

Hispanic Heritage Day

September 17, 2016



Join in the celebration of Hispanic heritage and their contributions to the history of Bent's Old Fort and the Santa Fe Trail. Special talks, lectures, ongoing demonstrations and hands-on activities will fill the day. The adobe pit will be ready for you to wade in and mix the mud for bricks. The fort's oxen, Coolidge and Clark will be put to task pulling the Mexican carrieta. Kids will be able to build their own miniature carrieta in the carpenter shop. The smell of buffalo tongue and peppers cooking over the fire will permeate the air as renowned storyteller Angel Vigil will work his storytelling magic with the program, "El Vaquero, America's First Cowboy". His "Cuentos De Aztlan" in the afternoon will enliven the day. Blacksmiths tell the story of Spanish ironwork and demonstrate its construction using 19th century work skills. Virginia Ortez will have the horno fired up that day where you find her busy baking biscochitos and you may catch her playing period music on her fiddle.

Kids can paint a retablo in the laborers quarters and try their hand at busting the candy-filled piñata in the plaza. Santos carver Don Headlee will carve out Santos and show his intricately carved collection of the Patron Saints. Dr. Evangeline Roybal Sena will give a first person portrayal of Kit Carson's wife, Maria Josepha Jaramillo. National Park Service employee Joseph Frausto will give a program about Emil Gimeno, contractor-builder of Bent's Fort. Mr. Gimeno's personal accounts of the work he performed were pre-recorded during the Park's 50 year celebration and will be shown again in its entirety. A special exhibit will display Mr. Gimeno's personal effects used during the fort's reconstruction in 1976. You will also be able to see one of the last surviving adobe bricks from the fort's original construction in 1833.

9:00 Park Opens

Periodic demonstrations and activities - Santos carving, horno cooking, toy making, Retablo painting, adobe brick making, carrieta use and oxen driving, Spanish colonial blacksmithing

Scheduled Talks and Programs

- 10:00 "Horno Cooking in the Frontier" – side corral - Virginia Ortez
- 10:30 "Santos Carving" – plaza - Don Headlee
- 11:00 "El Vaquero, America's First Cowboy" – wagon shed – renown storyteller Angel Vigil
- 12:00 "Piñata Break" – fort plaza
- 1:00 "A Contractor with a Cause – Emil Gimeno" – wagon shed - Joe Frausto
- 2:00 "Living History Presentation of Maria Josefa Jaramillo Carson" – wagon shed – Dr.Evangeline Roybal Sena
- 3:00 "Cuentos De Aztlan" – wagon shed - renown storyteller Angel Vigil
- 4:00 "Piñata Break"-fort plaza
- 4:15 Park Closes