



Living History Events

Re-enactor Guidelines, Rules, and Registration

Please read all guidelines and rules, and remit the registration form on page 4

Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center (JJP), a Harris County Precinct 4 park facility under the leadership of Commissioner Jerry Eversole and Park Director Darlene Conley, sponsors two main living history festivals each year: **Homestead Heritage Day** in February and **Pioneer Day** in November. Additional living history programs are offered throughout the year and include pioneer campfires, Second Saturday Settlers, Homestead Hoedown, and an Old-fashioned Christmas.

All programs and events at JJP are free of charge and open to the general public.

Pioneer Day: Saturday, November 10, 2012 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event highlights the Anglo colonization era and Texas Revolution. Volunteers and historians portraying American Indian, Anglo, Texian, and Mexican lifestyles bring the pre-1840 Texas to life.

Homestead Heritage Day: Saturday, February 9, 2013 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This event showcases the many aspects of pre-1900 Texas history including American Indian, Anglo settlement, Texas Revolution, Mexican/Spanish heritage, Civil War, and cattle drive times.

All efforts are made to differentiate the eras of each event, and advance registration is required to assist the park staff in the planning and enhancement of these events. Both events feature an informal outdoor **period-style barn dance** for re-enactors and homestead volunteers in period dress. Live music and a contra dance caller help us strut our stuff settler style. The dance is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in the homestead corral.

Venue overview: JJP is situated along Spring Creek, and the Redbud Hill Homestead is located within the forested park grounds.

- The Redbud Hill Homestead simulates an early Anglo settler homestead in the forested eastern portion of Austin's Colony. The homestead structures include a single room log cabin, outhouse, smokehouse, bread oven, root cellar, settler kitchen garden, pig pen, chicken coop, corn crib, barn and corral, woodworking shop, and a blacksmith shop.
- A replica Akokisa-Ishak Indian village is located adjacent to the homestead, with a chickee, brush arbor, chief's hut, sweat lodge, and council lodge.
- A mountain man encampment with several period tents is set up during the festivals.

- The green-space at the park entrance hosts period crafts and live music.
- The Homestead Trail is designated for pedestrians and also serves as the shuttle route for disabled visitors.
- Tractor-pulled hayrides are available during festival hours, and connect the main parking lot and the back entrance of the homestead.

Re-enactor Guidelines and Miscellaneous Items:

- Friday and Saturday night camping in designated areas is permitted for re-enactors with period tents only. Reservations are required, as space is limited. Call 281.446.8588 or e-mail jjp@hcp4.net, for more information.
- Park entrance gates close one-half-hour prior to park closure. Park hours are from 8 a.m. to dusk. Anticipated late arrivals should contact the park prior to the event to gain entrance after park hours. Please call Monte Parks at 281.446.8588 during regular work hours to make arrangements for after-hours entrance.
- The Jesse Jones Park Volunteers' (JJPV) policies require all re-enactors to be in costume within one-hour of arriving at the campsite to enhance the weekend's atmosphere.
- Firewood is provided; please practice safe fire rules and keep all fires contained and supervised.
- Modern rest rooms and showers are located near the homestead.
- Please take heed of natural hazards such as extreme temperatures, tripping hazards like exposed roots, insects including mosquitoes, venomous arthropods and snakes, and poison ivy.
- Lunch for registered re-enactors and volunteers is served on the day of the event in the homestead, and in the front of the park near the nature center.
- A military skirmish is planned for both events (Homestead Heritage Day: Civil War; and Pioneer Day: Texas Revolution/Run-away Scrape). The public will view the skirmishes from the side of the homestead green. A safety officer from each re-enactment group—military, volunteer militia, and rangers—will oversee and enforce safety rules. All non-combatants, including photographers must be behind the safety line. Please observe and follow staff instructions.

Festival Participation Rules: Camp gear, accoutrements, and clothing including that worn by participants' children must represent the festival's time period. Every effort to conceal non-period items during festival hours needs to be made. Modern, synthetic material shoes such as tennis shoes (especially light-ups) and flip-flops are not allowed, and period-appropriate shoes are strongly suggested!

Pioneer Day (1830s): Homestead participants are required to wear **pre-1840 period appropriate** clothing during festival hours.

Homestead Heritage Day (many historical eras): Participants are asked to accurately represent their "character in time." Please **do not** add future time periods to your costume and accoutrements.

Festival Policies:

- The county has a NO SOLICITING POLICY. You are welcome to discreetly network your business, but the sale of items on county property is prohibited.
- NO PETS!
- Do not litter! Please use the trash cans provided, or carry your trash out of the park.
- NO VEHICLES ARE ALLOWED on the homestead green or campgrounds! The attached map shows three arrows indicating access roads that end at the homestead. Vehicles are not allowed beyond these points. Wagons and carts are available for "use and return" from these homestead/camp entrances to deliver your belongings to your campsite.
- After unloading vehicles, follow the signs for designated parking areas for re-enactor parking. Overflow parking is at the front of the park.
- NO LIVE ROUNDS! And NO unauthorized discharge of firearms. Please do not allow the public to fire your weapon. We will have a designated firing area set up for black powder weaponry demonstrations.
- NO VEHICLES ON ACCESS ROADS FROM 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (The tractor-pulled hayrides need the entire road). Vehicles not parked in the marked volunteer parking area are subject to towing at the owner's expense.
- A mandatory pre-event/skirmish safety meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. for all combatants and re-enactors demonstrating black-powder weaponry. All non-combat re-enactors, "skit participants," and weapon carriers are encouraged to attend as well.

The staff of Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center and the Jesse Jones Park Volunteers organization thank you for participating and helping in bringing Texas' heritage closer to the community.



LIVING HISTORY EVENTS
Re-enactor and Homestead Volunteer
REGISTRATION FORM

Participants' full name (include family members present at event)

Group Affiliation:

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone number/s: Daytime: _____ Evening: _____

E-Mail: _____

Would you like to receive the volunteer newsletter, *The Cypress Log*? Yes ___ No ___

Estimated Time of Arrival? Friday _____ Saturday _____
(Call the park in advance to coordinate entrance after park hours!)

Setting Up Camp: Yes ___ No ___

Demonstrations/Interpretations? (Please give description)

Skirmish combatant: Yes ___ No ___ Which side: _____

Attending Barn Dance: Yes ___ No ___

Would you demonstrate or help with one of the park **planned** homestead activities?
Yes ___ No ___

Preferred shift: 10 a.m. to noon noon to 2 p.m. 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Choose from the following selections: ___ archery ___ blacksmith shop ___ bread oven ___
butter churning ___ children games ___ corncrib (corn shelling/grinding)
___ medicine man/quack ___ natural dyes ___ painted pebbles ___ smokehouse ___ soap making
___ storytelling ___ tomahawk throw ___ water pump (laundry) ___ woodworking shop

Are you available to help at a children's craft table: Yes ___ No ___

The volunteer shift/demo schedule will be available at the volunteer sign-in booth, located in the front green space, and in the JJP encampment.

FAX this completed form to: 281.446.8832; e-mail to: jjp@hcp4.net or mail to: Jesse H. Jones Park, 20634 Kenswick Drive, Humble, TX 77338.