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***Fall Fest at The Hermitage* announced for October 5-6**
Weekend-long music, food and art celebration to honor Tennessee's heritage

May 1, 2013 – The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, will host “Fall Fest at The Hermitage” on October 5-6, 2013 from 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

“We are excited to resurrect an exciting community event that was held some 20 years ago,” said Co-chair of “Fall Fest at The Hermitage”, Phil Ponder. “The object of the festival is to involve the entire community in a truly varied blend of entertainment, art and food experiences against the backdrop of President Jackson’s beloved home.”

“Fall Fest at The Hermitage” will celebrate Tennessee’s musical heritage by showcasing a variety of local musical talent on its main stage. Throughout the weekend, the festival will highlight the sounds of rock and roll, southern rock, bluegrass, jazz and country music.

More than 100 artists and crafters from across the state and region will attend and display work including photography, basketry, ceramics, paintings, jewelry and woodwork. Visitors will be able to watch many of the artists and crafters at work, like a master blacksmith forging with Jacksonian-era materials.

An array of local food vendors will be on site during the festival to offer a sampling of signature dishes, as well as selections of local beer and wine.

This year’s festival also will serve as the culmination of a community art project constructed by local artist Myles Maillie. Throughout the year, The Hermitage and Picture This Gallery will work with area non-profits and Metro Schools art departments to collect small painted boxes. Maillie will use these boxes to construct a mural on the grounds of The Hermitage.

“Fall Fest at The Hermitage” is family friendly and will feature a special area designated for children. Activities will include a musical petting zoo, educational arts and crafts, face and balloon art and food especially for kids.

“Tennessee’s history is incomplete without an appreciation of the food, art and music that have shaped who we are as a state,” said President and CEO of The Hermitage, Howard J. Kittell. “These expressions make us truly unique, and this festival will surely be one of the most colorful and unique events we have ever offered.”

All proceeds from the event will assist with operations at The Hermitage. Tickets to “Fall Fest at The Hermitage” are \$5 for adults and may be purchased by visiting www.fallfestatthehermitage.com. Children under age 11 are admitted free. For more information about the community art project, vendor or sponsorship information contact “Fall Fest at The Hermitage” Marketing at 615-889-2941 ext. 255.

About The Hermitage

The Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, is one of the largest and most visited presidential homes in the United States. In 1856, the State of Tennessee purchased the property from the Jackson family, entrusting it to the Ladies’ Hermitage Association in 1889 to operate as one of America’s first historic site museums. Today, The Hermitage is a 1,120-acre National Historic Landmark with more than 30 historic buildings, including restored slave cabins. Thanks to efforts of this nonprofit organization, the mansion is the most accurately preserved early presidential home in the country. The Hermitage is a national model for authenticity, conservation, and historic preservation. In recent years, new interpretive initiatives and educational programs such as archaeology and the history of slavery have enhanced the experience of some 180,000 annual visitors, including 30,000 school children, from all 50 states and many foreign countries; in fact, we interpret the Hermitage mansion in five foreign languages. The property also receives 30,000 annual visits from the local community, including more than 1,000 children who play Little League baseball at The Hermitage’s Rotary Park. The Hermitage is a “Partner Place” with the National Trust for Historic Preservation; and a site along the National Park Service’s Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. For more information, visit www.thehermitage.com.

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