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(Please email or call for photos, videos, advance interviews, etc.)

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**For Immediate Release:**

**H-E-B presents Texas-size celebration to mark 182nd anniversary of Texas Independence**

“Texas Independence Day Celebration”—presented by H-E-B—is an annual two-day living history celebration from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4, 2018 on the 293-acre [Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/) to commemorate when 59 delegates bravely met in 1836 to make a formal declaration of independence from Mexico and form a nation.

After all, there is no better place to celebrate Texas independence than on the very spot “Where Texas Became Texas.”

The admission-free “Texas Independence Day Celebration” (TIDC) features two stages of non-stop live music and entertainment; Texian Village of arts and crafts; variety of food trucks; Texas A&M University Singing Cadets; Kids History Zone; Aggieland Mariachi Band; “The Birth of a Republic” historical play about the signers of the declaration; Brenham Children’s Chorus; Mount Rose Missionary Baptist Church Men’s Chorus; Professor Gerard, The Texian Magician; Mixteco Ballet Folklorico; “Dr. Balthasar’s Medicine Show;” Celtaire String Band; Jagoda Polish Folk Dance Ensemble; Pace & Barber; Texas State Federation of Square and Round Dancers; Red Chanuska; and other family-friendly programs.

Historical reenactors set up a bonafide 1836 Texas Army camp on the park grounds, where visitors can wander freely to learn how the soldiers and their families lived then, and witness musket and cannon firings.

Admission fees are waived for the site’s attractions ([Independence Hall](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/about/independence-hall/); [Star of the Republic Museum](http://www.starmuseum.org/) and [Barrington Living History Farm](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/about/barrington-living-history-farm/)) for that weekend celebration. Admission to the grounds, on-site shuttles and parking are also free during TIDC.

The Star of the Republic Museum’s new exhibit titled “So Others Could Follow: Four Centuries of Maps That Define Texas” will open TIDC weekend on March 3 and will illustrate through maps the evolution of Texas over four centuries, both topographically and politically, under seven flags. It runs through February 15, 2019.

Hotels that will provide discount pricing for TIDC weekend include Holiday Inn Express & Suites, 2685 Schulte Blvd., Brenham, TX 77833, 979-830-5331; Best Western Inn of Brenham, 1503 Hwy. 290 E., Brenham, TX 77833, 979-251-7791; and Best Western Navasota, 8965 Hwy. 6, Navasota, TX 77868, 936-870-4100.

“Texas Independence Day Celebration” is presented by H-E-B and coordinated by the Washington on the Brazos State Park Association, with the assistance of [Texas Parks & Wildlife Dept](https://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/washington-on-the-brazos) (TPWD) and The Texas Army reenactors. Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site is halfway between Houston and Austin at 23400 Park Road 12, Washington, TX, 77880. Contact 936-878-2214 or [jon.failor@tpwd.texas.gov](mailto:jon.failor@tpwd.texas.gov) for more information. Updates on the TIDC schedule can be found at [www.wheretexasbecametexas.org](http://www.wheretexasbecametexas.org) and [www.facebook.com/washingtononthebrazos/](http://www.facebook.com/washingtononthebrazos/).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Washington on the Brazos State Historic Site—a TPWD-run state park—has many onsite amenities open daily, as well as an incredible schedule of events and programs. On-site attractions include Independence Hall; the Star of the Republic Museum (administered by Blinn College) and Barrington Living History Farm. The site’s Visitor Center features interactive exhibits which present a timeline of the Texas Revolution and houses the spacious Washington Emporium Gift Shop. Entrance to the park grounds, Visitor Center and parking is always free. The [Fanthorp Inn State Historic Site](http://wheretexasbecametexas.org/about/fanthorp-inn/)—open only on weekends--is an authentically preserved example of a 19th century stagecoach inn, located in Anderson, TX.

This expansive park on the Brazos River provides a beautiful setting for picnicking, sightseeing, bird watching and four geocaching sites—two each from TPWD and the Brenham/Washington County Chamber. A Conference Center for meetings, weddings and reunions and the Education Center with two classroom-style spaces can be rented. An outdoor amphitheater and two open-air pavilions are also available for rent. Washington on the Brazos State Park Association memberships for individuals, families and businesses include free admission to the site’s attractions for a year, and—for some levels—private parties during the park’s special celebrations.

Washington on the Brazos is located on the Brazos River at the original townsite of Washington, Texas. Located at 23400 Park Road 12, Washington, TX, 77880—approximately halfway between Brenham and Navasota, off of State Hwy. 105. From Hwy. 105, follow either FM 912 or FM 1155 to Park Road 12.

Contact [office@wheretexasbecametexas.org](mailto:office@wheretexasbecametexas.org) or (936) 878-2214 for more information; updates on all WOB festivities, including TIDC, are continually posted at [www.wheretexasbecametexas.org](http://www.wheretexasbecametexas.org).