

To Support the San Jacinto Battleground

support TPWD projects, and apply elbow grease to restoration. “There are many jobs we haven’t even started, and when we get them all done, it’ll be time to start over again,” he added. “You don’t need skill to volunteer – FTV and TPWD staff will train you. But you do need to show up and put those skills to work.”

San Jacinto Museum of History Association

Phone: 281 479 2421

www.sanjacinto-museum.org

The San Jacinto Museum of History Association was formed in 1938 to support the Museum in carrying out its many activities. Annually, 250,000 visitors view the internationally recognized presentation of *Texas Forever!! The Battle of San Jacinto*, tour the exhibit galleries, and ride the elevator 489 feet up to the top of the monument.

In addition to maintaining its archives and mounting exhibits, the Museum sponsors lectures for Texas studies; has teacher in-service seminars with Certified Professional Educator (CPE) credit; conducts interpretive tours of the battleground; has researched, published, helped publish, or contributed materials to countless volumes of significance. Its free teacher curriculum guides have proved vital to students’ understanding of the Texas Revolution. It regularly brings traveling exhibits to the museum. It recently produced a major exhibit on the archaeological artifacts and findings from the battlefield.

The museum partners with the *Houston Chronicle’s* education series, bringing current event newspapers and history guides to classrooms across the state.

In addition to these efforts, the museum has raised over \$4,000,000 to renovate the observation floor, build the Jesse H. Jones Theater for Texas Studies, fund and produce the San Jacinto State Historical Park Master Plan while helping to secure over \$12,000,000 for the Monument’s interior/exterior renovations. The museum offers dozens of ways to volunteer your time and money—and learn at the same time. For example:

The annual San Jacinto Day Festival & Battle Reenactment needs at least 100 volunteers to help before, during and after this huge annual event. Volunteers direct people, run booths and educational activities, work with authors and speakers.

The library/archives need help indexing and entering data, inventorying books, scanning documents, etc.

“We always can use help with our student orientation program,” says Museum president Larry Spasic, who cites the need for volunteers to meet school groups to answer their questions and guide visitors.

“State funding for San Jacinto may be our most critical shortfall, today,” reports Sarita Hixon, chair of the association’s board of trustees. “It’s hard and on-going work to keep San Jacinto on the legislature’s radar screen,” she said. “We need people who can help us lift the cap on the sporting goods sales tax to pay for on-going park maintenance, and to free up Proposition 8 funds to restore the battleground and the battleship.” If you’re interested, contact Hixon.

The San Jacinto Museum of History Association raises money through membership dues, ticket sales, fund-raising events, and grants. Regular museum memberships range from \$20 to \$3,000 for individuals and corporations. Gifts of any size are appreciated. Invitations to fundraisers are routinely mailed to members, supporters and people who have attended before. Call to add your name to the list.

Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground

Phone: 281.496.1488

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www.friendsofsanjacinto.org

The Friends of the San Jacinto Battleground focuses on the battleground itself and fills in gaps not met by other groups. The Friends’ predecessor, the San Jacinto Battleground Association, was organized primarily to acquire land adjacent to the battleground. In 2004, at the urging of TPWD, the association evolved into a

tax-exempt 501©(3), members-based “friends” group and broadened its focus to preserve the park and honor the battle.

“Since then, Friends has partnered with TPWD to conduct archeological investigations, support marsh and prairie restoration, assess chemical hazards at the site, and more,” said Jan DeVault, president of the Friends’ board. Friends works with the museum to host the annual San Jacinto Commemorative Ceremony. Friends sponsors the annual San Jacinto Symposium, which brings in top scholars from all over the country to discuss various aspects of “the battle we won.”

This young, all-volunteer organization is looking for fiscal and physical support. Regular Friends memberships range from \$15 to \$5,000 for individuals and corporations. Gifts of any size are appreciated and may be designated for property acquisition, scholarship, historical markers, environmental safety, First *Texas* Volunteers (battleship restoration), San Jacinto Volunteers (living historians), education, archaeology, or marsh and battleground restoration—or they may be unrestricted.

San Jacinto Volunteers

Phone: 713 973 1136

(evenings and weekends)

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Each year, the San Jacinto Volunteers step back to 1836 and bring the Battle of San Jacinto to life. Volunteers may come from all over Texas and contiguous states and from all walks of life, but every one of them loves to re-live Texas history. Clothing, tools, and weapons are the personal property of the re-enactors—either 1830s vintage articles or handmade replicas. For more about these re-enactments, see David Pomeroy’s article in this issue. For more information about investing the substantial amount of study, time and money it takes to join either of the three camps of re-enactors (the Texan Army, the Mexican Army, and the civilian Runaway Scrape), contact Col. Jerry Tubbs.