



For Immediate Release  
December 2011

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## Winter Solstice Celebration at Mission San Luis

TALLAHASSEE — Enjoy a new holiday tradition this season by celebrating the Winter Solstice and Native American culture at Mission San Luis. During daylight on Saturday, December 17, 2011, the Mission will present artisans selling their wares, drum circles, presentations on navigation and astronomy, children's activities, and more. After dark there will be storytelling, performances on Native American flute, and stargazing. Come observe the occasion of the "sun standing" at its southernmost position in the sky and honor the heritage of this 17<sup>th</sup> century living history village. The Winter Solstice Celebration will include:

- Drumming circles led by Ed Mickle and Yazid Bill Johnson
- Colonial Crafts for Children (scented pinecones) Noon to 2 p.m.
- *Society for Creative Anachronism* encampment
- Primitive weapon demonstrations
- Solstice Fair artisans James Callis (photography), Creek Carver Studio (shell carvings), Quincie Hamby (jewelry), LoKo Flutes (Native American-style flutes and accessories), Syrheda Reed-Leo (children's clothing and purses), Robin Rodgers (art pottery), Barbara Rosen (pine needle baskets), Dan Townsend (shell carvings), and Arte Mexico (Mexican arts and crafts)
- *Theater with a Mission* staged readings of Spanish Golden Age drama, *Wet Christmas*
- Navigation presentation by Pete Cowdrey
- Astronomy presentation by Stephen Thompson
- Solar and deep sky star gazing with scopes from *Tallahassee Astronomical Society*
- Food vendors (*Los Amigos* and *Knawty Hawg BBQ*)
- Native American flute playing by Robin Tillery
- Storytelling by Kate Taluga

The hours of the event are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The event is included with the regular admission fee. Visitors can use their admission stickers to leave and return during the day or evening.

While their lives were different than ours, we share the same sky with the Apalachee Indians and Spanish settlers who lived here more than three hundred years ago. Gather at Mission San Luis for this historic Solstice Celebration!

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Mission San Luis was the western capital of Spanish Florida from 1656 to 1704. Today the Mission recreates this community with costumed living history guides, reconstructed buildings, exhibits, and archaeological research. The site is a National Historic Landmark and recipient of a Preserve America Presidential Award.

Mission San Luis is located at 2100 West Tennessee Street in Tallahassee, Florida and is open Tuesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$5 for adults, \$3 for seniors over 65, and \$2 for children aged 6-17. Members, children under 6, and active duty military get in free. Mission San Luis is managed by the Florida Department of State's Bureau of Archaeological Research. Programs and events are sponsored by the Friends of Mission San Luis, Inc. For more information, call 850.245.6406 or visit [www.missionsanluis.org](http://www.missionsanluis.org).

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**Friends of Mission San Luis, Inc.**  
2100 West Tennessee Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32304  
Visitor Center: 850.245.6406