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## **The Hermitage offers after-hours tours**

### ***Jackson family holiday traditions revealed during intimate night tours of mansion***

December 3, 2013 – Andrew Jackson’s home, The Hermitage, will offer evening tours throughout the holiday season. On December 5, 12 and 19, beginning at 7 p.m., historical interpreters will guide guests through The Hermitage mansion that is “dressed” for a Jacksonian Christmas.

These after-hours tours will give visitors a very personal look into what Christmas would have looked like for the seventh President, and will shed light into the origins of the Jacksons’ Christmas traditions. Guests on the night tours will learn why the Jackson family never had a Christmas tree, but hung stockings on the sofa instead, and why firecrackers were an important part of the holiday festivities.

“President Jackson was a family man,” said CEO of The Hermitage, Howard J. Kittell. “He loved to surround himself with family and friends. We like to demonstrate and teach about the warmth that must have existed in the Jackson home during the holiday season even though their holiday activities greatly differed from our 21<sup>st</sup> century sense of celebration.”

Tours begin at 7 p.m. and last approximately one hour. Guests should plan to arrive 15 minutes before scheduled tour time and check-in at the breezeway of the Andrew Jackson Visitor Center. As portions of the tour are outdoors, visitors should prepare for inclement weather.

Tickets are \$30 for adults, \$20 for children under 18 and free for children under 5 years. For more information or to purchase tickets to the after-hours Holiday tours of The Hermitage, visit [www.thehermitage.com](http://www.thehermitage.com) or call 615-889-2941. Tickets must be purchased in advance, no walkups.

### **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](http://www.thehermitage.com).

