

= Eeyore 's Birthday Party =

Eeyore 's Birthday Party is a day @-@ long festival taking place annually in Austin , Texas since 1963 . It typically occurs on the last Saturday of April in Austin 's Pease District Park . It includes live music , food and drink vending which benefit local non @-@ profit organizations , attendees in colorful costumes , and very large drum circles . The event is frequented by children and families , with specific events presented for them by the event organizers . The festival is named in honor of Eeyore , a character in A. A. Milne 's Winnie @-@ the @-@ Pooh stories .

= = History = =

Eeyore 's Birthday Party began in 1963 as a spring party and picnic for Department of English students at the University of Texas at Austin by Lloyd W. Birdwell , Jr. and other UT students . It was named for Eeyore , a chronically depressed donkey in A. A. Milne 's Winnie @-@ the @-@ Pooh stories who , in one story , believes his friends have forgotten his birthday only to discover they have planned a surprise party for him . Despite its name , the event does not fall on the official birthday of the fictional character . The original event featured a trashcan full of lemonade , beer , honey sandwiches , a live , flower @-@ draped donkey , and a may pole (in keeping with the event 's proximity to May Day) . For many years the party was a UT tradition , but subsequently the annual Birthday Party became a tradition in Austin 's hippie subculture .

When the festival moved from Eastwoods Park to Pease District Park in 1974 , Austin @-@ area non @-@ profit Friends of the Forest Foundation , an organization which distributes funds to other area charities , began arranging for food and drink vendors at the festival . They continue this task today along with arranging public services (toilets , buses , security , medics) and scheduling live music and family @-@ oriented games and contests . The event is still known to most as a festival oriented towards modern hippies . It now boasts an annual attendance in the thousands .

Over time , the festival has outgrown its original founders . It is now sponsored by the Friends of the Forest Foundation .

= = Contemporary = =

Drummers bring a wide variety of instruments from hand drums to kettledrums . What started as a small picnic for University of Texas at Austin students has today swelled to a major annual festival with live bands , non @-@ profit vendors of food , drink and local beers , as well as a children 's area complete with arts and crafts and carnival games , family @-@ oriented games and contests such as costume contests , and an egg toss . Attendance at the Birthday Party is free . Weather @-@ permitting , it occurs on the last Saturday in April in Pease District Park ; a rain date is scheduled for the following weekend . Bright and diverse costumes are common . In keeping with the original traditions of the event , a live donkey and a may pole are always present . The event begins in the late morning and continues until dusk . Food and drinks are sold onsite by local Austin 501c @-@ 3 non @-@ profit groups . Purified water is available onsite for participants to fill their own containers . Due to the lack of parking in the area and the high attendance , the Friends of the Forest Foundation provides festive shuttle buses between state parking lots just north of the capitol building and Pease Park . Singing of folk and road trip songs is encouraged on the short bus ride .

Eeyore 's Birthday Party is attended by people from a wide variety of backgrounds and ages , some of whom may have been attending for decades . Austin 's hippie community still puts in a major appearance at the event , which they celebrate by forming large drum circles which can sometimes contain hundreds of drummers and dancers in the large areas of the park not occupied by other events . Members of the Deaf community like the drum circles because they can feel the vibrations .

As of 2008 , the event has also spread to Seattle 's Cal Anderson Park as an annual celebration .