Tour of Homes***

Dec. 2 5-9 p.m.

Landmark Inn will serve as a starting point for visitors to begin their tour of five historic homes in Castroville and the Castroville Living History Center. Each stop on the Candlelight Tour will feature entertainment, including vocalists, a bell choir, and much more. Visitors can start and end their tour at Landmark Inn, enjoy the museum

and refreshments, and shop in the museum store. Hosted by the Castroville Conservation Society, the Candlelight Tour is a must-do for the holiday season and a perfect opportunity to see the beautiful historic homes and historical sites of Castroville. (830) 931-2133



LBJ/SAUER BECKMANN

## **LBJ/Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm**

### *Deck the Halls*

Nov. 25 10 a.m.-2 p.m.  
Learn how early Texans at the Sauer-Beckmann Farm got ready for the holidays. String popcorn and discover how to make wreaths out of local cedar clippings. Enjoy other fun kids' activities at the park's visitors center. The park's gift shop will be stocked with unique holiday items and more to complete your holiday shopping. (830) 644-2252

### *54th Annual LBJ Tree Lighting*

Dec. 17 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Join the Texas Hill Country in this special tradition started 54 years ago by President and Mrs. Johnson. Enjoy the park headquarters beautifully decorated for the holiday season. Walk the trails and revisit Christmas from the past at the Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm. Visit the gift shop for unique holiday items. (830) 644-2252

## **Lockhart State Park**

### *Lockhart State Park Taffy Pull*

Dec. 16 1 p.m.  
Learn how to make a sweet holiday treat! (512) 398-3479

### *Christmas Crafts*

Dec. 16 3 p.m.  
Join us to create nature-inspired Christmas cards and ornaments! (512) 398-3479



MARTIN CREEK LAKE SP

## **Martin Creek Lake State Park**

Entrance fees will be waived if a new, unwrapped toy or pet supply item is donated the day of each event. (903) 836-4336

### *Night Hike*

Nov. 25 8 p.m.  
Hike in your most festive attire and experience the night wildlife in the park. Meet at the Island trail head.

### *Hike with a Pal*

Dec. 2 2 p.m.  
Martin Creek has partnered with a local dog rescue — take a hike with a rescued dog. Wear your most festive attire and meet at the Harmony Hill trail head.

### *Holiday Craft*

Dec. 9 1 p.m.  
Feel the holiday spirit and spread the cheer with a holiday card craft at the Trammel Trace Pavilion.

## **Christmas Stories and S'mores**

Dec. 9 6 p.m.  
Join a park ranger around a campfire and enjoy s'mores while listening to some classic Christmas stories at the Twin Oak Amphitheater.

## **New Years Count Down**

Dec. 31 11 p.m.  
Help the park bring in the new year with s'mores at the Twin Oaks Amphitheater.

## **Martin Dies, Jr. State Park**

### *Pioneer Day*

Nov. 22 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.  
Join us for a fun-filled day, experiencing a slice of life from the early days of a pioneer. Park entrance fees are waived for these events. Activities will include Dutch oven cooking, guided canoe trip, period reenactors, archery range, cane pole fishing, guided nature hike, cowboy poetry, and LIVE music. Connect with nature in a new way and experience the skills of an early settler. (409) 384-5231

### *Simple Country Christmas*

Dec. 9 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
Join us in celebrating the Christmas season with a variety of holiday-themed activities. Park entrance fees are waived for these events. (409) 384-5231

MARTIN DIES, JR. SP



## ***Santa Hat Hike***

Dec. 9 10 a.m.

Meet up at Island Trail for a ranger-led walk. Put on your favorite festive hat or ugly holiday sweater (or both) and take a short stroll along a park trail with a park ranger. Stretch your legs while learning about the native plants and animals that call the park home. Weather permitting. (409) 384-5231

## ***Ornament Crafting***

Dec. 9 1 p.m.

Join our park's interpreter at the Education Center, where you can create holiday ornaments using natural materials. Make one to take home for your tree and make one to hang on the park's Christmas tree. (409) 384-5231

## ***Campfire, Cookies and Caroling***

Dec. 9 4 p.m.

Gather around a campfire at the amphitheater on the Walnut Ridge Unit by the Group Hall. Join us for the park's official Christmas tree lighting. Bring your family and friends to enjoy holiday treats, hot cocoa and caroling. (409) 384-5231

## ***Country Lights***

Dec. 9 6-9 p.m.

Drive, bike or walk through the 200-camping loop to experience campsites adorned with holiday-themed lights, sounds and decorations. (409) 384-5231

## **Mother Neff State Park**

### ***A Mother Neff Christmas***

Dec. 2 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Join us for creative Christmas crafts, a festive scavenger hunt, guided hikes and shop our unique gift selections for the outdoor



MOTHER NEFF SP

enthusiast on your list. Visit our website or Facebook page for more details. (254) 853-2389

## **Ray Roberts Lake State Park – Isle du Bois**

### ***Turkey Talk***

Nov. 22 2 p.m.

Join a ranger to learn all about turkey then hit the trail! We will dive into the Texas species, their history, and some of their interesting adaptations followed by a Turkey Myth Buster game. (940) 686-2148

### ***Woodland Ornaments***

Dec. 2 2 p.m.

Join a ranger to create holiday memories and ornaments! You will get to make your own woodland ornament while learning about the trees these natural ornaments come from. (940) 686-2148

### ***A Very Wild Christmas***

Dec. 8 5-6 p.m.

Join a ranger to create holiday memories as we read a Christmas story and then make our own group story while enjoying some favorites around the campfire. (940) 686-2148

## ***Oh DEER!***

### ***Texas Reindeer Relatives***

Dec. 9 2-3 p.m.

We may not have reindeer in the park, but we have plenty of their relatives! Join a ranger to learn about the deer that call the park home. (940) 686-2148

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

### ***Walk off the Stuffing***

Nov. 24 10 a.m.

Join rangers on a 5-mile hike to help walk off Thanksgiving dinner and you can ask them questions about what you see on the hike. (940) 637-2294

### ***Hot Cocoa with Santa***

Dec. 16 & 23 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Santa is coming to town! Join him at the Nature Center to tell him your Christmas list, take photos, and share a cup of hot cocoa while Santa reads "The Night Before Christmas." (940) 637-2294

### ***Woodland Ornaments***

Dec. 16 & 23 1-3 p.m.

Join rangers at the Nature Center to learn about our local trees and decorate your own holiday ornaments to take home. (940) 637-2294

### ***Santa's Workshop Showdown***

Dec. 16 5:30-8 p.m.

Come camp with us at the Juniper or Walnut camping loops and decorate your campsite with your favorite holiday decorations. There will be a contest with prizes for the most festive decorations. Guests who decorate their site will receive their second night of camping free. Visitors who would like to drive through the park and enjoy the festive holiday lights can receive

one free entry per one can of food donated for the local food pantry between 5:30 and 8 p.m.  
(940) 637-2294

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

### ***Resaca's Quinceañera***

Dec. 9 6-10 p.m.

Join us this holiday season in celebrating Resaca de la Palma State Park's 15th birthday with a traditional Quinceañera. This will be a momentous occasion filled with dance performances, champurrado (Mexican hot chocolate), tram rides, a lighted walk, and more!  
(956) 350-2920



SAM BELL MAXEY HOUSE SHS

### **| Sam Bell Maxey House ↘ State Historic Site**

#### ***Christmas Tours of the Maxey House***

Dec. 1-31

All month long, visitors will experience firsthand how Sam Bell Maxey Long and Lala Long celebrated the Christmas season. Regular admission fees will apply.  
(903) 785-5716

### ***Maxey House Birthday and Christmas Celebration***

Dec. 16 2-3 p.m.

Help celebrate the day that Marilda Maxey first moved into the Maxey House. There will be sweet treats, games, and Christmas ornament crafts for everyone. This event is free to the public. (903) 785-5716

### **| Sam Rayburn House ↘ State Historic Site**

#### ***A Very Rayburn Christmas***

Dec. 8 6-8 p.m.

Be festive and bright this holiday season at the Sam Rayburn House! Our special free evening event showcases a Rayburn family Christmas. See how the holiday was celebrated in the mid-20th century with self-guided tours of the first floor of the Rayburn home, then join us for cookies and cocoa in our visitor center. Round out your visit with family crafts featuring Stinky the donkey. (903) 583-5558

SAM RAYBURN HOUSE SHS



SAN ANGELO SP

## **San Angelo State Park**

### ***Holly-Days in the Park***

Dec. 9 6-8 p.m.

Come for a lighted tour drive through Red Arroyo campground and stop by the Chaparral Pavilion for pictures with Santa and Smokey Bear. Campers are encouraged to adorn their campsites with lights and decorations. Campsite fees will be waived for Friday and Saturday night for anyone who decorates their site. Those interested in decorating a campsite should contact the park in advance. (325) 949-4757



SAN FELIPE DE AUSTIN SHS

### **| San Felipe De Austin ↘ State Historic Site**

#### ***Christmas at San Felipe de Austin***

Dec. 10 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Join staff and volunteers at San Felipe de Austin State Historic Site for Texas history and holiday crafts to celebrate the Christmas season. Christmas was much different for settlers in Mexican Texas than what most of us experience in our modern lives. The day's activities will be aimed at history lovers and families.

They include two short presentations on religion and reflections on the Christmas season in Mexican Texas; readings of “Legend of the Poinsettia” and poinsettia papercraft activities for kids; and baked goods and refreshments at the outdoor oven in the Villa de Austin historic townsit exhibit. (979) 885-2181



SEA RIM SP

## Sea Rim State Park

### *A Very Marshy Christmas*

Dec. 16 2-4 p.m.

Ever wonder how Santa gets around in the marsh to visit the good little boys and girls? By air boat of course! Santa and Mrs. Claus have booked Sea Rim State Park’s cabin and will be arriving by air boat. Children will have a photo opportunity with Santa beginning at 3 p.m. when he arrives. Bring your camera to capture the day. There will be hot chocolate and cookies to help warm you up and kids are invited to create their own craft and take it home to spread holiday cheer. Entrance fees are waived for the event or arrive early and pay standard entry fees to visit the beach prior to Santa’s arrival. (409) 971-2559

## Sheldon Lake State Park

### *Holiday in the Park*

Dec. 10 1-4 p.m.

Bring the family out to Sheldon Lake State Park to celebrate the holiday season! We will be providing family-fun crafts, plenty of photo



SHELDON LAKE SP

opportunities, and a festive, park-wide scavenger hunt that will take you to the top of our 82-foot-high John Jacob Observation Tower. Before you leave, however, don’t forget to write your letter to Santa! (281) 456-2800



SOUTH LLANO RIVER SP

## South Llano River State Park

### *Turkey Trot*

Nov. 23 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

Earn those Thanksgiving calories here at the park for our 3rd annual Turkey Trot 5K. South Llano River State Park is home to a large Rio Grande Turkey roost, so we found it fitting to trot among the turkeys! Why not? Come see if you can spot any as you run/walk through the roost area towards the finish line. Free to the public. (325) 446-3994

## *Christmas at the Ranch*

Dec. 2 2-4 p.m.

Come join park staff and volunteers for a day of cookies, hot chocolate, music, holiday crafts, and more. Maybe a surprise visit from Santa, too! Free to the public. (325) 446-3994

## ! Starr Family Home ↪ State Historic Site

### *Historic Foodways Demonstration – Decadent Chocolates*

Dec. 2 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Join us in our 1880s kitchen as we create beautiful – we hope – decadent chocolates. Our stove can be cantankerous, but we know the magic of the holidays will prevail and we will have some astonishing holiday treats to show off to our guests. Guests are invited to sit a spell and enjoy a cup of hot chocolate as we regale about Christmases Past. (903) 935-3044

### *Candlelight and a Christmas Carol*

Dec. 9 6:30-7 p.m.

Take a candlelight tour of our beautiful 19th-century house, Maplecroft. The soft glow of candles and old-time lights are guaranteed to fill you with the Christmas spirit. As you explore our rooms, remember this house was filled with children. If you are quiet enough, you can almost hear their laughter



STARR FAMILY HOME SHS

as they prepare for the holidays. In our kitchen, you will find the stove lit with a bubbling pot of wassail for guests to sip. Your tour will be complete with a reading of the happy ending of Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and fun crafts for the whole family. (903) 935-3044

### **Sparkles & Sprinkles**

Dec. 16 1-2:30 p.m.

Kids of all ages are invited to make glittery holiday slime in the Blake House. When the slime has been made, settle in with a frosted Christmas cookie covered with sprinkles and a cup of hot chocolate to enjoy a holiday story or two with Mrs. Claus. Of course, a fun holiday craft is included. \$2 per person - Reservations are required. (903) 935-3044



STEPHEN F. AUSTIN SP

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

### **Christmas is for the Birds**

Dec. 16 9-10:30 a.m.

Discover the power of citizen science while birding by using cell phone apps like eBird and Merlin Bird ID by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Please download eBird and Merlin prior to visiting the park as we have spotty cell signal. Meet at the Amphitheater. (979) 885-3613

### **Santa's Workshop**

Dec. 16 2-3:30 p.m.

Our feathered friends deserve gifts, too! Come help Santa's elves make the perfect gifts for your backyard bird friends. Meet at the Nature Center. (979) 885-3613

### **Campfire Cocoa**

Dec. 23 9-11 a.m.

Hang out with a park staff and volunteers by the campfire for some hot cocoa, music, and stories. Bring your imagination, a chair or a blanket, and dress for the weather. Meet at the amphitheater fire ring. (979) 885-3613

### **Santa's Workshop**

Dec. 23 2-3:30 p.m.

Our feathered friends deserve gifts, too! Come help Santa's elves make the perfect gifts for your backyard bird friends. Meet at the Nature Center. (979) 885-3613

## **Tyler State Park**

### **16th Annual "Walk Off the Bird" Bird Walk**

Nov. 24 9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Walk off that Thanksgiving feast and enjoy the bird life of the East Texas Pineywoods. Bring your binoculars, good walking shoes, and dress for the weather. Meet at the Silver Canoe Park Store. (903) 597-5338

TYLER SP



### **Reading Ranger - Christmas Edition**

Dec. 4 3:30-4 p.m.

Sit around a cozy campfire and listen to A Tale of Two Beasts and, since it's Christmas time, Santa's Sleigh is on its Way to Texas. Bring your imagination, a chair or a blanket, and dress for the weather. Meet at the amphitheater fire ring. (903) 597-5338

### **Winter Wonderland Hike**

Dec. 11 4-6 p.m.

Join us for a walk around Tyler State Park Lake as the sun goes down and enjoy the sights, sounds, and smells of winter. Dress for the weather, wear sturdy shoes, bring water and be ready for a 2-mile hike. Meet at the Silver Canoe Park Store. (903) 597-5338



TYLER SP

### **A Pineywoods Christmas**

Dec. 8 & 9 5-9 p.m.

Take a stroll or drive through the Lakeview and Big Pine camping grounds of Tyler State Park and enjoy campers' elaborately decorated sites to put the jolly in your Christmas season. Stop by the Silver Canoe Park Store for discounts on unique gifts for the holidays. (903) 597-5338



VARNER-HOGG PLANTATION SHS

## Varner-Hogg Plantation State Historic Site

### Candlelight Christmas

Dec. 16 6-9 p.m.

Step back in time and tour the plantation house decorated in the style of a mid-1800s Texas Christmas. See the feather tree, learn about toys popular for gift giving during this period, and view the dining room table set for a sumptuous holiday feast. Relax outside and enjoy the beverage of the season, wassail, and Christmas cookies. Victorian Santa will also be available for photos.

(979) 345-4656

## Village Creek State Park

### Creekside Christmas

Dec. 9 6-9 p.m.

See the park like never before! It will be illuminated with lights, lights, lights galore! There will be s'more roasting, pictures with Santa, crafts, dulcimer group and much more! This event is free to the public, so bring your family and friends and let's share some holiday cheer. (409) 755-7322



VILLAGE CREEK SP



WASHINGTON-ON-THE-BRAZOS SHS

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

### Candlelight Christmas

Dec. 8 & 9 6-8:30 p.m.

Silent Night and gunshots, festive music and solemn moments—an 1850s Texan Christmas experience. Discover the origins of some of our favorite holiday traditions as costumed interpreters bring to life the festivities of the season with musket fire, music, and more. Step into the historic home of the last president of the Republic, Dr. Anson Jones, as the family enjoys their Christmas gathering. Visit the plantation's quarters to hear how the enslaved at Barrington experienced the season. Sip a hot cup of cider, cozy up to the fire, and begin your holiday season at Barrington Plantation State Historic Site. Reservations required. (936) 878-2214

Visit [www.TexasStateParks.org/holidays](http://www.TexasStateParks.org/holidays) and  
[www.thc.texas.gov/historicsites](http://www.thc.texas.gov/historicsites) for the most  
up-to-date information on holiday events.



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# Give the gift of Texas State Parks!

Wondering what to get the state park enthusiast in your life?

## 2023 Ornament

Join the Texas State Parks' 100-year celebration with the stunning 2023 Texas State Park Ornament! This special ornament is crafted with great attention to detail, made with vibrant colors on metal and features a laser-cutting technique used to create a distinct dot for every one of Texas's 89 State Parks. Each ornament is \$19.95 plus tax.



## Texas State Park Gifts

Discover a variety Texas State Park items at the online store, perfect for both gift-giving and collecting! Shipping is free.



## State Park Gift Card

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

*If purchased online, gift cards must be shipped to account holder; shipping fees apply. Also available for purchase at most state parks.*

Shop and Order Online Today. [TexasStateParks.org/Store](https://TexasStateParks.org/Store)

## The Gift as Big as Texas!

Give a full year of *Texas Parks & Wildlife* magazine – 10 print issues + over 800 articles on our mobile app, all for just **\$20**.

Order now and your gift will also include a bonus 11th issue celebrating 100 years of Texas state parks (while supplies last).



[TexasStateParks.org/holidays](https://TexasStateParks.org/holidays)

## FIRST DAY HIKES

Recover from the holidays by joining us for a First Day Hike on New Year's Day!

Many Texas State Parks will have special hikes, walks, runs or paddles for all skill levels. Start the year off right – find a First Day Hike near you:

[TexasStateParks.org/calendar](https://TexasStateParks.org/calendar)

JANUARY