

Dear Friends,

Many of you are asking about the date for the next *Barbecue on the Pedernales*, and I wanted to inform you that, unfortunately, we will not be hosting the event this year.

Please understand that our Friends organization remains committed to our mission to partner with the National Park Service to enhance and preserve the Park by attracting and welcoming visitors. However, after much discussion within the Board and with the LBJ Park staff, it is time we reconsider how the Friends organization can most effectively achieve that mission. Though the BBQ provides our guests with a memorable and meaningful connection to the Park, large-scale events take a considerable amount of time, effort, and resources by both the Friends Board and Park staff to execute.

I am excited to reimagine ways to connect you and other visitors with the Park and how the Friends can continue to support important resource management and preservation work, and publicizing important issues. And that might very well include future barbecues, but perhaps not on an annual basis. Regardless, we will certainly keep you informed and up-to-date on new developments.

On behalf of the Board, I do sincerely apologize for the cancellation, especially knowing that so many of you look forward to the event and are ready to make reservations to attend. But, we'd still like to see you at the LBJ Ranch. Almost as soon as the 2017 Barbecue ended, work on the 2018 LBJ 100 Bicycle Tour began! If you enjoy cycling, register for the LBJ 100 at lbj100.bike. Or, join our team of volunteers for the ride at signup.com/go/dkktDsR. Either option offers you a fun day in the beautiful Texas Hill Country while helping to raise funds for education and restoration projects at the Park.

Additionally, we are always looking for helping hands year-round! If you'd be interested in volunteering intermittently or on a more regular basis, please let me know. There is always much work to do and we'd love to get you involved.

Until the next time we meet at the LBJ Ranch,

Toni Reyes

Chair, Friends of the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park