

2016

# FALL *for* PARKS

TEXAS  
PARKS &  
WILDLIFE

**There's something special about fall in Texas.** The nights lengthen, the weather cools, and the mystery of nature beckons stronger than ever. Transformation is in the air, and as the sun sets, many parks transform into a celebration of the strange and spooky. Others tell stories of harvest and the history of our ancestors. Whatever it is that makes fall fun for you, you'll find it in a Texas State Park. Before attending any event, please check with the park to confirm applicable fees and charges, availability, and to ensure the event is still taking place. Visit [www.TexasStateParks.org/holidays](http://www.TexasStateParks.org/holidays) for the most up-to-date information on State Park holidays and promotions.

**FREE ON VETERANS DAY!** In honor of both veterans and active military, entrance fees for all visitors will be waived at all Texas State Parks on Sunday, November 13, the Sunday after Veterans Day. We appreciate your service and hope you'll make a State Park part of your celebration. Camping and other activity fees still apply.

To find more information on state parks in general, visit [www.texasstateparks.org](http://www.texasstateparks.org) or call (800) 792-1112, option 3.

## Abilene State Park

### Oct. 15 *Fall Dance* 7–10 p.m.

Waltz or polka under the big West Texas sky on the park's historic dance floor. Enjoy the live music provided by The Muddy Creek Band and let your boots slide across a floor that has hosted dances for generations. Regular entrance fees apply.

### Oct. 29 *Halloween in the Park* 7–9 p.m.

Come out and enjoy all the fun and festivities of the season, for free! Enjoy a safe trick or treat location with your little tricksters while walking through our spooky woods with one of our ghost guides. Costume and site contests will be held with amazing prizes for our spookiest!

### Nov. 5 *Frontier Day* 9 a.m.–4 p.m.

Travel back in time to the days of the Texas Frontier! Lots of activities for the family including archery, BB-gun range, living history farms, Buffalo Soldiers and much more! Food trucks will be available as you walk through the park enjoying the history of Texas! \$3 per person 13 and above 12 and under free.

## Battleship Texas State Historic Site

### Nov. 12 *Veterans Day Event* 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Come join us for a day of patriotic fun! Guided tours will be offered on the hour

from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. You'll have the opportunity to participate in a seabag inspection, interact with artifacts like helmets and projectiles, learn about crew life aboard *Texas*, and create a patriotic craft! For more information, please e-mail [BB35Curatorial@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:BB35Curatorial@tpwd.texas.gov).

### Nov. 19 *Texas After Dark* 5 p.m. & 7 p.m.

Have you ever wanted to hear about the darker side of *Battleship Texas*? This adults-only tour (ages 18 and up) will take visitors through the ship after hours and share stories about the gambling, fighting, drinking, and other mischief aboard the ship! These never-before-heard stories are taken straight from our crew member oral histories. Note: This is not a haunted ship tour. Reservations required. Please visit [www.firsttexasvolunteers.org](http://www.firsttexasvolunteers.org) for more information and reservations.

## Caprock Canyons State Park

### Every Friday from Oct. 14 through Nov. 11 *Fall Foliage Tours 1 hour before sunset*

Tour some of the most scenic parts of the Caprock Canyons Trailway with rangers in the park van. View the majestic orange and red bluffs of the Caprock Canyonlands sprinkled with the yellow and orange fall foliage of the cottonwood and western

soapberry. Enjoy tales of the railroad turned trailway. Be sure to bring your camera for various wildlife and landscape photography opportunities. \$10 per seat, reservations required. Weather permitting.

## Cleburne State Park

### Oct. 29 *3rd Annual Trick-Or-Treat in the Park* 5:30–8 p.m.

The park will provide a safe place for trick-or-treating. Campers who decorate their site, pass out candy and stay two nights (28th and 29th) will get one night free. Prizes will be awarded to the best decorated campsite. Reservations **MUST** be made at the park. Call (817) 645-4215 to make reservations. Free entry for adults during Trick-Or-Treat who bring canned food items.

## Cooper Lake State Park

### Oct. 29 *Nature Costume Hike* 9 a.m.

Come out and play a role in the ecosystem! Make your costume and play out your role along the trail. We will go through some of the Sulphur River Bottoms where Native Americans and settlers once hunted and fished. Be on the lookout for wildlife. Wear hiking boots or shoes, bring a hat, and water. Costume craft supplies will be provided. Meet at the Coyote Run Trailhead

at Heron Harbor. This program may be canceled due to weather. Contact the park for updates.

## **Davis Mountains State Park**

### **Nov. 24 Hey, you Turkeys! Get crafty! 3 p.m.**

Join our annual afternoon of kids' crafts at the Interpretive Center. We'll get creative, Thanksgiving-style. Children must be supervised for the duration of this program.

### **Nov. 24 Guided Thanksgiving Hike\* 10 a.m.**

Earn a guiltless Thanksgiving dinner by taking a challenging hike with exhilarating views. Hike Indian Lodge Trail starting at the campground swing set area, ending at the Indian Lodge just in time for a mouth-watering holiday meal at the Black Bear Restaurant. Moderate to difficult terrain, 2 hours, 2 miles.

### **Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Recovery Hike\* 2 p.m.**

Burn off some of those Thanksgiving calories with a big hike on Skyline Drive and Old CCC trails. Moderate terrain, 2-3 hours, 4.5 miles.

### **Nov. 25 Teeny Tiny Turkey Trot 10 a.m.**

Bring your little turkeys to the Group Picnic Area for a fun foot race for kids. Everyone will get a prize!

\*Dress for weather and terrain (sturdy shoes, hat) and bring enough water for 2-3 hours of hiking. All ages welcome. Dogs welcome, on leashes. Hiking pole recommended.

## **Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area**

### **Oct. 29 Pumpkin Painting 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Pumpkin painting contest at Rocksprings Visitors Center. Pumpkins and paint will be provided. Prize awarded for best painted pumpkin.

### **Oct. 31 Trick-or-Treat and Costume Contest 3-6 p.m.**

Free treats and costume contest at the Rocksprings Visitors Center. Free bat flight tour for 4 for the best costume.

### **Nov. 4 & 5 Fall Bake Sale 10 a.m.-3 p.m.**

Fall bake sale in Rocksprings. Baked goods provided by the community. Donations will go to support the Devil's Sinkhole Society.

## **Eisenhower State Park**

### **Oct. 28 Spooky Spiders 6:30-7:30 p.m.**

Arachnophobia? Face your fears. Create a spider decoration in time for Halloween and learn about the park's eight-legged creepy crawlies.

### **Oct. 29 Monster Mash Cache**

**9 a.m.-noon**

Drop by anytime between 9 a.m. and noon to get a crash course in geocaching. Then hunt for hidden caches containing small Halloween goodies and find the art supplies for making your own "monstrous" craft. Wear your Halloween costume for an extra treat! Craft supplies are limited, so come early and don't miss out.

### **Oct. 29 Zombie Apocalypse Hike 2-3 p.m. & 5-6 p.m.**

Do you have what it takes to survive the zombie apocalypse? Find out on this fun and informative hike (.5 miles). Learn emergency wilderness survival skills. Feel free to wear your Halloween costume!

### **Nov. 5 Colors of the Wind Hike 10-11 a.m.**

Along this 20-minute hike we'll see how the trees are changing with the season and observe their different shapes and colors. At the end hikers have the opportunity to create an ink printing of any fallen leaves found along the trail.

### **Nov. 19 Thanksgiving Dutch Oven Demonstration 4-5 p.m.**

Learn how to make a couple easy Thanksgiving dishes in the Dutch oven. Come by for some free samples!

### **Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Recovery Hike 10-11:30 a.m.**

Feeling heavy from all the feasting? Come lighten up with this guided fall hike through the park.

## **Estero Llano Grande State Park**

### **Oct. 22 10th Annual Spooky Science Fest 6-10 p.m.**

Spooky Science Fest has become a Rio Grande Valley tradition, and this year's theme promises to excite all ages: "Jurassic Estero." Everyone knows dinosaurs went extinct long ago — or did they? Bring your family and friends of all ages to learn about these legendary reptiles. Have fun learning animal identification, archery, tracking and fishing. There will also be a costume contest, crafts, an obstacle course, wild edibles and much more.

## **Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site**

### **Oct. 8 Henry Fanthorp's Wake & Stagecoach Days**

In addition to Stagecoach Days, "Henry's Wake" will look at the ceremonies and rituals of death in 19th century Texas. The untimely death of Henry Fanthorp on October 31, 1867 reminds us of the fragile state of life in the 1800s. This famous innkeeper and his wife were but a small

portion of the souls who expired while staying at Henry's inn. Presentations (not recommended for children under 10) will be at 11 a.m., 1 p.m., 2 p.m. and 3 p.m. Stagecoach rides will take place between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

## **Fort Richardson State Park**

### **Oct. 22 Trunk or Treat and Ghost Walk 5-8 p.m.**

Enjoy a traditional trunk or treat through all the campsites. Once it's dark, stroll the historic site looking for ghosts, goblins and the dearly departed. Remember to bring a flashlight. The Friends of Fort Richardson have provided a \$100 prize for best decorated campsite and a \$50 prize for best jack-o'-lantern.

## **Goliad State Park and Historic Site**

### **Nov. 5 15th Annual Fall Harvest Flotilla 9-11 a.m.**

Join the park and community partners for the Canoe Trail Goliad's 15th Annual Fall Harvest Flotilla on the San Antonio River Paddling Trail. Visitors are invited to bring a non-perishable food item to be donated to the Goliad Food Bank.

## **Government Canyon State Natural Area**

### **Oct. 29 Halloween at Government Canyon SNA 6-9 p.m.**

Calling all spooky creatures ages 12 and younger! Come have a howling good time as we go back to the roots of what a spooky Halloween is all about. Show up in your creepiest or cutest costume to hunt for "creepy crawlies" and join in our classic costume contest. Scary ghost stories will be told and guests are invited to bring their own pumpkin to carve. Guest limit of 25 children; no pets please. Reservations required: accepted through noon Oct. 28. Reserve online at <http://friendsofca.org/events/>. No group reservations. Include name, age if under 18, email and telephone number for each participant. For information, email [reservations@friendsofca.org](mailto:reservations@friendsofca.org)

## **Guadalupe River State Park**

### **Oct. 8 Monarch and Pollinator Festival 10 a.m.-2 p.m.**

Join us at the park to celebrate our scale-winged wonders and other pollinators, including the monarch butterfly. You will have the opportunity to see butterflies up close and personal, check out our native plants on which they depend, and learn about the wondrous migration of the monarch.

**Oct. 29 Halloween at the Park 6–8:30 p.m.**

The park has a night full of activities lined up for kids of all ages. Starting at 6 p.m. is the “Little Tots Trick-or-Treat” along the forest trails, followed by Halloween story time perfect for kids ages 2 to 6. The “Big Spooks” haunted trail starts at 7 p.m., followed by ghost stories for kids ages 7 to 12. Complimentary refreshments will be served from 7 to 8:30 p.m. \$10 flat fee per vehicle. (830) 438-2656.

**Hill Country State Natural Area**

**Oct. 15 Ranch Heritage Day**

Free fun for the whole family. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. a variety of fun activities will be taking place around the lodge including giant rocking horses, covered wagon rides, apple peeling, rancher stories, chuck wagon cooking, horseshoeing and more. For those with their own horse, there will be 10 Arena activities throughout the morning including Junior Ranger Drill Team, Texas Thunder and play-day. At 3 p.m., a guided equestrian trail ride will be offered in the nearby hills. The Cook Shack will offer barbecue sandwiches, snacks and drinks with proceeds benefiting the park’s friends group. Everyone is encouraged to wear your jeans, boots and hats! Roving judges will be looking to award a variety of best-dressed ribbons! Wet conditions may cause cancellations so call before you haul.

**Hueco Tanks State Historic Site**

**Oct. 27 October Night’s Stargazing 6 p.m.**

Join a ranger for a night of stargazing. No reservations required. First come, first served. Check in is from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m., start time is 7 p.m. Gates shut promptly at 7 p.m. with no late admission.

**Nov. 20 Pups on Parade Turkey Trot 10 a.m.**

Visitors will be invited to help walk rescue dogs along the Hueco Tanks roads. Event presented in partnership with the El Paso Humane Society.

**Nov. 27 Turkey Trot Hikes 11:30 a.m.**

Four hikes of varying difficulty to help burn off some of Thanksgiving dinner. Check in from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Hikes begin at 12:30 p.m.

**Inks Lake State Park**

**Oct. 29 Creatures of the Night Hike 6 p.m.**

Come out to the park for some night fun. This special hike will be short but full of costumed surprises. Participants are encouraged to wear their own costumes.

Meet at the Pecan Flats trailhead adjacent to headquarters. Having water and wearing sturdy shoes is highly encouraged.

**Kickapoo Cavern State Park**

**Oct. 29 Halloween Cave Tour 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.**

Join us for a haunted cave tour through Kickapoo Cavern this Halloween. Visitors will ride through our haunted cedar forest before being taken into the depths of Kickapoo Cavern by experienced guides. Cave tours will be scary, fun, and educational. Reservations are a must. Ages 5+.

**Lake Casa Blanca State Park**

**Oct. 14 Full Moon Hike 7:30–9 p.m.**

Hike the park at night! Learn about nocturnal critters, the moon and night sky! Dress for the outdoors, check the weather, and wear shoes for unpaved trails. This is a great way to stay active and get into the Halloween spirit at the same time! Bring water and a flashlight. Check out our events page for other family friendly events.

**Oct. 27 The Haunting at Campsite 13 7–9 p.m.**

Get spooky in South Texas! Put on your costume a few days early at this family-friendly Halloween event! We will have some supernatural fun learning a little about the creatures of the park, scary camping habits, and a fun haunted campsite to walk through!

**Lake Livingston State Park**

**Oct. 29 Halloween in the Park**

Join us for a day of exciting Halloween activities at the lake. Bring your pumpkin, carve it, and enter it into the 2nd annual pumpkin carving contest. Winners for Scariest, Silliest, and Best Overall categories will receive a fishing pole and tackle. All entries must be turned in at the park store by 4:45 p.m. Trick-or-treating opportunities will be going on throughout the day: stop by the headquarters, park store, or chat with a ranger to find a treat. From 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., kids 8 and under can decorate miniature pumpkins — bring your own pumpkin; a limited number of provided pumpkins are available. From 7 p.m. to 8 p.m., bring your marshmallows and s’mores ingredients to the peninsula and join rangers for a kid-friendly ghost story around the campfire.

**Nov. 19 & 26 Thanksgiving Themed Crafts 2–3:30 p.m.**

Join us anytime during this one-and-a-half-hour program to make your own Thanksgiving-themed craft project to take home.

Limited to participants ages 15 and younger. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult throughout the program. Project takes about 20 minutes.

**Nov. 19 Thanksgiving Turkey Campfire Talk 5–6 p.m.**

Learn about your favorite Thanksgiving food ... the turkey! Rangers will cover the history of Thanksgiving, the habits and behaviors of wild turkeys, and share interesting facts about turkeys, including how it nearly became our national bird. This program will take place in the activity center day use area around a campfire and marshmallows will be provided for you to roast during the talk.

**Lake Tawakoni State Park**

**Oct. 29 Boo in the Park 6–8 p.m.**

The park will provide a fun and safe environment for kids of all ages to trick-or-treat. Win awards (and bragging rights) with campsite decorating and pumpkin carving contests.

**Lyndon B. Johnson State Park and Historic Site**

**Oct. 22 Fun With Fiber 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**

Discover the many ways that different types of fiber were used on a farm a century ago. Learn about sewing, quilting, rope making, and more as you enjoy a fall day at the Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm with costumed park interpretive rangers. The public is encouraged to walk the nature trail to the farm and enjoy the day outside at this historic site.

**Nov. 26 Holiday Cookie Decorating and German Traditions 10 a.m.–3 p.m.**

Get into the holiday spirit and bring the entire family. Children can start out by decorating their own gingerbread ornament to take home and hang on the tree. Then walk down to the Sauer-Beckmann Living History Farm and have fun decorating cookies as it was done for a German Christmas tree in the 1900s. Enjoy participating in the German holiday traditions of cookie decorating, candle making and await the arrival of St. Nicholas. There will also be periodic demonstrations of holiday wreath making for families to enjoy. Plus the park store will be filled with unique holiday items and more that will help with anyone’s gift shopping list this year.

**Martin Creek Lake State Park**

**Oct. 29 Geocache Trick-or-Treat 1–3 p.m.**

Learn how to use a GPS for geocaching then head out into the park and find hidden caches with a Halloween trick or a treat. Some GPS units provided with



pre-loaded coordinates. Meet at the Amphitheater. Add a little flair and wear your favorite costume.

**Oct. 29 Trunk or Treat 6–8 p.m.**

Come to the park's 1st Annual Trunk or Treat Halloween event. Park in the large day use boat parking lot, decorate your trunk and hand out tricks or treats to little ghost and goblins. Kids, wear your favorite costume and haul off trick-or-treated goodies. Contact the park at (903) 836-4336 if you have any questions.

**Nov. 24 Turkey Day Dog Hike 9–10 a.m.**

Take a hike around the island with your dog. Meet at the bridge to the island at 9 a.m.

**McKinney Falls State Park**

**Oct. 2, 16, and 23**

**Trick-or-Treat Geocaching 11 a.m.**

Take trick-or-treating to the next level! Use GPS units to find hidden containers full of either tricks or treats! All materials and instruction will be provided. Please e-mail jenn.menge@tpwd.texas.gov to register.

**Oct. 8, 14, and 21 Campfire Scary Stories 7 p.m.**

Join a ranger for scary stories around a campfire. Don't forget the marshmallows, roasting sticks, and chairs!

**Oct. 30 McKinney Birthday Celebration 11 a.m.**

Celebrate the birthday of the park's namesake, Thomas McKinney! We will have family-friendly games from his time, horseshoes, history and cake!

**Meridian State Park**

**Oct. 29 Trick-or-Treat in the Park 6–8 p.m.**

As night falls, the park comes alive with decorated campsites ready for trick-or-treaters. Overnight visitors are encouraged to decorate their campsite for Halloween, there will be a drawing from the participants for prizes. Don't forget the candy to pass out to little monsters.

**Nov. 25 Thanksgiving Recovery Hike 10 a.m.**

Head to the park instead of the mall and burn off some of those calories on a guided nature hike. The group will meet at the day-use area and take the 2.5-mile Bosque Hiking Trail. Regular entrance fees apply.

**Mother Neff State Park**

**Nov. 5 Fall Chautauqua 11 a.m.–4 p.m.**

Join us for an old-fashioned "Chautauqua" as we celebrate fall and explore the park's newest addition, our CCC cabin. Learn about the park's Civilian Conservation Corps contributions, Native Americans, early history of the first settlers and much more. There will be something for everyone at this free event, including Todd Becker's Reptiles, a presentation on birding and native plants by Gil Eckrich, the Good Ole Boys Band, and a variety of children's crafts and activities. Hotdogs and hamburgers provided by the Mother Neff State Park Association from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for the first 200 visitors.

**San Jacinto Battleground State Historic Site**

**Oct. 29 Cornhusk and Pumpkin Program 1 p.m.**

Come join park rangers to learn about 19th century toys and autumn traditions. We will be teaching visitors to make their own cornhusk dolls and painting pumpkins. Meet at Battleship parking lot.

**Nov. 19 and 26 Pre & Post Thanksgiving Bike Ride 10 a.m.**

Whether you need to prepare or recover (or both!) from that Thanksgiving feast, a bike ride with the park rangers through the battlefield is a great way to do it. Meet in the Battleship parking lot.

**Sheldon Lake State Park and Environmental Learning Center**

**Oct. 15 Halloween in the Park 4–9 p.m.**

Come out for our fun and free Halloween in the Park! Walk the 'spooky trail,' learn about nocturnal critters, play games, and see a bat from the top of the 82-foot John Jacob Observation Tower.

**Nov. 12 Prairie Plant-a-thon 8:30 a.m.–noon**

Join us for our annual prairie planting. Participate by helping plant over 2,000 native grasses and forbs in land that had once been used as farmland. You'll be able to get your hands dirty while helping restore a truly rare ecosystem! Pre-registration preferred.

**South Llano River State Park**

**Oct. 22 Not So Creepy Critters noon–2 p.m.**

Join park staff and friends as they present different "creepy" animals, like owls, snakes, bugs and more, including displays and live animals. We'll find out the truth about these animals and why they don't deserve their bad reputation! Bring a pumpkin to decorate, and don't forget to dress up for our costume contest!

**Stephen F. Austin State Park**

**Oct. 31 3rd Annual Halloween on Main Street 4–8 p.m.**

Stop by and visit with park staff at the State Park Booth at the 2nd Annual Boo Bash in downtown Sealy. Trick-or-treat, train rides, music, and games are just a few of the activities that you'll find at this city-wide celebration.

**Village Creek State Park**

**Oct. 15 Halloween on the Creek 10 a.m.–2 p.m.**

Come celebrate with some family friendly activities guaranteed to get you in the mood for Halloween. Creepy Crafts: make a creepy critter you can take home to decorate your house for Halloween. Pumpkin Decorating: bring your own pumpkin, there will be a limited number of provided miniature pumpkins. This activity is designed for children 12 and under. Other activities include face-painting, mask making and more.

**Wyler Aerial Tramway**

**Oct. 29 Halloween Fest 1–5 p.m.**

Check out a variety of exhibitors showcasing a variety of Halloween-inspired friends including bats, creepy crawlers and a mosquito lab. There will also be fun Arts in the Parks activities to enjoy.

**Oct. 30 Haunted Hike 8 a.m.**

Enjoy a 1-mile guided hike to the top of Ranger Peak where hikers will learn about the geology and wildlife of the Franklin Mountains. Hikers are encouraged to join the hike in their Halloween costumes.

**Nov. 25 Turkey Hike 9 a.m.**

Hikers are encouraged to join this mile-long guided hike to the top of Ranger Peak to learn about the geology and wildlife of Franklin Mountains, all while burning off those Thanksgiving dinner calories.



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