

San Joaquin County Historical Museum

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San Joaquin County Historical Museum celebrates Christmas with Festival of Trees

Even Scrooge would get in the holiday spirit gazing at the more than 70 beautifully decorated unique Christmas trees at the San Joaquin County Historical Museum's 16th annual Festival of Trees.

This family holiday event will be held on Dec. 1 and 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the museum located in Micke Grove Park south of Lodi about one mile west of Highway 99 off of Armstrong Road.

Docents dressed in vintage Victorian and pioneer clothes will make those attending feel as though they have stepped back in time to celebrate Christmas.

The museum's seven exhibit buildings will be brimming with dozens of festive trees, each decorated according to a unique theme by different individuals and groups from throughout San Joaquin County. The festival also features charming Christmas exhibits, model train and many activities including vintage craft demonstrations like weaving, woodcarving, handmade soap and jewelry making.

For children, there will be many hands-on activities including decorating cookies, making cornhusk dolls, dipped candles, and punched tin ornaments. There is a nominal cost of \$1 to \$2

for children to make the crafts. Children also will be able to visit Santa and Mrs. Claus, and families can purchase photographs of their children with Santa.

This event also features entertainment, wagon rides and historical exhibits featuring one of the largest collections of tractors and agriculture equipment west of the Mississippi. Food and drinks will be available for purchase.

Tickets are \$8 each for adults and \$1 for children 2 to 10 years old. Children under 2 are admitted free. Tickets may be purchased at the event or in advance. Advance tickets are available at Music Box stores in Stockton and Lodi and at Delicato Family Vineyards in Manteca. Tickets also may be arranged in advance by calling the museum at (209) 331-2055 or 953-3460. By purchasing tickets in advance, the \$5 parking fee into Micke Grove Park is waived.

This year there will be a special Festival of Trees Preview & Silent Auction on Friday, Nov. 30 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Heavy hors d'oeuvres, hot cider and wine will be served at this adults-only function. The cost is \$25 per person, and reservations must be made in advance by calling the museum at (209) 331-2055 or (209) 953-3460.

Festival of Trees is the museum Docent Council's fundraiser of the year. The funds raised at this event support the educational youth programs including Valley Days and Pioneer School. More than 100 San Joaquin County classes of third- and fourth-graders participate in these two living history museum programs each year where children experience 1880s pioneer life. Other education programs operated throughout the year include museum tours and classroom visits by docents with "Grandmother's Trunk".

For more information, call the museum at (209) 331-2055 or (209) 953-3460.

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