

2023

**Union Parish
Chamber of Commerce**



Christmas in the Park
Lake D'Arbonne State Park



CAMPER

WELCOME PACKAGE

Welcome to Christmas in the State Park. This event is sponsored by the Union Parish Chamber of Commerce and the Louisiana Department of State Parks. Premier sponsor for the 2023 Christmas in the State Park is the Union General Hospital.

This experience will be the third of a future series of celebrations that commemorates the holiest Holiday of the Christian Faith. While we want to celebrate this wonderful event in a respectful manner, we also plan to make the park lighting and event field a wonderful event for children of all ages.

Campers are encouraged to decorate in any manner they desire but please remember that the decor must be fun and appropriate for all that come to the park to enjoy the holiday with us. So, hang the lights, light the fire, sit back and welcome the visitors with all the joy and grandeur of the Christmas Season.

SITE ASSIGNMENT: Sites are assigned through “gooutdoorslouisiana.com” or “lastateparks.com”. Standard sites are \$20.00 a night and \$28.00 a night Friday and Saturday. Premium sites are \$25.00 a night and \$33.00 a night Friday and Saturday. Please be sure that you occupy the site that was assigned to you. In-state senior citizens will receive a 50% discount.

HOOKUPS: All sites have 20, 30, and 50-amp service. Water is available to all sites. Sewage is only available to seven sites. If you see what appears to be a sewer connection and is painted blue, PLEASE DO NOT CONNECT YOUR SEWER HOSE TO IT. This connection houses the freshwater master valve and is not for sewage.

CHECK-IN: All campers should be checked in to provide adequate time to set up and decorate. Some campers are moving in early to enjoy the community of campers. If for any reason you are unable to get set up, please let us know and we will have campers available to assist you.

SECURITY: Security will be provided by the Union Parish Sheriff’s Department and volunteers. Union Parish VFW Post 2442 will provide a walking patrol at the event field and the Union Parish Lions Club will provide traffic control assistance. If you experience an emergency, call 911. Pafford Ambulance Service will be available

and will be dispatched from Farmerville if required. Patients will initially be transported to Union General Hospital. This is located approximately 6 miles from the park.

MEET AND GREETs: There may be several meets and greets events prior to and during the celebration. These will be informal gatherings as a thank you for the campers. Location of the venues will be the campground pavilion which is located in the middle of the campground.

Four initial Meet and Greets will be:

12/10	2:00	CAJUN MEET AND GREET	John	CAMP PAVILION
12/13	3:00	SOUP POTLUCK MEET & GREET	Tom Bonnie Fields	CAMP PAVILION
12/14	3:00	UGH PREMIER SPONSOR	Claudia Wade	CAMP PAVILION
12/16	2:00	D'BON DUTCH OVEN CLUB	Tom & Jon	CAMP PAVILION

THEME NIGHTS: For those that want to participate, there will be theme nights during the Christmas event. The following is the theme night sequence. Remember, it is not required that you participate but campers and visitors are invited to do so.

First Saturday night: Open, this is the first night and dress code is general.

Sunday Night: Ugly sweater night.

Monday Night through Thursday Night: General dress.

Friday Night - Plaid (Pull out your best Norman Rockwell card garb)

Saturday night: Christmas Pajamas.

Again, this is not a requirement but will add to the fun.

PAVILION: The park pavilion is located in the middle of the campground. This structure is large with park tables and has 120-volt receptacles at each corner. The pavilion is reserved for Every Night we are having the event. If a group would like

to reserve the site or if the site will be the location of a camper get together, please contact Dianne Davidson, Union General Hospital Camping Rep. or Tom and Bonnie Fields at camp sight 51 to use the facility. Reservations will not be taken at the park office. Also, different churches in the area host Sunday morning services for the campers at 9:00 AM at the pavilion.

DRIVE THROUGH: The gates will open at 5:30PM. Cars will traverse from the park entrance to the campground. Then upon exiting the campground, cars will travel to the tennis courts and sponsor decorations then on to the FEMA field near the launch ramp and the food vendors. (See the timetable on page 7 and the drive through map on page 10.)

Santa and his helpers will be available on the first Saturday and Sunday and the following Friday and Saturday. They will be onsite from 6:00 to 9:00 on these nights. Local churches will provide caroling at the event pavilion.

SITE CLEANLINESS: We want to make this a fun experience for both the campers and the drive-through guest. Please keep your camp site clean and free of litter. If you are outside and walking through the camp area and see a piece of litter on the ground, please make the effort to pick it up. To repeat a phrase from my Boy Scout Handbook from a hundred years ago, "Have no one say it, and say it with shame, that it was all beautiful before you came".

HIKING TRAILS: D'Arbonne State parks has a series of hiking trails available for campers. There is a good chance that the campers will encounter wildlife while in the park. Please do not disturb the animals. Penny has a food feeder at the park entrance, and it is common to see deer and squirrels feeding there. If you have any questions about the trails and/or wildlife, please see Penny at the park office. A map of the trails can be obtained at the camper check-in building.

DISC GOLF: D'Arbonne State Park has a Disc Golf Course. This can be a lot of fun for those staying in the campground while waiting for the drive through to open. A Disc Golf map is attached on page 8.

KAYAK RENTAL: For those that are adventurous and would like to spend a little time on the water, Kayaks can be rented. See the park office to rent the kayaks.

The kayaks are located at the boat launch area at the FEMA Field.

FISHING: For those that have a current fishing license, two fishing piers are located in the camping area. Please keep small children attended if they are on the pier.

GOLF CARTS: The \$10.00 a day charge for golf cart use is waived for the event. When checking in for the event be sure to inform the park that you have a golf cart, and it will be used during the event. Only the cost is waived. All regulations remain in effect to include: Proof of Insurance, driver must be 18 years of age, no driving at night and all other regulations in place at the time the camper arrives.

REMINDER: The whole purpose of this experience is to have fun and pass the good feelings of the seasons to those that are traveling through the campground. Please make it a fun event for all.

FIRES AND FIREWOOD: Fires are allowed at campsites and firepits are provided at each site. The firepits have cooking grates that will allow campers to cook outdoors. There are no other campsite providing grills. Please be careful with all fires. Firewood cannot be purchased at the park. Either bring your own or scavenge pine wood from the park. Storms hit the park two years ago and there is some wood on the ground. The park does not sell firewood. Also, if several campers would like to share split wood, a rick can be purchased for \$125.00 a rick or \$65.00 a half/rick from Freddy Hanson at 608-8137. He does not deliver. Several stores in town also sell firewood in small easy to carry bundles.

SUPPORT THE LOCAL MERCHANTS: A list of local merchants is available for people traveling through the community. The list will be handed to the campers when they check in. If you are staying in the park during the day, please take time to visit the local businesses.

Also, a local museum is located at 211 North Main Street. A permanent collection of American artifacts is on display plus seasonal exhibits.

PAINT YOUR ROCK: Two years ago, Marie Schilling from Kentwood left a special Christmas in the Park painted rock at hidden locations within local campsites.

What a wonderful experience it was to find one of these symbols of friendship. For those that want to participate in this fun event, please bring your painted rocks and quietly stealthily hide a rock to welcome in the holiday season. Identifying your name is optional. The spirit is what counts.

UNION PARISH SYNERGIES: Last year our Christmas in the State Park was a wonderful and successful event. In 2023, this will become a Gala Event as more Union Parish Christmas events will coordinate with the Park Event. During the day of Saturday, December 3rd, 2:00-8:00pm, Farmerville will host its annual Christmas on the Square downtown. In the evening at 6:00 pm, Farmerville will have its' Christmas Tree Lighting in the center of town and then hold the annual Christmas Parade starting at 6:30pm; an event that has been with the community since the early 1950s.

WHILE VISITING UNION PARISH: If you would like to experience our community, there are numerous opportunities to see what Union Parish has to offer. Visit the park entrance for maps and brochures or stop by the Chamber Office at 116 N. Main St. and request information on places to visit, eat and browse for merchandise. Christmas provides an opportunity for shoppers to obtain that special seasonal item.

For those that want to spend time browsing, start at the museum and then walk up the street to the Union Parish Library which is one of the most progressive institutions of its type in the state.

SUPPORT FOR LOCAL FOOD BANKS: Christmas is a magical time, a time of giving and benevolence. In 2023 the Christmas in the Park Event is partnering with the Sisters on the Fly to provide canned food to the local food bank. Please open your hearts and bring a couple of cans of food for those in need at Christmas. You can bring your food to the Camping Pavilion where we will be having the meet and greet meals for the campers. When the event is over the Sisters on the Fly will take the canned goods to the food bank.

CHAPEL: Chapel services will be held in the Camper Pavilion each Sunday at 9:00.

ROUTE MAP: An updated route map is included below.

EVENT SCHEDULE: An event schedule has been prepared and is included below.

CALL SHEET: A list of different scenarios and who to call has been prepared and is included below.

PLEASE SHARE THIS DOCUMENT WITH ALL YOUR FRIENDS AND FELLOW CAMPERS.

EVENT SCHEDULE

GATES OPENS AT 5:00 AND CLOSE AT 9:00					
CAMPGROUND					
DATE	TIME	EVENT	RESPONSIBLE	LOCATION	
12/13	3:00	SOUP POTLUCK MEET & GREET	Tom & Bonnie	CAMP PAVILION	
12/14	3:00	CHOCOLATE COFFEE AND COOKIES-UGH PREMIER SPONSOR	Claudia Wade	CAMP PAVILION	
12/16	2:00	D'BON DUTCH OVEN CLUB	Tom & Jon	CAMP PAVILION	
12/10	9:30?	CHAPPEL	Tom & Bonnie	CAMP PAVILION	
12/17	9:30?	CHAPPEL	Tom & Bonnie	CAMP PAVILION	
EVENT AREA (FORMERLY FEMA FIELD)					
12/9	SAT	6:30-6:45	OPENING CEREMONIES – NATIONAL ANTHEM	TUFFY FIELDS, MC MAYOR JOHN CROW LILLY DAVIS – NATIONAL ANTHEM	EVENT PAVILION

				CHARLIE ELLISON - PRAYER	
12/9	SAT	7:00-7:30	Haile Baptist Children's Praise Group	Connie Snell	EVENT PAVILION
12/9	SAT	7:45-8:15	Dance School of Union Parish	Angie Cusimano Russell	EVENT PAVILION
12/10	SUN			NANCY LOVE, MC	EVENT PAVILION
12/10	SUN	6:30-7:00	Farm. Methodist Church Children and Adult	Debbie Neely - Adult/ Carrie Auger - Children	EVENT PAVILION
12/10	SUN	7:15-7:45	Evergreen Baptist Church	Bro. Daniel Barnes Glynn Funderburk	EVENT PAVILION
12/10	SUN	8:00-8:30	First Assembly of God	Will Roberson	EVENT PAVILION
12/14				VERDEL VENTROY, MC	EVENT PAVILION
12/14	THURS	6:30	6 th Grade & UNION PARISH HIGH SCHOOL BAND	Dr. Dennis Hensley	EVENT PAVILION
12/15	FRI			BONNIE FIELDS, MC	EVENT PAVILION
12/15	FRI	6:30-7:00	First Baptist of Farmerville Children's Choir	Rev. Kurt Auger Debbie Albritton	EVENT PAVILION
12/15	FRI	7:15-7:45	First Baptist of Farmerville One Step Higher	Rev. Kurt Auger Fred Stewart	EVENT PAVILION
12/15	FRI	8:00-8:30	First Baptist of Farmerville Men's Choir	Rev. Kurt Auger Frank NyHart	EVENT PAVILION
12/16	SAT			TINA HARRIS, MC	EVENT PAVILION
12/16	SAT	6:30-7:00	Dance School of Union Parish	Angie Cusimano Russell	EVENT PAVILION
12/16	SAT	7:15-7:45	Zion Hill Baptist Church Spearsville	Rev. Tommy Carr Deanna Ellsworth	EVENT PAVILION

Theatrical Group Through Union Parish Library

Committed to 2–15-minute vignettes for two nights, for a total of 4 vignettes – Contact Stephanie Hermann and Emily Kelly

CHILDRENS LIGHTED TRAIL

EVERY NIGHT	5:30-9:00	SELF GUIDED	PENNY and PARK	TRAIL HEAD NEAR FEMA

SANTA CLAUSE

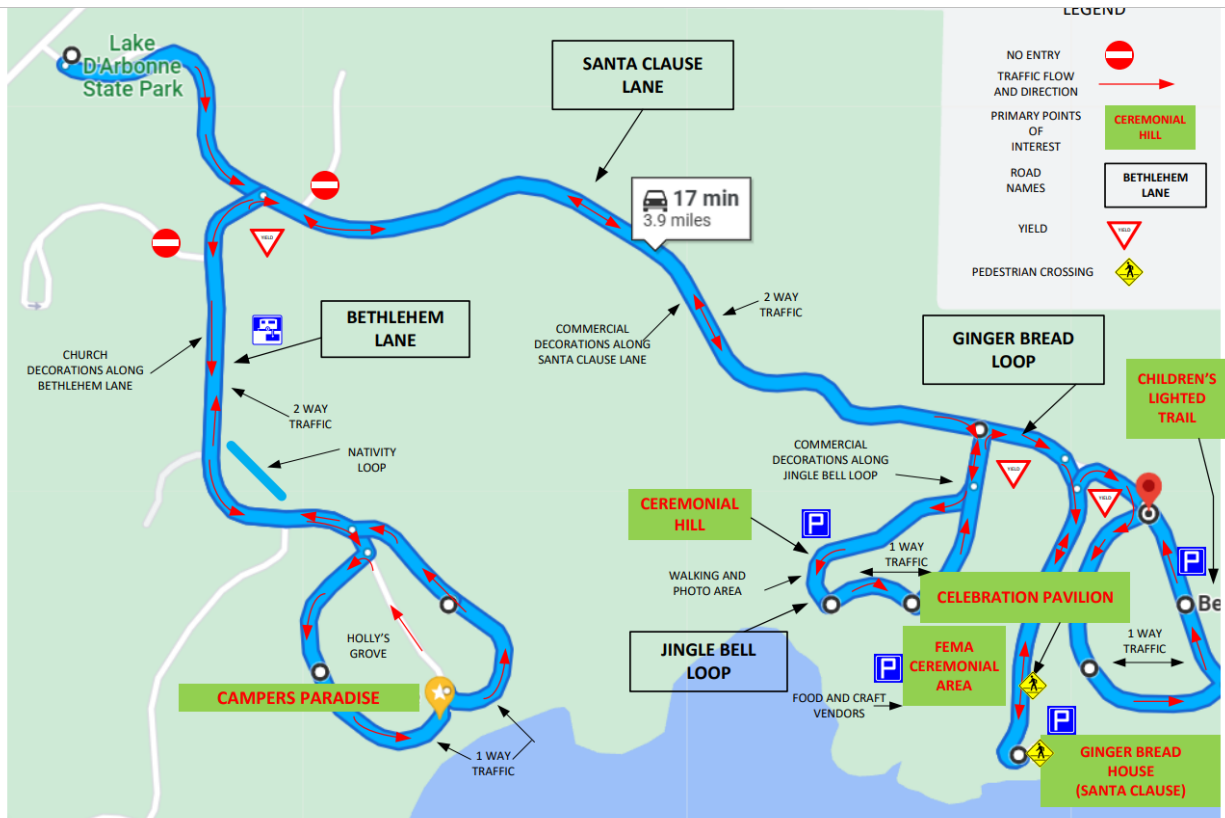
DEC 9,10,14,15,16	6:00 – 8:30	Visit and take a picture with Santa	Jon	Located at the Gingerbread House
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FOOD AND CRAFTS

Open every night until closing

CHRISTMAS IN THE PARK

TRAFFIC FLOW MAP



CITSP CALL SHEET		
MEDICAL EMERGENCY		
ALL AREAS	DISPATCHER	911
POLICE EMERGENCY		
ALL AREAS	DISPATCHER	911
CAMPER SUPPORT		
CAMPGROUND	TUFFY FIELDS	318-816-8613
	BONNIE FIELDS	318-680-7277
VENDOR CHECK-IN AND POSITIONING		
FEMA FIELD	KERRY HILL	318-245-6070
	SKEETER HICKS	
	TUFFY FIELDS	318-816-8613
CHOIR COORDINATION		
GINGER BREAD HOUSE	BONNIE FIELDS	318-680-7277
TRAFFIC CONTROL – ALL AREAS		
DEPUTIES	DUSTY GATES -	318-608-8077
LIONS CLIB	FRED STEWART	318-342-1724
CHURCH COORDINATION		
BETHLEHEM LANE	BONNIE	318-680-7277
PARK FACILITY PROBLEM – ELECTRICITY, WATER, SEWER, BUILDINGS		
ALL AREAS	DEMETRIUS FIELDS	
	PENNY WAINWRIGHT	318-358-2086
	FRONT GATE	
PAID EXHIBITOR SET UP AND COORDINATION		
CHRISTMAS LANE	JON MCKINNIE	713-315-0220
JINGLE BELL LANE		
CEREMONIAL HILL	TUFFY FIELDS	318-816-8613
GINGERBREAD HOUSE AND CHILDRENS WALKING TRAIL		
	PENNY WAINWRIGHT	318-358-2086
LIGHT TOWER COORDINATION AND POSITIONING		
FEMA FIELD - ENVIRO PARKING LOT - SHERIFF	KERRY HILL	318-245-6070
	SKEETER HICKS	

	LES WALLACE	318-816-8613	
GENERATORS			
START / STOP	DUSTY GATES	318-608-8077	
	CHIEF WEBB		
PROBLEM/LOW FUEL/MAINT. COMMUNICATION WITH EXHIBITOR	SKEETER	318-245-6070	
	KERRY		
	TUFFY	318-816-8613	
EDUCATION GLADE			
SCHOOL EXHIBIT	STEPHANIE	318-368-9926	
SANTA CLAUSE			
GINGER BREAD HOUSE	JON	318-368 3947	
TABLE MOVES AND SET UP			
FEMA FOOD COURT, CHOIR AREA	FREDDY	318-342-1724	
	KERRY	318-245-6070	
	TUFFY	318-816-8613	
KEY NUMBERS - INDIVIDUALS			
JON MCKINNIE	318-368 3947	TOM "TUFFY" FIELDS	318-816-8613
DUSTY GATES	318-608-8077	PENNY WAINWRIGHT	318-358-2086
KERRY HILL	318-245-6070	SKEETER HICKS	
BONNIE FIELDS	318-680-7277	FREDDY STEWART	318-342-1724
KEY NUMBERS - LOCATIONS			
PARK ENTRANCE – RANGER STATION	318-368-2086		
CHAMBER OFFICE – MAIN STREET	3947	318-368-	
EMERGENCY DISPATCH – LIFE, FIRE, POLICE	911		