

# HAR-BER VILLAGE EVENT BRINGS SANTA TO GRAND LAKE

Imagine, if you will, Santa Claus relocating his entire North Pole operation to Grand Lake for one very special Christmas season. Word has apparently spread to Claus about the amazing hospitality that can be found in the Ozark foothills of northeast Oklahoma. Of course, an excited Jolly St. Nick packs up his holiday workshop and hits the road. When he and his elves arrive, they get right to work, churning out Christmas magic for the world to enjoy.

That's the premise behind Santa's Ozark Mountain Village, a clever concept that originated in the creative mind of Josh Goff, Special Events Coordinator for the Grove Area Chamber of Commerce. As Founder of Santa's Ozark Mountain Village, Goff is excited to roll out the event for a second season.

"Santa's Ozark Mountain Village is a celebration of the unique heritage of the Ozark hills and the stories and traditions that bind us all," Goff explained, adding: "Har-Ber Village is a hidden gem that lends itself to the picturesque postcard-like setting. We feel like it's a perfect marriage." said Goff.

Goff's idea takes advantage of the one-of-a-kind feel already captured by the quaint venue's mid-19th century setting by lighting and decorating more than two dozen buildings from the park's main street and beyond.

Last season, visitors thoroughly enjoyed the themed Christmas light display and walk-through experience sponsored by the Grove Area Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Har-Ber Village Museum. This year promises to be even better with the addition of a mercantile and saloon.

An enjoyable experience awaits your entire family at Santa's Ozark Mountain Village. Plan your visit for one of the following dates: November 26 and 27, December 4 and 18. Hours of operation are 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Har-Ber Village is located at 4404 West 20th Street in Grove.

Ticket prices are \$12 for adults ages 17 and over, \$9.50 for senior adults ages 63 and up, \$7 for children ages 4-16, and \$9.50 for Har-Ber Village members. Kids ages 3 and under will be admitted at no charge.

## SANTA'S OZARK MOUNTAIN VILLAGE

**Our story begins in 1864, when America needed Christmas more than ever before.**

Overwhelmed and overworked with no time to play, Santa and his elves worked night and day.

His solution came by word of mouth, Santa heard about the Ozarks way down to the South.

Their skill and craftsmanship couldn't be beat, but could Santa's elves handle the heat?

With a touch of his nose and some magical power, it would snow on the foothills upon every hour.

Santa loaded up his sleigh and went on his way, for he knew what to do save Christmas Day!

The sweet smell of dogwood, such a pleasant aroma, welcomed Mr. Claus to Oklahoma.

The holiday season was beginning to lurk, so Santa pushed up his sleeves and went straight to work.

With grit, determination, and a pinch of hospitality, his dream of a second workshop became a reality.

**Here's your invitation into the past, 156 years of making memories that last!**



Nicole Reynolds, Har-Ber Village Museum Manager of Programs, Events, & Marketing, said she and Director Linda Harris are excited to punctuate the 2021 season with such a delightful event.

**"Upon joining the Har-Ber Village team in 2019, I saw the potential for a one-of-a-kind Christmas experience, and working with Josh and his vision we were able to accomplish just that," said Reynolds. "Linda and I always look forward to showing visitors and locals alike everything the Har-Ber Village has to offer, not only during the holidays, but during every season on the shores of Grand Lake."**

### ANTIQUITIES FROZEN IN TIME

Har-Ber Village is situated on 50 tranquil acres along the eastern shores of Grand Lake. The complex is home to one of the largest and most unique collections of vintage items anywhere.

Built as a gift to the community by namesakes Harvey and Bernice Jones, the park is a reconstructed turn-of-the-century village with more than one hundred buildings and exhibits. Har-Ber Village celebrated its 50th year in 2018.

There is much to see, so take your time and enjoy the Village at your own pace. For some, a stroll through the park will bring memories flooding back as they rediscover items from their childhood.

Har-Ber Village is both educational and entertaining, creating the perfect environment for grandparents to interact with grandchildren and explain how and why many of the fixtures of yesteryear were used.

During self-guided tours, visitors can experience the area's rich history and ecology while viewing collections of antiques and memorabilia.

The Village has several historic buildings that have been relocated to the grounds, including a schoolhouse, jail and more than twenty log cabins. Other structures were built to house collections and are typical of the period—a courthouse, bank, Stagecoach Inn, and church built with brick hand-made before the Civil War. Other replicated buildings include a mercantile, hanging gallows, doctor and dentist offices, print shop, post office, drug store and more.

Exhibits at Har-Ber Village feature a mix of authentic antiques, collectibles and reproductions to provide visitors with a sense of the times for our region, ranging from the mid-1800s to the early 1900s. Hands-on exhibits, frequent craft demonstrations and monthly programs and events are featured, as well as an ecology center and scenic nature trail.

Except for special events such as Santa's Ozark Mountain Village, Har-Ber Village closes for the season from November 7 until the second Saturday in March. During the remainder of the year, the park operates Thursday through Monday from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The facility is handicap accessible and features The Country Store gift shop as well as a visitor center. The Har-Ber Village Visitor Center and Gallery opened its doors in 2008 to traveling exhibits and programs as well as arts and humanities projects.

You can visit online at [www.har-bervillage.com](http://www.har-bervillage.com), call 918.786.6446, or search for Har-ber Village on Facebook for more information or to schedule a group tour. The park is pet friendly and permits leashed dogs to tour with its guests.

\*902958\*

*"Pictures with Santa will be included in the price of admission," Goff said. "Guests will encounter characters from the past, including southern belles and southern gentlemen. We will also have vendors, craft classes, and many other interactive experiences."*