

**For Immediate Release: November 18, 2016**

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## **Rose Hill Plantation offers a Victorian Christmas and a hike to start off the New Year**

**Union** – What Christmastime customs were practiced in the late 1800s? Come see for yourself! Travel back in time with a Victorian-style Christmas at Rose Hill Plantation. The mansion will be decorated and we will offer special holiday-themed tours from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, December 3 and Sunday, December 4. Father Christmas will join us for a special appearance on Sunday afternoon. Come one and all!

Christmas trees, fancy ornaments and exchanging gifts are some of our familiar holiday traditions which actually started in the 1800s. How did the Gist family celebrate Christmas at Rose Hill? This time of year was also an important holiday for the enslaved people on the plantation. What were their traditions? In addition to the special house tour, visitors can partake of hot drinks and homemade goodies in the plantation kitchen. Warm your hands by the fire and craft your own decoration to take home with you!

Please note that tours begin on the front porch of the mansion on the half hour from 1 to 4 p.m. Tickets are \$7.50 per person (age 6 and older). Age 5 and under, free. Tickets may be purchased in the park office (in kitchen building) the day of your visit. No reservations are required. The program is free with a S.C. Park Passport Plus. The mansion will remain decorated for the holiday season throughout the month of December.

After the holidays are over and you have made your New Year's resolutions, start out on the right foot (or the left) with a First Day Hike. Meet with the ranger on Sunday, January 1, 2017 to hike the ½-mile Nature Trail at Rose Hill. Along the way, we'll stop and explore the nature and history on the park. This walk promises to be refreshing for the mind and body so join us for an exhilarating start to your New Year! Meet at the park office. The tour begins promptly at 10:00 a.m. \$2 per person age 16 and older. Age 15 and under are free. Please dress for the weather and wear comfortable hiking shoes. Binoculars, insect repellent and a camera are optional, but you never know what we might see.

Rose Hill Plantation State Historic Site is the antebellum home of South Carolina's "secession governor," William H. Gist. Visitors to the 44-acre park can learn about the lifestyle of a wealthy Upstate plantation family, Gist's contributions to politics, and the importance of cotton in the South. Visitors also get an inside look at the role of enslaved African-Americans and tenant farmers in South Carolina's history.

Normal hours of operation: Park grounds are open daily from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. year round. The mansion home is only accessible by guided tour. In November and December, tours are offered Thursday through Monday at 11 a.m., 1 and 3 p.m. The grounds at Rose Hill Plantation may be rented for weddings and other events. We are located 8 miles south of Union, SC.

The South Carolina State Park Service is a program of the South Carolina Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism, a state agency that serves as the leading marketing organization for South Carolina tourism. SCPRRT also operates 47 state parks and administers federal and state grants for recreation development.

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