



# Harris County Precinct 4

## Commissioner R. Jack Cagle

### *Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center*

## **Living History Events**

### **Reenactor 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 R. Jack Cagle and Director Darlene Conley Hostetler, sponsors two living history festivals each year: **Homestead Heritage Day** in February and **Pioneer Day** in November. Additional living history programs are offered throughout the year including Second Saturday Settlers, Homestead Hoedown, Pioneer Campfire, and An Old-Fashioned Christmas. All programs and events at JJP are free of charge and open to the general public.

**Homestead Heritage Day, Saturday, February 9, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.:** showcases many aspects of pre-1900 Texas history, including "Native American," Anglo settlement, Texas Revolution, Mexican/Spanish heritage, Civil War, and cattle drive times.

**Pioneer Day, Saturday, November 9, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.:** highlights the Anglo colonization era and Texas Revolution. Volunteers and historians portraying "Native American," Anglo, Texian, and Mexican lifestyles bring the pre-1840 Texas to life.

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.

Pioneer Day tentatively features an informal outdoor **period-style barn dance** for reenactors and homestead volunteers in period dress. Live music and a contra dance caller help us "strut" our stuff settler style. If held, the dance is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. in the homestead corral. Please let us know in advance if you would like to participate, as this event is only held if there are sufficient participants.

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

- The Redbud Hill Homestead depicts 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 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 as well as a handicapped visitor shuttle route.
- Tractor-pulled hayrides are available during festival hours and connect the main parking lot and the back entrance of the homestead.

### **Re-enactor Guidelines:**

- Friday and Saturday night camping in designated areas is permitted for reenactors with period tents and accoutrements only. Reservations are required, as space is limited. Call 281-446-8588 or email [jjp@hcp4.net](mailto: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 and coordinate gaining entrance after park hours. Please call 281-446-8588 during regular work hours to make arrangement for after-hours entrance.
- The Jesse Jones Park Volunteers (JJPV) policy requires all reenactors 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 supervised and contained within the existing fire rings.
- 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 reenactors 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 must represent the festival's time period, including what is worn by participants' children. 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!

**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.

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

**Festival Policies:**

- Harris 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! Maps are available showing access trails that end at the homestead area perimeter. Vehicles are not allowed beyond these points. Wagons and carts are available for "use and return" from the homestead/camp entrances to move belongings to the 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 VEHICLES ON HOMESTEAD ACCESS TRAILS FROM 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. once the tractor-pulled hayrides begin. Vehicles not parked in the designated volunteer parking area are subject to towing at the owner's expense.
- Complete and return the attached registration form on page 4. All volunteers and reenactors wishing to display or use edged or black powder weapons must also review and sign the Black Powder Weaponry Policy document attached.
- A mandatory pre-event/skirmish safety meeting is scheduled for 9 a.m. for all combatants and reenactors demonstrating black-powder weaponry. All non-combat reenactors, volunteers, and all weapon carriers are also encouraged to attend.

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



**JONES PARK LIVING HISTORY EVENTS**  
**Reenactor and Homestead Volunteer**  
**REGISTRATION FORM**



Participants' full name (include participating family members)

\_\_\_\_\_

Group Affiliation:

\_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number/s: Daytime: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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 \_\_\_\_\_ blacksmithing \_\_\_\_\_ bread oven

\_\_\_\_\_ butter churning \_\_\_\_\_ children games \_\_\_\_\_ corn shelling/grinding \_\_\_\_\_ medicine man

\_\_\_\_\_ mess hall \_\_\_\_\_ natural dyes \_\_\_\_\_ smokehouse \_\_\_\_\_ soap making

\_\_\_\_\_ storytelling \_\_\_\_\_ tomahawk throw \_\_\_\_\_ water pump (laundry) \_\_\_\_\_ woodworking shop

The volunteer shift/demonstration schedule will be available at the volunteer sign-in booth, located in the front green space, and in the homestead mess hall.

Return this completed form by email at [jjp@hcp4.net](mailto:jjp@hcp4.net); or by mail to Jesse H. Jones Park & Nature Center, 20634 Kenswick Drive, Humble, Texas 77338.