



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FAM Summer Solstice Celebration to Feature Traditional Summer Dwellings

OKLAHOMA CITY (June 20, 2023) – Celebrate the longest day of the year on Wednesday, June 21, 2023 with First American dancing, cultural demonstrations and reflections. The solstice invites us to honor traditional teachings, remember our ancestors and celebrate life. In the eight o'clock hour, we will observe the solstice sun as it sets at the peak of the FAM Mound. Photography is encouraged! Doors open to the public at 6:00 p.m. weather permitting.

"The summer solstice is important not to just the 39 tribal nations in Oklahoma, but to cultures across the globe, said Learning and Community Engagement Director Adrienne Lalli Hills (Wyandotte). "All are welcome to attend the Summer Solstice Celebration and reflect on the changing of the seasons."

The event will feature traditional summer dwellings and structures in the FAM Festival Plaza. The dwellings, Southeastern Arbor, Chickasaw Toompalli Chokka, Wichita Grass House replica, Plains Tipi and Potawatomi Wigwam, will remain on view to visitors through Saturday, June 24, 2023. Guest speakers will share the cultural significance and importance of each dwelling.

"We are honored to work with tribal nations to host customary summer dwellings in the Festival Plaza. Visitors will learn how our ancestors kept cool during hot summer months and appreciate that these dwellings are still culturally significant today," Hills said.

Visitors are encouraged to bring their own chairs and blankets. Food trucks will be onsite to provide delicious meal options. Prohibited items include outside food and drink other than water, canopies or tents, pets, fireworks and weapons. FAM is a smoke free campus.

Please note that the museum galleries, FAMstore and Thirty Nine Restaurant will be closed during this event. In the event of inclement weather or wet conditons, this celebration will be canceled.

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About First Americans Museum

The mission of FAM is to educate the broader public about the unique cultures, diversity, history, and contributions of the 39 Tribal Nations in Oklahoma today. The 175,000 square foot facility showcases state-of-the-art exhibitions in history, culture, and art; live public and education programs; a fullservice restaurant presenting unique Native inspired cuisine; and a museum store featuring one-of-a-kind hand-made items created by Oklahoma's premier Native American artists.