

# *Living Nativity at Shepherd's Cross*

*Provided by Heart of the Shepherd – a Christian Public Non-Profit Organization*

## **Costumed Characters & Fiber Art Demonstrators Needed**

**Shifts available on the following dates & times:**

**December 8, 9, 10 & 15,16, 17 of 2016**

**Thursday, Friday & Saturday 10:00 am – 8:30 p.m.**

### **CHARACTER PORTRAYAL OPPORTUNITES AVAILABLE**

Shifts available:

10:00 am - 12:15 pm

12:15 pm - 2:30 pm

2:30 pm - 4:30 pm

4:30 pm - 6:30 pm

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Arrive 30-40 minutes prior to shift for costuming

### **GENERAL CHARACTER INFORMATION**

- † This is a great opportunity for family or church small groups/Bible studies to participate in.
- † Each shift can facilitate from six to twelve participants.
- † Babies, young family members and folks of all ages are welcome and encouraged to participate. We love to have a live “baby Jesus” in the manger!
- † Children & infants are welcome participants. This is a living real life depiction of that first Christmas. A crying babe in the manger can be one of the most precious moments in the stable.
- † To schedule see contact info below; to obtain your desired time please contact us as soon as possible, shifts fill early.

### **COSTUMES**

- † Costumes available for the youngest and smallest member of the family, through adult sizes
- † Costumes are worn over clothing
- † Costume coordinator assists with attire
- † Costuming is located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Educational Silo. Tis a privilege to adventure up the silo!
- † Costumes available are: Mary, Joseph, Angels, Wisemen (Kings & Queens), & Shepherds/Shepherdesses. Costume coordinator will fill positions available. If particular positions are desired, please discuss this with the coordinator at the time of scheduling; prior to arriving for the shift. We will do our best to accommodate those requests, however, sometimes it may not be possible.

### **CHARACTER RESPONSIBILITIES**

- † Characters arrive a few minutes (about 30 minutes) prior to shift change.
- † Check in the front desk, and you will be given instructions.
- † No words to say or memorize
- † Characters will sit or stand in the stable scene, housed within the tour barn, quietly reflecting upon the meaning of Christmas. This is a “living nativity” consequently, members may move within the stable area, may interact with the animals, and speak quietly to one another.
- † The objective of the Living Nativity is to provide a time for spectators and participants to reflect upon the meaning of Christmas. A silent “ministry at the manger”
- † Adult supervision & participation is required when children participate.

- † No electronic devices of any kind are allowed when in costume
- † No food or beverages in stable area - with exceptions for wee babes.
- † No “horse-play” or “course joking”
- † This is a smoke & tobacco free facility
- † Please read Shepherd’s Cross Rules & Regulations & sign waiver prior to participating. We will have copies available in the costume closet. Link is here. <http://www.shepherdscross.com/releaseform.html>
- † Participants may bring a sack lunch to have following or preceding their shift. No formal kitchen area is available, however, tables & chairs & an outdoor picnic area are available.
- † If you are unable to fill your position, we request at least 48 hours advance notice, so we can adequately fill the vacant positions. It would be disheartening for a visiting family or group to come to an empty manger!

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- † Live farm animals are housed in stalls adjacent to the stable scene area.
- † There is hay and straw in the stable area. Additional farm harvest items may be in the surrounding area, including but not limited to corn, corn stalks, wool, evergreen branches, pecans and walnuts.
- † The tour barn is heated. The temperature is generally in the fifties, however, the doors will occasionally be opened to provide care for the animals, and temperatures can vary. It can be cool.
- † Some ask “Where is the performance?” We say “The performance is in your heart.” Scripture and music plays in the back ground.

### **BENEFITS FOR PARTICIPANTS**

- † Free Wagon Ride – “Journey with the Shepherds” (\$7 per person value)
- † Make your own Christmas Ornament (\$5.00 value per person)
- † Make an evergreen wreath with your nativity group to take home( \$15 value)(Only one per group or family please)
- † Some have said that participating in the nativity has become their most meaningful Christmas activity
- † Escape from the hustle and bustle of the season
- † Quality family time
- † Opportunity for Christmas gift of serving others
- † Pictures of participants will be made available - family moments to treasure.
- † Free family activity
- † Christ is made the center of Christmas
- † Enjoy all the donation based activities of the Living Nativity available to all visitors
- † Plan on spending at least two hours doing these activities. If you want to return for these benefits on a different day, please ask at the front desk for a rain check on wagon ride, ornament & wreath making.
- † We are a 501-C3 and we can provide certificates for your volunteer hours if needed for school, scouts, or other service organizations.

### **FIBER ARTS DEMONSTRATOR OPPORTUNITIES**

- † Spinners, weavers, knitter’s, crocheters, felters and other artists - welcome
- † Costumes provided. If you would like to wear your own nativity costume, simply visit with us well in advance of your shift. Period costumes, appropriate for the time of Jesus birth, are the costumes used for this event.

#### **Shifts Available**

- 10:00 am - 3:30 pm
- 3:30 pm - 8:30 pm

*we will work with your scheduling requirements*

- † Contact us to be placed on the schedule
- † This is a great opportunity for individuals, families, knitting circles, quilters, weaving groups or church small groups/Bible studies to participate. We can facilitate 3 - 12 fiber artists per shift.
- † Costumes are provided; see costume section above.
- † Share the legacy & joy of fiber arts & enjoy a peaceful respite to finish that Christmas project.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

<http://www.shepherdscross.com/livingnativity.html>

**FOR SCHEDULING PLEASE CONTACT**

Dr. Diane Dickinson, owner & executive director

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