ARDENWOOD HISTORIC FARM
NATURALIST PROGRAMS
DECEMBER 2022

All programs meet at the Farmyard unless otherwise noted.

CHRISTMAS AT THE PATTERSON HOUSE
Patterson House Docents
Various times, Friday-Sunday, December 2-4, 9-11, and 16-18
Celebrate a turn of the 20th century holiday at a beautifully restored Queen Anne mansion. Join costumed docents for a tour of 14 rooms decorated with Victorian-style holiday ornaments.
Purchase tickets at the door as space allows.
11:00am & 2:00pm: Tot Tours for all ages, downstairs only, wheelchair accessible (20 min)
11:30am, 1:00pm, 2:30pm: Full tours for age 6 and over (45 min)
Fee: $3/Adults & Seniors, $2/Children ages 6-17, Children 5 & under free (fee separate from Ardenwood Farm entrance).
Info: (510) 791-4196

HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
Patterson House Docents
5:30-8:30pm, Friday, December 9
Celebrate a turn of the 20th century holiday at a beautifully restored Queen Anne mansion. Enjoy live music and refreshments. Fee: $7 advance tickets, $8 at the door, children 12 years and under free. Register online, or at the door as space allows.
This is an “after hours” City of Fremont event at the park. Online registration at www.regerec.com. For more information, call (510) 791-4196 or email rkiehn@fremont.gov

WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP
Christina Garcia
10am-1pm, Saturday, December 3
Craft a festive wreath from aromatic evergreens. Explore the significance of holly and ivy in holiday traditions and get to know some elegant California native plants as well. Embellish your creation with colorful citrus fruits, cones, or berries and a magnificent bow. (10+yrs) Registration is required.
1-888-EBPARKS (1-888-327-2757, option 2) or online at www.ebparks.org
Fee: $30 (non-res. $35)

Program Key
Wheelchair accessible
Online registration
ebparksonline.com
HPHP Healthy Parks Healthy People
People programs offer low impact exercise.
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ANIMAL FEEDING
3:00pm, Every Thursday through Sunday (except Dec 25)
Check for eggs and feed the livestock. Learn all the animals’ favorite foods as we help tuck them in for the evening. Meet in the farmyard at the Granary Porch.

LEARN THE ROPES
11:30am-12:30pm, Saturday, December 3, 11
11-11:30am, Saturday, December 17, 31
Make rope with our antique machine, and then see how lots of rope plus a few pulleys make hoisting hay bales into the barn loft a cinch.

STILT WALKERS
1:30-2:30pm, Saturday, December 3, 31
Want to be taller? Improve your balance? Give stilts a try. It’s fun! Guess why farmers used these fun tools in the past…

FARMYARD STORY TIME
10:30-11am, Sunday, December 4, 18
Perhaps you’ll meet Woolbur, the Billy Goats Gruff or other farm friends! Join the story circle for some barnyard tales before visiting the main characters.

FUNKY FUNGI
Jenni Shaw
11:30am-12:30pm, Sunday, December 4
Why do mushrooms grow in circles? Why are mushroom rings historically associated with fairies? Come learn about funky fungi as we search for mushroom rings, and make your own fairy craft!

CORN HUSK DOLLS
David Cohen, Christina Garcia
1-2pm, Sunday, December 4, 18
Craft your own folk-art doll of colorful husks gleaned from the field. Corn silk hair, a twig broom, or an acorn cap will add individual character to your creation.

WIGGLING WORM BINS
David Cohen
2-2:30pm, Sunday, December 4, 11
Discover how worms, also known as “nature’s plows,” help us grow our food. Get your hands dirty by exploring our worm bin and finding a wriggly friend.

BIRDS OF THE FARM
Christina Garcia
8-9:30am, Saturday, December 10, 24
The farm provides valuable habitat for fall migratory birds. Let’s explore the gardens, forests, and fields looking for these delightful visitors. No admission fee.

WAKE UP THE FARM
10:30-11am, Saturday, December 10, 24, 31
Rise and shine little farmers! Say “Good morning!” to the sheep and goats and lend a hand as we prepare a morning snack for the farm animals.

MISTLETOE & CIDER
1:30-2:30pm, Saturday, December 10, 17
Drop by the wood stove for a mug of hot cider and to pick up some mistletoe. Discover how this strange plant lives and why it is associated with love.

HAY HOISTING
David Cohen
10:30-11, Sunday, December 11
Discover how people living long ago were able to lift and swing heavy bales of hay into their barns by using ropes and pulleys. Try it out yourself – can you work with a team to get the job done?
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**POKEAN: MAKE A NATIVE AMERICAN GAME**
David Cohen
11:30-12:30, Sunday, December 11
Using corn husks grown at Ardenwood, learn to make a fun game created by the Zuni people of New Mexico and Arizona. Pokean, also known as Jackrabbit’s Hit, is similar to hacky sack or badminton.

**CLOTHESPIN DOLLS**
David Cohen
1-2, Sunday, December 11
Create and dress up your own darling doll. We’ll make them out of clothespins just the way they did more than 100 years ago.

**RABBIT RENDEZVOUS**
10:30-11am, Saturday, December 17
Hop on over for a warm welcome from some of the farm’s furriest residents. Learn why rabbits are great hoppers and how they use their long ears to sense danger.

**OJO DE DIOS**
Christina Garcia
12:30-1:30, Saturday, December 17
Lend a hand carding sheep fleece, then watch how yarn is made on our spinning wheel and weave your own colorful ornament to hang for the holidays.

**SALT DOUGH ORNAMENTS**
Sonja Gomez
11:30am-12:30pm, Sunday, December 18
Use ingredients from our Country Kitchen to create a holiday ornament to take home.

**FARMYARD GAMES**
Interpretive Staff
2-3pm, Sunday, December 18
11:30am-12:30pm, Saturday, December 10, 24
Life on a farm wasn’t all work and no play. Join us for some old-fashioned fun! Try your hand at classic American pastimes such as stilts, sack races, or the game of graces.

**TOP SHOP**
Christina Garcia
1:30-2:30pm, Saturday, December 24
Learn the history of this ancient toy that is played around the world. Make your own wood spinner and compete in a skittles tournament.

**NEW YEAR TRADITIONS**
Christina Garcia
12:30-1:30pm, Saturday, December 31
Eating noodles, smashing crockery and hanging onions on the door are some rituals from around the world. Enjoy a mug of hot cider while you learn more and share your own.