

Homestead Fair 2011

Fine Crafts & Heirloom Skills

at Homestead Heritage

HOMESTEAD HERITAGE and THE PLOUGHSHARE INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE CULTURE will host the 24th annual Homestead Fair on Thanksgiving Weekend, November 25-27 at HOMESTEAD HERITAGE TRADITIONAL CRAFT VILLAGE in central Texas. Fair hours on Friday and Saturday are 9 A.M to 9 P.M. On Sunday the event opens at 12 NOON and closes at 5 P.M. This 3-day exposition is a fun and educational festival that focuses on fine handcraftsmanship as well as the skills of sustainable living. Bring the entire family and plan to spend a day – and return the next! There are plenty of activities for everyone in the family to enjoy, from young to old.

Features for this year's Fair include:

- Gallery of Craft Masterpieces
- Make-Your-Own Activities
- Daily Sustainable Living Seminars

“This year's Fair is bursting at the seams,” said Josiah Wheeler, one of the Fair organizers. “It's hard to experience all we have in just one day. We really want folks that come to our festival to have the opportunity to step aside from the fast-paced daily urban culture, slow down and experience an entire weekend in a wholesome, family-oriented community atmosphere. Along with the dozens of ongoing craft demonstrations are music presentations, hayrides, great food, Make-Your-Own projects and real-life education on sustainable life skills and crafts.”

Each day you'll find dozens of ongoing homestead craft demonstrations in the Craft Pavilion and at the various Craft Village shops, from woodworking with hand tools, hand-thrown pottery, blacksmithing, casting, broom making, basket making and leather boot making to traditional sewing and quilting, spinning, weaving and other fiber crafts. In addition, special demonstrations are scheduled throughout all 3 days of the festival. Watch a master craftsman fashion a fine Windsor chair using hand woodworking tools – beginning with a rough log!

This year, Fair goers can experience over 30 make-your-own activities. Try your hand at dipping a candle, making a toy wooden sailboat, hammering a bronze spoon, weaving a basket or spinning yarn on a drop spindle. You can shell popcorn, shape and bake a pretzel, make your own butter or pull some old-fashioned taffy.

Visit THE BARN to view the MASTERPIECE GALLERY, a collection of the finest work of 2011 by the award-winning master craftsmen and renowned teachers at HOMESTEAD HERITAGE. Each one-of-a-kind piece represents the goal of the craftsmen to continually increase both their skill in and their knowledge of their particular field. Pieces are auctioned by sealed bid, closing Sunday at 5 P.M. to benefit the PLOUGHSHARE INSTITUTE FOR SUSTAINABLE CULTURE.

At the Working Homestead, you can see sheep shearing, farm animal pens, organic gardens, cider pressing and much more. You can even help milk a cow! Take a few minutes to tour the farm on a horse-drawn hay wagon or carriage. Don't miss horse farming and sheepdog herding, two of the most popular attractions at the Fair. In addition, you can watch demonstrations on how you can make your own cheese, pasta or soap.

Sustainable Living Seminars will be presented all 3 days of the Fair. Check the schedule online ahead of time for a complete listing. Included are topics such as Sustainable Gardening, Beekeeping and Grass-fed Beef as well as Renewable Energy, Sustainable Building, Cheese Making and more!

On Friday and Saturday at the Barn Raising site, lend a hand and help assemble and raise the wall beams of an eighteenth-century barn. Demonstrations at the site will include hewing beams by hand and cutting mortise-and-tenon joints.

Live music begins every day at 2:30 and on Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:00. Booths in the food court and fairground kiosks serve an assortment of multicultural foods all day. For holiday shopping, visit the Craft Pavilion and adjacent craft booths where you'll find hundreds of distinctive, handcrafted items.

No admission; Parking pass \$10 at the gate, \$7 online in advance. Good for all 3 days.

Homestead Fair • 608 Dry Creek Rd. • Waco, TX 76705 • 254.754.9600
For more information visit HomesteadFair.com