

# Chronicle

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## Celebrate local heritage at winter solstice event

It focuses on traditions of Apalachee, Spanish

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Tallahassee has a Native American heritage that goes far back in time. Mission San Luis, the city and region's premier living history museum, tells the stories of our Apalachee and Spanish residents over 300 years ago.

The National Historic Landmark site has received many questions and suggestions from staff and visitors over the years that supported an event focusing on Southeastern Native American culture and history. Working with local members of tribal grounds in North Florida, the Mission staged a very successful one-day event in 2011 called the Winter Solstice Celebration.

Going forward to 2015, the fifth-annual Winter Solstice Celebration has grown to be a two-day event, which will take

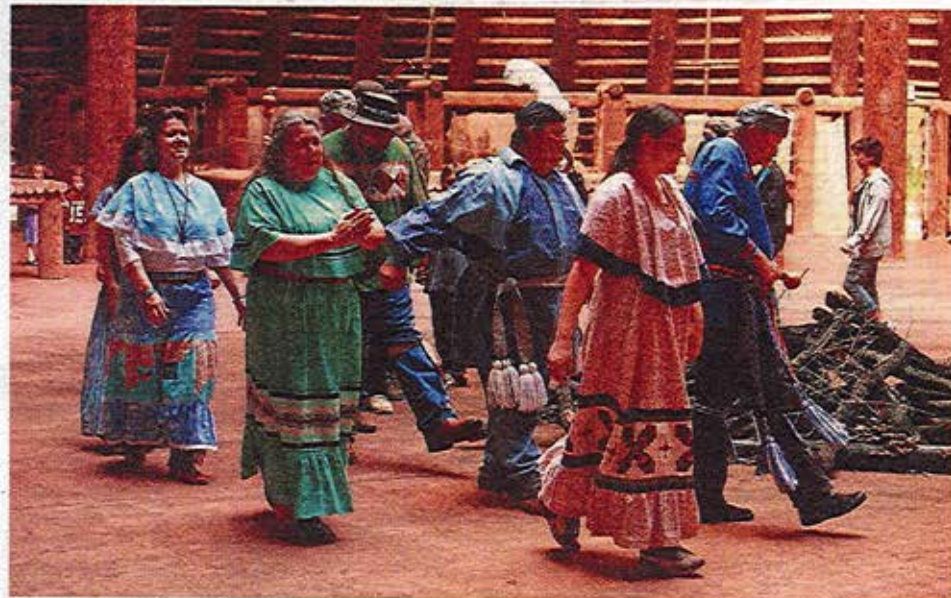
place on Saturday, Dec. 12 (10 a.m. to 8 p.m.) and Sunday, December 13 (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Ceremonial grounds and tribes in Florida, Alabama, and Georgia are scheduled to participate, including the Seminole Tribe of Florida, the Muscogee Nation of Florida, the Ma-Chis Lower Creek Tribe of Alabama, Cherokee of Georgia, Perdido Bay Tribe, and others.

The event has much for visitors of all ages to enjoy, including the tri-states' best stomp dancers, traditional Muscogee Creek camps and stickball demonstrations, scholarly speakers, flute music, drum circles, and hands-on archery. Artisans with handmade traditional crafts will help you with your holiday shopping, and food vendors will tempt your taste buds. Saturday activities will end with a Stargazing Starparty with The Tallahassee Astronomical Society's powerful telescopes. Guests can view the same stars and planets seen by the early inhabitants of Florida.

In the early years of the 18th Century, war between Spain and England led to battles that were fought by the Apalachee and Spanish residents of La Florida against the Creek allies of English militias. Today, descendants of Southeastern tribes and communities come together to share their heritage, culture, stories, and more with the public — in harmony and kinship.

Don't miss the opportunity to experience the Winter Solstice Celebration, an event that will teach you new ideas, allow you to understand and treasure the resilience of Native cultures, and lead you to marvel at the heritage of Southeastern Native American peoples.

For more information, including schedule updates, visit the Winter Solstice Celebration event page at [facebook.com/MissionSanLuis/events](http://facebook.com/MissionSanLuis/events).



Members of the Nene Hutke Ceremonial Grounds demonstrate a stomp dance in the reconstructed 17th-century council house at Mission San Luis historic site.

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