**Thanksgiving Point Celebrates Pioneer Day Weekend with Block Party and Utah Foods Cook-off**

*-Statewide holiday features amazing Utah foods and LEGO® brick games and fun-*

**LEHI, Utah (July 19, 2021)** – Thanksgiving Point ([www.ThanksgivingPoint.org](http://www.ThanksgivingPoint.org)) is hosting a Pioneer Day celebration unlike anything in the state of Utah. Each July, to help celebrate the state holiday, Thanksgiving Point hosts the **Utah Foods Cook-off** among the events. This July 24th weekend features the first-ever **Block Party**, highlighting LEGO bricks, imagination, and beyond.

Like years past, prizes are awarded to winning contestants at the Utah Foods Cook-off. Interested parties should visit [thanksgivingpoint.org/events/utah-foods-cook-off/](https://thanksgivingpoint.org/events/utah-foods-cook-off/) for details. Registration closes on July 21 for the cook-off and space is limited within each category.

The Utah Foods Cook-off has become a Thanksgiving Point staple each year with competition in categories like Jell-O, funeral potatoes, and fry sauce. New this year is a root beer category. “Food brings things together, whether it be our nation or world,” stated Eric Eliason, Utah Foods Cook-off guest judge and co-author of [*This is the Plate: Utah Food Tradition*](https://www.amazon.com/This-Plate-Utah-Food-Traditions/dp/1607817403). “Utah has a distinctiveness that leads into our foods, from scones, fry sauce, funeral potatoes; all of it has history behind it.”

Utah Foods Cook-off features amazing, local, amateur chefs like Cynthia Sylvester who is a former first place winner. She stated, “This was a lot of fun and a great opportunity to share an activity with my two granddaughters. Seeing the joy on their faces at these unexpected wins made it more exciting. These dishes gave us a chance to work together and be creative.”

In conjunction with the [Nature Connects](https://thanksgivingpoint.org/events/nature-connects/) LEGO bricks exhibit in Ashton Gardens through August 28 is the first-ever Block Party celebrating all things building and fun. The event is included with Ashton Gardens admissions and complimentary with a Thanksgiving Point membership and will run from 10 am – 2 pm. [**Block Party**](https://thanksgivingpoint.org/events/block-party/) events features include:

* **Mystery Box Building Competition:** Take 30 minutes to come up with a display out of random bricks to wow the judges. Winning team receives a prize.
* **Brick Top Challenge:** Test your skills building with blocks as you attempt to make a top that spins.
* **Free Build:** Use your imagination to create anything you can think of out of bricks.
* **Engineering blocks:** Build structures using engineering blocks.
* **Boat challenge:** Sink or float? Build a seaworthy boat and test it. Redesign if your boat didn’t pass the test.
* **Brick Displays:** See incredible displays made by a local brick design team.
* **Scavenger Hunt:** Find all the mini figurines scattered throughout the gardens and collect a small prize.
* **Pinewood Derby:** Build your own car out of bricks and test it down the track.

Both events take place at the Ashton Gardens and are included with venue admission. Advanced ticketing is required. Please visit [ThanksgivingPoint.org](https://thanksgivingpoint.org/) for details.

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**About Thanksgiving Point:**

Thanksgiving Point is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization comprised of a farm, garden, and museums that are collectively dedicated to providing opportunities for transformative family learning and fostering an environment where positive, meaningful experiences naturally happen. Created in 1995 by Alan and Karen Ashton, Thanksgiving Point has become a center of community engagement for more than two million annual visitors from all 50 states and around the world. Thanksgiving Point is located at 3003 North Thanksgiving Way in Lehi. For more information, call (801) 768-2300 or visit [www.thanksgivingpoint.org](http://www.thanksgivingpoint.org/).

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