



FOUR WINDS FAIRE

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Return to the Days of Valiant Knights at Four Winds Faire's 2008 Season!

Tyler, TX – (January, 2008) Enjoy merry days and gallant Knights at **Four Winds Faire's** fourteenth annual season of full combat jousting, Renaissance entertainment, merry minstrels, swashbuckling swordsmen, pirates and buccaneers, artisan demonstrations, craft booths, and food and drink fit for a king and queen.

Four Winds Faire's fourteenth season opens Saturday, March 1 for eight consecutive weekends through April 20, 2008. A full day of merriment at Four Winds Faire is a great value at only \$12.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children ages 5-12 (children 4 & under are FREE). Season passes are also available at \$30 for adults and \$15 for children.

At Four Winds' "Tournament of Chivalry," knights compete to display their jousting and gaming skills at the Royal Jousting arena twice a day. Four Winds' internationally acclaimed jousting company, the ***Knights of the Four Winds***, offers full contact jousting performances in a setting reminiscent of the royal jousting fields of Western Europe.

The Renaissance faire offers an amazing variety of 17th century living history demonstrations with dozens of live performances daily. Dueling swordfighters, Musketeers, Queen Anne of France and her Royal Court, the exotic Dream Harem belly dancers, bagpipers, pirates, puppeteers, magicians, and minstrels are found on **8 stages** throughout the faire. An authentic living history encampment offers a vivid glimpse into what military life was like during the period of the Thirty Years War (1618 – 1648) with live steel sword duels and period weapons demonstrations. A live chess match is performed daily as Queen Anne plays chess using her sword-fighting Musketeers as pawns. Children will thrill to being knighted by the valiant Sir Dustin de Grey, the Green Knight, Captain of the award-winning Joust Team, ***Knights of the Four Winds***.

Four Winds Faire is acclaimed to be one of the most historically authentic faire experiences in Texas. Visitors stroll along scenic paths through the re-created Renaissance village and encounter artisans' shops and costumed characters from Alexandre Dumas' "The Three Musketeers." Unique handmade crafts include *stained glass art, hand turned wooden drinking vessels, candles, metal sculptures, musical instruments, hand-tooled leather bags and accessories, hand-made pottery, graphic art, beautiful hand-stitched period garments, hand-wrapped chain mail jewelry*, and many other fine crafts are available in over 50 shoppes. Each day artisans will demonstrate and display period techniques showcasing the ancient art of blacksmithing, sword making, and other crafts.

Period cuisine and beverages to suit every taste are available at the Sword & Musket Royal Feast Hall and Tavern. Four Winds Faire's hearty menu includes Giant Turkey Legs, Spicy Sausage, Steak on a Stake, Stuffed Irish Potatoes, Fresh Fruit, Delicious Cheesecake, Italian Ice, and other delectable treats and delicious soft drinks.

The idea of a Renaissance faire in the East Texas area began in 1994, as Four Winds Faire opened its gates for the first time with only three stages and a small tent village on 15 acres at the Vizcaya Ranch near Tyler, Texas. Owner Dustin Stephens, his wife Kristin, and a group of committed individuals have worked together to realize his dream of a world of castles and knights, all in a picturesque 17th century setting. Says Stephens, "*Four Winds Faire offers a unique opportunity for families to have an educational and fun experience and escape the stresses of modern life for a day. We have recaptured the essence of entertainment in the Renaissance era that will spark imaginations of the young and not-so-young alike.*" In the years since Four Winds began, it has added permanent vendor booths, eight staging areas, a wall with towers and gates enclosing the faire grounds, a large concession building, fully equipped handicap-accessible restrooms, two dining pavilions, and a nearby campground with RV hookups and shower-house/restroom facilities. Four Winds Faire has become a wonderful and accessible educational and historical experience for the whole family not found anywhere else in East Texas.

Four Winds Faire is located just 11 miles south of Tyler, Texas on Hwy. 110 South, between Whitehouse and Troup, Texas. From the Dallas/Ft. Worth Metroplex, it is just 85 miles east off I-20 at the Hwy. 69 exit to Tyler, and just 80 miles west of Shreveport/Bossier City, LA off I-20 at the Hwy. 69 exit. The 2007 season runs eight weekends March 1 – April 20, 2008. Gates are open 10 am – 7 pm.

Tickets are available at the gate on event days and discount tickets may be purchased by mail in advance by Feb. 15, 2008. FREE parking is available. For more information on Four Winds Faire, log on to www.fourwindsfaire.com or call (903) 839-5271.

~~~~~ PHOTOS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST ~~~~~