Farolitos, Culture Illuminate Jemez Historic Site at ‘Light Among the Ruins’ Event, Dec. 12

JEMEZ SPRINGS, NM—The historic ruins of the Jemez Historic Site in Jemez Springs, New Mexico will be lit by more than 1,400 farolitos during the unforgettable, “Light Among the Ruins” event on Saturday, Dec. 12 from 5 to 8:30 p.m. Free horse drawn wagons will shuttle visitors from Jemez Springs’ Plaza to the Jemez Historic Site throughout the evening for both an immersive cultural and holiday experience.

“Light Among the Ruins is an opportunity to experience both the cultural beauty of the Jemez (Walatowa) people and to soak in the warmth and charm of Jemez Springs which is especially beautiful around the holidays,” said Village of Jemez Springs Mayor Bob Wilson.

The Jemez Historic Site opens at 8:30 a.m., where self guided tours are available of the farolito-lined, 500 year old village and 16th century San José de los Jemez church, visible along a 1,400 foot interpretive trail. Farolitos are paper bags filled with sand and lit by candles. At the event, visitors will have a chance to watch traditional Native American dances performed between two bonfires (luminarias), taste traditional pueblo cuisine, purchase pueblo arts and crafts, and hear traditional flute music. The site closes at 9 p.m. There is no fee to enter the site during that day; however, donations are encouraged.

Directly across the street at the Father Fitzgerald Center, the Public Academy for Performing Arts’ choir and orchestra will each perform holiday music inside the center from 3:30–4:30 p.m. There is no charge for the event; however, donations are gladly encouraged.

Less than a mile south, the event continues into Jemez Springs where the village’s official tree lighting ceremony takes place at 6 p.m. at the Plaza. Indoor vendors will be selling arts and crafts beginning at 1 p.m. in the Village Conference room, and complimentary hot chocolate, cider and coffee will be served. Children can visit with Santa while carolers serenade visitors.

Some galleries, businesses and lodging facilities in the village will stay open later and offer open houses on Dec. 12. Cañon del Rio Retreat and Spa’s gift shop will be open later and posole will be served until 8 p.m. Likewise, Giggling Springs’ gift shop will host an open house where visitors are welcome to check out the historic facility and enjoy traditional biscochito cookies.

For more information about the Jemez Historic Site, contact Marlon Magdalena at 575-829-3530 or marlon(at)magdalena@state(dot)nm(dot)us. For information about Jemez Springs visit jemezsprings.org or call 575-829-3540.
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