Christmas at the Farm

Living Nativity at Shepherd's Cross

"Christ is Christmas"

Provided by Heart of the Shepherd – a Christian Public Non-Profit Organization

Volunteers Needed for Costumed Characters – Musicians – Story Tellers - Fiber Art Demonstrators
Shifts are available on the following dates & times:

December 10, 11 & 12 and 17. 18 & 19 of 2026
Thursday, Friday & Saturday 10:00 am – 8:00 p.m.

CHARACTER PORTRAYAL OPPORTUNITES AVAILABLE

Shifts available:
10:15 am - 12:15 pm
12:15 pm - 2:15 pm
2:15 pm - 4:15 pm
4:15 pm - 6:15 pm
6:15 pm - 8:15 pm
*Please Arrive **30 minutes** prior to shift for costuming.*

GENERAL CHARACTER INFORMATION

- This is a great opportunity for family or church small groups/Bible studies to participate. One family or group per shift.
- Each shift can facilitate from six to ten participants.
- Babies, young family members and folks of all ages are welcome and encouraged to participate. We love to have a live "baby Jesus" in the manger!
- Children & infants are welcome participants. This is a living real life depiction of that first Christmas. A crying babe in the manger can be one of the most precious moments in the stable.
- To schedule see contact info below; to obtain your desired time please contact us as soon as possible, shifts fill early.

COSTUMES

- Costumes available for the youngest and smallest member of the family, through adult sizes
- Costumes are worn over clothing
- Costume coordinator assists with attire
- Costuming is located on the ground floor, near the stable scene.
- Costumes available are: Mary, Joseph, Angels, Wisemen (Kings & Queens), & Shepherds/Shepherdesses. Costume coordinator will fill positions available. If particular positions are desired, please discuss this with the coordinator at the time of scheduling; prior to arriving for the shift. We will do our best to accommodate those requests, however, sometimes it may not be possible.

CHARACTER RESPONSIBILITIES

- Characters arrive 30 minutes prior to shift.
- Check in at the front desk, and you will be given instructions.
- No words to say or memorize
- Characters will sit or stand in the stable scene, housed within the tour barn, quietly reflecting upon the meaning of Christmas. This is a "living nativity" consequently, members may move within the stable area, may interact with the animals, and speak quietly to one another.
- The objective of the Living Nativity is to provide a time for spectators and participants to reflect upon the meaning of Christmas. A silent "ministry at the manger"
- Adult supervision & participation in the manger scene is required when children participate.
- Please refrain from using electronic devices of any kind, when in costume. Leave cell phones in the costuming area or turn them to airplane mode or silent.

- No food or beverages in stable area - with exceptions for wee babes.
- No "horseplay" or "course joking"
- This is a smoke & tobacco free facility
- Please read Shepherd's Cross Rules & Regulations & sign waiver prior to participating. We will have copies available at the registration desk.. Link is here.
- Participants may bring a sack lunch to have following or preceding their shift. No formal kitchen area is available; however, tables & chairs & an outdoor picnic area are available.
- If you are unable to fill your position, we request at least 48-hour advance notice, so we can adequately fill the vacant positions. It would be disheartening for a visiting family or group to visit to an empty manger!

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Live farm animals are housed in stalls adjacent to the stable scene area.
- There is hay and straw in the stable area. Additional farm harvest items may be in the surrounding area, including but not limited to corn, corn stalks, wool, evergreen branches, pecans and walnuts.
- The tour barn is heated. The temperature is generally in the fifties; however, the doors will occasionally be opened to provide care for the animals, and temperatures will vary. It can be cool.
- Some ask, "Where is the performance?" We say, "The performance is in your heart." Scripture is read, and music plays in the background.

BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPANTS

- Free Wagon Ride – "Journey with the Shepherds"
- Christmas Craft Kit – take home – one per participant
- DIY Fresh Evergreen Wreath Take Home Kit (Only one per group or family please)
- Some have said that participating in the nativity has become their most meaningful Christmas activity
- Escape from the hustle and bustle of the season
- Quality family time
- Opportunity for the Christmas gift of serving others
- Pictures of participants will be made available - family moments to treasure; we will post on our Facebook Page. **If you do not want them posted please let us know in advance** and note this on your waiver.
- Free family activity
- Christ is made the center of Christmas
- Enjoy all the donation-based activities of the Living Nativity available to all visitors (over 50 activities)
- Plan on spending at least two hours doing these activities. If you want to return for these benefits on a different day, please ask at the front desk for a rain check on wagon ride.
- We are a 501-C3 and we can provide certificates for your volunteer hours if needed for school, scouts, or other service organizations.

MUSICIANS & DRAMATIC STORYTELLER OPPORTUNITIES

- 'Tis the season for Christmas music - Gospel or Christian Christmas Music, or hymns or Country Christian Christmas Music. We are a Christian based non-profit organization. Christ is the reason for the season.
    - Setting is appropriate for solo, duo, trio or quartet. Space is not large enough for a full band.
    - The setting is around the hearth for 15 minutes preceding entrance to the Live Nativity itself
    - Each performer is asked to perform for 4 of the 15-minute sessions. Please select from the following times
    - 10:15, 10:45, 11:15, 11:45 or 12:15, 12:45, 1:15, 1:45 or 2:15, 2:45, 3:15, 3:45 or 4:15, 4:45, 5:15, 5:45 or 6:15, 6:45, 7:15
    - Very quiet background music may be played in between these times, if desired
    - Please arrive 30 minutes in advance of your shift for set up.
    - If you would like to wear a Nativity style costume, we will provide one or you may bring your own. Period costumes, appropriate for the time of Jesus birth, are the costumes used for this event.
        - If you choose not to wear a costume, then please choose conservative attire, appropriate for the setting.

- Dramatic Christmas Story Tellers
    - The setting is around the hearth for 15 minutes preceding entrance to the Live Nativity itself

- Each performer is asked to perform for 4 of the 15-minute sessions (3 for last shift). Please select from the following times
- 10:15, 10:45, 11:15, 11:45 or 12:15, 12:45, 1:15, 1:45 or 2:15, 2:45, 3:15, 3:45 or 4:15, 4:45, 5:15, 5:45 or 6:15, 6:45, 7:15
- Each story must be pre-approved, and fit the theme of "Christ is Christmas"
- Please arrive 30 minutes in advance of your shift for set up.
- If you would like to wear a Nativity style costume, we will provide one or you may bring your own. Period costumes, appropriate for the time of Jesus birth, are the costumes used for this event.
    - If you choose not to wear a costume, then please choose conservative attire, appropriate for the setting.

FIBER ARTS DEMONSTRATOR OPPORTUNITIES

- Spinners, weavers, knitters, crocheters, felters and other artists – welcome
- Please arrive 30 minutes in advance of your shift for set up.
- **Shifts Available**
    - 10:30 am – 1:30 pm
    - 1:30- 5:00 pm
    - 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

  We will work with your scheduling requirements if these time slots do not work for you or you would like to stay longer.
- Contact us to be placed on the schedule
- This is a great opportunity for individuals, families, knitting circles, quilters, weaving groups or church small groups/Bible studies to participate. We can facilitate 3 - 12 fiber artists per shift.
- If you would like to wear a Nativity style costume, we will provide one or you may bring your own. Period costumes, appropriate for the time of Jesus birth, are the costumes used for this event.
    - If you choose not to wear a costume, then please choose conservative attire, appropriate for the setting.

- Share the legacy & joy of fiber arts & enjoy a peaceful respite to finish that Christmas project.

Upon Arrival, please stop at the desk for registration. Registration will include signing a waiver. You may sign and bring with you or email a copy in advance. Thank you.

Microsoft Word - Rules and Waiver (2012) (shepherdscross.com)

waiver_and_realease_form_fillable_2020.docx (live.com)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Christmas at the Farm, Shepherd's Cross & Heart of the Shepherd - ShepherdsCross.com

FOR SCHEDULING, PLEASE CONTACT

Dr. Diane Dickinson, Executive Director
SheepFarm@ShepherdsCross.com
918-342-5911
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