WREATH MAKING WORKSHOP

10am-1pm, Saturday, December 2

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) Fee:

CHRISTMAS AT THE PATTERSON HOUSE

Patterson House Docents

Various times, Friday-Sunday, December 1-3, 8-10, and 15-17

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 in advance online, or at the door as space allows. 11am & 2pm: Tot Tours for all ages, downstairs only, wheelchair accessible (20 min) 11:30am, 1pm, 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

4:30-7:30pm, Sunday, December 10

Celebrate a turn of the 20th century holiday at a beautifully restored Queen Anne mansion. Enjoy live music and refreshments. Fee: $8 advance tickets, $9 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
ARDENWOOD HISTORIC FARM
NATURALIST PROGRAMS
DECEMBER 2023

All programs meet at the Farmyard unless otherwise noted.

ONGOING PROGRAM

ANIMAL FEEDING
3pm, Thursday through Sunday
Check for eggs and feed the livestock. Learn all the animals’ favorite foods as we help tuck them in for the evening. Meet at the Granary.

INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2

MEET THE CHICKENS
10:30-11am
Check out our coop full of chickens! Discover why they like to roam around the farmyard and scratch at the ground while you feed them a little snack.

CORN MOSAICS
11:30am-12:30pm
See how to turn our freshly harvested flint corn into a fun craft for the whole family! Use the rainbow of colored kernels to make your own mosaic.

OLD-FASHIONED GAMES
1:30-2:30pm
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, skittles, or the game of graces.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3

WAKE UP THE FARM
10:30-11am
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.

DANISH DELIGHTS
11:30am-12:30pm
Danes who came to California were impressed with how much food farmers could grow here. Join us at our country kitchen for delicious Danish aebleskiver topped with a variety of Scandinavian and Californian fruit jams.

MYSTERIOUS MONARCHS
1:30-2:30pm
Ardenwood’s eucalyptus grove is one of the historic overwintering sites used by monarch butterflies along the California coast. Meet at the Greenhouse to explore this special place and see if any of these mysterious insects are in residence this season.

ARDENWOOD HISTORIC FARM
NATURALIST PROGRAMS
DECEMBER 2023

All programs meet at the Farmyard unless otherwise noted.
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9

BIRDS OF THE FARM
8-9:30am
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.

FARMYARD STORY TIME
10:30-11am
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.

BATE, BATE CHOCOLATE
11:30am-12:30pm
Mix, mix chocolate! Join us at the wood-burning stove to prepare champurrado, an ancient corn and chocolate drink that continues to bring family, friends and communities together today.

OJOS DE DIOS
1:30-2:30pm
Originating with the Huichol people of Mexico, vibrant Ojos de Dios or “God’s Eyes” woven with yarn send a message of love and protection. See how we make yarn from our sheep’s wool and craft your own colorful ornament to hang for the holidays.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 10

MEET THE CHICKENS
10:30-11am
See description on page 2.

CORN MOSAICS
11:30am-12:30pm
See description on page 2.

SANTA LUCIA CELEBRATION
1:30-2:30pm
The Scandinavian holiday Santa Lucia is celebrated to bring light to the darkest time of the year. Join us at our country kitchen for traditional Swedish baked goods and candlelit festivities.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

MEET THE CHICKENS
10:30-11am
See description on page 2.

EAGLE EYES
11:30am-12:30pm
Visit a couple of Bald Eagle nesting sites at the farm to check for signs of occupancy this season. Learn some fascinating facts about these majestic raptors as we look for recent activity.
CONT., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16

TOP SHOP
1:30-2:30pm
Learn the history of this ancient toy that is played around the world. Make your own wood spinner and compete in a skittles tournament for fun prizes.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17

FARMYARD STORY TIME
10:30-11am
See description on page 3.

CANDLE DIPPING
1:30-2:30pm
Victorians used candles to light up their dark homes and celebrate festive occasions. Learn the traditional Victorian art of beeswax candle making and make your own candle to take home.

VICTORIAN TABLE TOP GAMES
11:30am-12:30pm
Ready for some old-fashioned fun? Challenge your family and friends to a game of ball and cup, tops, or Jacob’s Ladder as you delve into our box of games from days-gone-by.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 23

WAKE UP THE FARM
10:30-11am
See description on page 2.

THE YULE GOAT
11:30am-12:30pm
Did you know that in Scandinavia, presents are delivered not by reindeer, but by goats? Join us to learn the history of the Yule Goat, meet our real goats, and make your own Nordic ornaments.

MYSTERIOUS MONARCHS
1:30-2:30pm
See description on page 2.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

FARM CHORES FOR KIDS
10:30-11am
Running a farm is hard work. But it’s fun too! Lend a hand cracking corn and feeding the animals. You’ll check the chickens and help with other morning chores.

BATE, BATE CHOCOLATE
11:30am-12:30pm
See description on page 3.
CONT., SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24

STILTS!
1:30-2:30pm
Want to be taller? Improve your balance? Give stilts a try. It’s fun! Guess why farmers used these fun tools in the past.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

NEW YEAR TRADITIONS
1:30-2:30pm
Eating noodles, smashing crockery and hanging onions on the door are some year-end rituals from around the world. Enjoy a mug of hot cider while you learn more and share your own ways of welcoming the new year.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 30

BIRDS OF THE FARM
8-9:30am
See description on page 3.

FARMYARD STORY TIME
10:30-11am
See description on page 3.

SIMPLE MACHINES
11:30am-12:30pm
Machines make our work easier and more productive, both on the farm and in our everyday lives. Come learn about the six types of simple machines and try them out for yourself!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31

WAKE UP THE FARM
10:30-11am
See description on page 2.

BARNYARD BATS
11:30am-12:30pm
Bats perform many important tasks on the farm. Learn about these underappreciated and frequently misunderstood creatures of the night, then see where local bats have made their home at Ardenwood.

OLD-FASHIONED GAMES
1:30-2:30pm
See description on page 2.