



For Immediate Release
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WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION AT MISSION SAN LUIS

TALLAHASSEE ~ Enjoy a new holiday tradition this season! Celebrate the Winter Solstice and Native American stories, skills, and traditions at Mission San Luis on Sunday, December 16, 2012 from 10 A.M. to 8 P.M. Shop for holiday gifts and support artisans selling their fine crafts. Learn how to stomp dance, join a flute and drum circle, and hear presentations on astronomy and navigation. There will be food vendors, childrens' make-and-take craft activities, storytelling, demonstrations of horn engraving and primitive weapons, and more! In the evening, hear more storytelling and view the pre-solstice stars and planets with telescopes provided by the Tallahassee Astronomical Society.

Come observe the occasion of the "sun standing" at its southernmost position in the sky and honor the heritage of this 17th century living history village. The *Winter Solstice Celebration* will include (*tentative list*):

- Drum and flute circles
- Nene Hutke Muskogee Creek Stomp Dancers
- Ruediger Math Drummers
- Colonial Crafts for Children (*Noon to 2 P.M.*)
- Primitive weapon demonstrations and archery activities for adults and children
- Powder horn engraving demonstrations by Ken Horne
- Solstice Faire artisans (*10 A.M to 3 P.M.*) Jonny Lipford (Native American flutes and music), Dan Townsend (shell carvings), Quincie Hamby (art jewelry), Barbara Rosen (pine needle baskets), Arte Mexico (Mexican arts and crafts), Florence Vicil Anaya (glass jewelry and ornamentals)
- *Walking for Native Americans and the Earth* presentation by Doug Alderson
- *La Florida: Mapping and Navigation in the Age of Discovery, ca. 1500—ca. 1800* presentation by Pete Cowdrey
- *Everyday Astronomy in Prehistory* presentation by Stephen Thompson
- Sun and star gazing with scopes from Tallahassee Astronomical Society; presentation by Ken Kopczynski
- Food vendors (Klawty Hawg BBQ and M.E. Tasty Taco)
- Hispanic and Muskogee storytelling by Elizabeth Ricci and Robert Pullen respectively

The event is included with the regular admission fee (Adults: \$5; Seniors 65+: \$3; Children 6–17: \$2; Children under 6, Members, & Active Duty Military: FREE.). Visitors can use their admission stickers to leave and return during the day or evening. Please dress warmly if the weather is cold, bring a flashlight if you are staying until 8 P.M., and bring seating or blankets.

While their lives were different than ours, we share the same sky with the Apalachee Indians and Spanish settlers who lived here more than three hundred years ago. Gather at Mission San Luis for this historic Solstice Celebration!

Mission San Luis was the western capital of Spanish Florida from 1656 to 1704. Today the Mission re-creates this community with living history guides in period dress, reconstructed colonial buildings, exhibits, and archaeological research. The site is a National Historic Landmark and recipient of a Preserve America Presidential Award.

Mission San Luis is located at 2100 West Tennessee Street in Tallahassee, Florida and is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mission San Luis is managed by the Florida Department of State's Bureau of Archaeological Research. Programs and events are supported by the Friends of Mission San Luis, Inc. The Winter Solstice Celebration is sponsored by the *Tallahassee Democrat* and grant funding was provided by Visit Tallahassee. For more information, call 850.245.6406 or visit www.missionsanluis.org.

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