

# TEXAS DAYS IN STAVANGER 2014

June 17<sup>th</sup> – June 26<sup>th</sup>

A presentation of the participating groups



With Participation By:

**HOUSTON/GALVESTON-STAVANGER  
SISTER CITY SOCIETY**

**AFFILIATED WITH SISTER CITIES INTERNATIONAL  
AND MEMBER OF NORDMANN'S FORBUNDET**

**A Letter of Greeting from Anne Brith Berge, President  
Houston-Galveston/Stavanger Sister City Society**



Houston and Stavanger formed a Sister City Society relationship in 1980 as a result of the strong oil industry and other industries such as shipping. Additionally, the increased investment, which was made by Norwegians in commercial activities in the greater Houston area and vice versa, also played a significant role.

The support for the Sister City program by business, civic and cultural leaders was a prime contributor to the fact that Houston has been recognized as having had the best Sister City programs several times.

The most important part of the Sister City's program involves the organizing of youth exchange programs as the main feature of our international cultural and business exchange festivals, which alternate between Stavanger and Houston-Galveston and take place every two years. The first one was held in Stavanger in 1982 and the most recent in Houston in 2012.

This year, we are happy to bring a delegation of about 60 representatives – including 38 high school students plus their teachers and leaders, who are proud representatives of the cities of Houston and Galveston. These students will perform on various stages and compete in sports.

On behalf of the Houston/Galveston-Stavanger Sister City (HGSSCS), I sincerely thank all those in Stavanger who make this exchange program a reality and so warmly welcome our youth, and above all, I thank Stavanger for their gracious hospitality and friendship.

Furthermore, we wish to welcome you to Houston and Galveston in 2016!

Anne-Brith Berge  
President, HGSSCS

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**Greetings from the Mayor of the City of Stavanger,  
The Honorable Christine Sagen Helgø**

Stavanger and Houston/Galveston have enjoyed close relations ever since becoming sister cities in the beginning of the 1980s. The cooperation has given us a unique opportunity of making friendships and to share knowledge with different partners at different levels in the two fine Texan cities. It has also provided an opportunity for youths across the Atlantic Ocean to enter into communication with each other. The value of such contact can in my opinion not be underestimated as it creates a better understanding between the people of Houston and



Galveston and the people of Stavanger. More than one thousand youths from both cities have until this day visited each other and life-long relationships have emerged.

I would like to sincerely thank all of those in the energetic and open city of Houston/ Galveston who have welcomed the youths from Stavanger in 2012 and previous exchanges. We truly appreciate it and are looking forward to welcoming you to Stavanger in 2014!

Christine Sagen Helgø,  
Mayor of Stavanger

## HOUSTON/GALVESTON-STAVANGER SISTER CITY SOCIETY

### Houston, Galveston, Stavanger – A Leading Success Story of a Sister City Program

#### FACT SHEET

##### **What is the Sister Cities Program?**

“Sister Cities International (SCI)”, a non-profit citizen diplomacy network creating and strengthening partnerships between U.S. and international communities, was established by President Eisenhower to improve communications, cultural, and business relations between the people of the United States and the rest of the world community. As stated by President Eisenhower, “Sister City relationships can turn nations into people and contribute as no other form of communications to the humanizing of international relations”.

##### **What is the Houston/Galveston-Stavanger Sister City Program, and why is it so successful?**

Houston and Stavanger formed a sister city relationship in 1980 as a result of strong business ties between the two cities and the significant investments made by Norwegians in commercial activities in Houston and vice versa. The support for the organization by business, civic, and cultural leaders was a prime contributor in recognizing Houston as having the best Sister City program in 1983. During Stavanger’s visit in April 1988, Galveston took part in many of the activities and expressed a wish to join the Sister City organization. On September 26, 1988, the mayors of Houston, Galveston, and Stavanger formally signed a document joining the three cities in the program named “**Houston/Galveston-Stavanger Sister City Society (HGSSCS)**”. Further on, HGSSCS is one of Houston’s 17 Sister Cities and is also part of the “Sister Cities International (SCI)” organization.

##### **What other Recognitions have been made of the ties between the three cities?**

Ministers from Norway are regular visitors to Houston. Houston was selected to have a Royal Norwegian Consulate General, Norwegian Trade Council, Norwegian-American Chamber of Commerce and a Norwegian Seamen’s Church. Four Houstonians have been decorated by the king of Norway, whereas one of them, Mr. Jay Medley, received one of the highest awards ever given by the king to a foreign individual. Some years ago, Houston was chosen the “Port-of-Honor” for visits by “Christian Radich”, a square rigged Norwegian training ship, and “Saga Sieglar”, a replica of a Viking trading vessel.

##### **What Long-Term Relationships have been established?**

The Society helps build long-term relationships between Houston/Galveston and Stavanger by sponsoring many activities. The organization was involved both when the late King Olav V of Norway and the present King Harald V of Norway visited Houston as well as when the Norwegian ambassador to the U.S. visited here. Additionally, the Society suggested and implemented the membership of the Stavanger Chamber of Commerce in the Greater Houston Chamber of Commerce as its first foreign member.



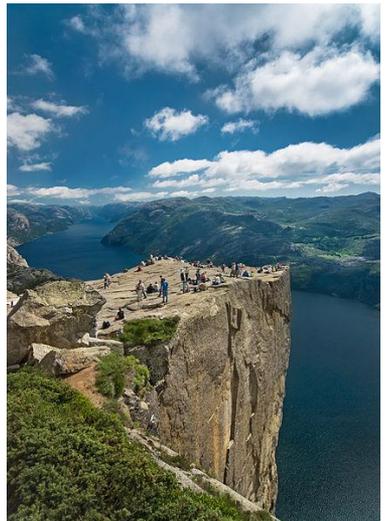
## HISTORICAL HIGHLIGHTS

Founded in 1980 as a result of a Norwegian Festival and strong oil and shipping industries both in Houston and in Stavanger, **Houston/Galveston-Stavanger Sister City Society** has been actively engaged in promotion and goodwill. Then in 1988, Galveston having been involved in many of the activities that year formally joined the organization. Thus, on September 26, 1988, the mayors of the three cities signed a formal document joining the organization in an educational, business, and cultural exchange program.

The list of schools and groups, which have participated in the many exchange programs over the years, are varied and long. The primary activities have been cultural exchanges in which Houston/Galveston and Stavanger have alternated as host every other year. These programs, which have won several awards from the national Sister City organization, have emphasized youth. Participating student delegations have included music, drama, and athletic groups who have performed or competed at schools and other sites. In addition to the youth exchange programs, there have been countless teachers, group leaders, parents, relatives, city officials, business people, board directors, sister city members and volunteers involved over the years.

Additionally, the Society hosts annual activities for its members that are interesting, educational, and cultural, and thus gives people from Stavanger, Norway, Houston and Galveston areas an opportunity to become acquainted and discover mutual interests.

Photos courtesy of [www.visit-stavanger.com](http://www.visit-stavanger.com)





**CITY OF HOUSTON**

**Annise D. Parker**

Office of the Mayor

Mayor

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P.O. Box 1562  
Houston, Texas 77251-1562

Telephone – Dial 311  
[www.houstontx.gov](http://www.houstontx.gov)

June 17, 2014

Greetings!

The Houston/Galveston-Stavanger Sister City Program is an international partnership that strengthens the economic and social aspects of both communities. This relationship has provided us with the opportunity to build strong business ties and participate in an educational and cultural exchange between our two cities. The Houston/Galveston-Stavanger Sister City Society has hosted many annual activities so the people of Stavanger, Norway, Houston and Galveston can become acquainted.

The City of Houston is honored to have Stavanger, Norway as our official sister city for so many years and will always welcome the residents of Norway with open arms. Visitors should take advantage of the nonstop air service operated by Scandinavian Airlines, which will connect Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport to Stavanger, beginning in August 2014.

I appreciate Christine Sagen Helgø and the people of Stavanger, Norway for their significant contributions to our city and look forward to your continued support in the years to come. I am confident that our relationship will continue to be a leading example for other U.S. and international cities to follow.

Sincerely,

Annise D. Parker  
Mayor



# City of Galveston



Office of the Mayor

P.O. Box 779 / Galveston, Texas 77553-0779 / (409) 797-3509 / Fax 797-3511

May 19, 2014

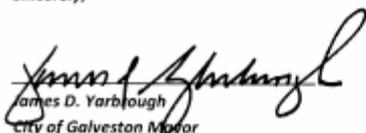
*Greetings!*

*As Galveston's new Mayor, it gives me great pleasure to send greetings to our Sister City of Stavanger. The Houston/Galveston-Stavanger Sister City relationship has been a particularly successful one and we look forward many more years of continued friendship. These visits are so beneficial to the promotion and enhancement of the cultural development between our cities.*

*I am both pleased and honored to have such a strong relationship with our Sister City of Stavanger. Though an ocean apart, our two cities have enjoyed a longstanding friendship. Throughout the years, delegations have traveled from ocean to ocean to exchange ideas, explore cultural differences and investigate economic development opportunities.*

*I extend to you my cooperation in all areas of mutual concern and interest and look forward to your next visit to Galveston.*

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "James D. Yarbrough".

James D. Yarbrough  
City of Galveston Mayor



## A Brief Overview of Houston and Galveston

### Houston:

adapted from

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houston,\\_Texas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Houston,_Texas)

In August 1836, John Kirby Allen and Augustus Chapman Allen, two real estate entrepreneurs from New York City, purchased 6,642 acres (26.88 km<sup>2</sup>) of land along Buffalo Bayou intending to found a city. The Allen brothers decided to name the city after Sam Houston, the popular general at the Battle of San Jacinto, who was elected President of Texas in September 1836.

Houston was granted incorporation on June 5, 1837, with James S. Holman becoming its first mayor. In the same year, Houston became the county seat of Harrisburg County (now Harris County) and the temporary capital of the Republic of Texas. By 1860, Houston had emerged as a commercial and railroad hub for the export of cotton. Railroad spurs from the Texas inland converged in Houston, where they met rail lines to the ports of Galveston and Beaumont. After the Civil War, Houston businessmen initiated efforts to widen the city's extensive system of bayous so the city could accept more commerce between downtown and the nearby port of Galveston. By 1890 Houston was the railroad center of Texas.

In 1900, after Galveston was struck by a devastating hurricane, efforts to make Houston into a viable deepwater port were accelerated. The following year, oil discovered at the Spindletop oil field near Beaumont prompted the development of the Texas petroleum industry. President Woodrow Wilson opened the deepwater Port of Houston in 1914, seven years after digging began. By 1930, Houston had become Texas's most populous city.

Today, Houston is the fourth largest city in the United States, following New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago. It is a center of space exploration, air transportation and shipping, as well as oil exploration, production, and refining. It is home to the world-class Texas Medical Center, a consortium of hospitals providing leading edge care in heart care, transplants, cancer treatment. Shoppers flock to the Galleria and the suburban shopping malls in several districts of the city. The city has a great diversity of restaurants, cultural activities and even sister cities, reflecting the world-wide roots of its residents – from Europe, to Asia, to Africa, and Latin America.

### Galveston:

adapted from <http://www.galveston.com/about/>

and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galveston,\\_Texas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galveston,_Texas) Galveston, a coastal city of over 57,000 people, offers 32 miles of relaxing beaches, superb restaurants, top resort hotels, marvellous downtown shopping, numerous antique stores, incredible art galleries, fabulous entertainment and one of the largest and well-preserved concentrations of Victorian architecture in the country. From soft sandy beaches to famous 19th century architecture, the island is surrounded with incredible history and unique beauty.

Galveston was first seen by Europeans around 1528. It was settled in 1816, and founded as a port for Mexico in 1825, and briefly served as capital of the Republic of Texas in 1836. Today, the port has grown to 850 acres (3.4 km<sup>2</sup>) of port facilities, and serves as home to University of Texas Medical Branch, John Sealy, and Shriners's Burn Hospitals, and home to several banks, financial institutions, and charitable institutions such as the Moody Foundation / Moody Gardens.

The Island has seen two great hurricanes, yet the worst natural disaster in U.S. history could not erase the tranquillity of a Galveston sunset. For more about our rich history, with Indians, French, Spanish, pirates, sailors, cotton and textile merchants, bootleggers, musicians, oilmen, and now **tourists**, see <http://www.galveston.com/history/> and [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galveston,\\_Texas](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Galveston,_Texas)

## Galveston Ballet



**Galveston Ballet is a regional pre-professional ballet company and academy offering a full range of instruction in classical ballet to students ages three through adult. The students travelling to Stavanger are from the Apprentice, Company, and Graduate levels.**

**Galveston Ballet Mission:** The mission of Galveston ballet is two-fold: (1) to offer the young people of Galveston County the opportunity to participate in a learning company where they can experience the discipline and beauty of ballet and develop their skills and talents in this domain; and (2) to enrich the cultural life of the entire community by presenting performances of great classical and contemporary works each year.

**Purpose of Organization:** Galveston Ballet is the official ballet company of Galveston and a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Current programs include classical ballet training, community performances, in-school fine arts education, and ballet scholarships.

**Training:** Galveston Ballet offers classical ballet classes for students ages three through adult. Members in the upper level performing company attend ballet classes over ten hours per week. In addition to offering ballet classes during the fall and spring semesters, Galveston Ballet also offers a variety of summer programs including 'Fairy Tale Camp' for students 4-6, Summer Intensive for teenagers and adults, and has hosted a Russian Workshop with guest artists.

**Performance:** Galveston Ballet presents one full-length classical ballet in the spring of each year and one mixed repertory program each fall, held at the Grand 1894 Opera House . Ballets performed have included Coppelia, Giselle, La Fille mal Garde, Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty, the Firebird, Don Quixote, La Bayadere and Napoli as well as excerpts from many other ballets.

**Community Education:** Galveston Ballet's Dance in Schools scholarship program offers a fine arts program of lecture, demonstration, and dance to Galveston's elementary schools. The highlight of the Dance in Schools program is a free children's matinee. This year, Galveston Ballet will present the ballet, "Peter and the Wolf" with an ensemble orchestra. For most children it was their first time to see a ballet, to see an orchestra, and to visit the Opera House. Galveston Ballet students learn the value of discipline, practice, patience, and importance of community service.

## High School for the Performing and Visual Arts (HSPVA) - Houston



The High School for the Performing and Visual Arts is the premier magnet school of the Houston Independent School District. The creation of HSPVA represented the first attempt by any public high school in the nation to correlate an academic program with concentrated training in the arts. This summer, two vocal and five jazz students are traveling to Stavanger, Norway.

The HSPVA Music Department, a three-time GRAMMY Signature Award winner, consists of 315 majors who are given the opportunity to perform classical, jazz, mariachi and popular music in both large and small ensembles. They also study the music academics such as theory, history, improvisation and sight-singing. Various Ensembles have toured to Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Hawaii, New York, New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Dallas, San Antonio, Lubbock, Phoenix, Los Angeles, Kansas City, Corpus Christi, Austin and West Texas, as well as to Scotland, Taiwan, England, Japan, Norway, Austria, France, Canada and China. In the summer of 1994 the Chorale participated in some of the 50th anniversary celebrations of the World War II D-Day events in Normandy, France.

The Jazz Combo is one of two such groups at HSPVA. They have performed for several Jazz Educators Conferences as well as many educational and social events in the greater Houston area. The Combo is one of the groups participating in the Monk Institute???? Members have been selected for the national GRAMMY band and for various summer jazz workshops. The Vocalists are members of the HSPVA Chorale and they also sing in the Madrigal Singers and The Young Performers (vocal jazz/popular music). They have been featured in the prestigious Texas All-State Choir and in the HSPVA Black History Musicals. In addition to their activities at HSPVA, they also are involved with the Indian Classical Music Organization and the Shape Community Center which provides services for senior citizens.

The director of the HSPVA Jazz Combo is Warren Sneed, an HSPVA graduate. The director of the vocalists is Patricia Bonner, coordinator of the HSPVA Vocal Music Department

## Campers



The Campers are a group of outdoor enthusiasts that have been involved in many different activities such as climbing, rappelling, canoeing, kayaking, hiking, backpacking and much more. And this group likes to travel too, with experience in all areas of the United States and many other countries too. The Campers are looking forward to new outdoor experiences in Norway. Whatever activities the Campers are involved in, you can be sure this group will “Be Prepared” or in Norwegian, “Alltid Beredt”.

In Stavanger, they will follow a similar activity schedule to similar groups in previous exchanges. This will include outdoor activities and skills improvement in a mountains parks and fjords of the Stavanger area. This will include a trip up Prekestolen (Pulpit Rock). The schedule will also include meeting similar youth organizations for activities, exchange of ideas and creation of new friendships.



Returning from hiking to the top of Pulpit Rock (Prekestolen) over Lysefjord

## Guthrie Center – Culinary Arts



The Guthrie Culinary Department works with high school students who have an interest or a passion for any aspect of the food service industry. As they advance through the program, students will study to earn different national certifications that can give them a competitive edge for job opportunities. We are dedicated to providing each student a captivating learning environment that focuses on the acquisition of culinary, business, technical and problem solving skills to position themselves for success in the food service industry.

- Students taking Culinary 1 learn the fundamentals of cooking, the science of baking, food service management, production skills, and safety and sanitation procedures. Visiting chefs from industry help them develop and refine their creative side and master the steps of recipe development and event planning. In the course of a school year our future chefs actually plan, prepare and serve a variety meals for guests.
- As they move on in the program to Culinary 2, our students get to deepen their knowledge and experience in specific areas including baking, protein selection, advanced nutrition and sustainability. They gain an understanding of front and back-of-the-house roles and how these areas work together to create a successful operation.
- The Chef Training Practicum is perfect for students with a sincere interest in becoming a chef. This class pioneered high-level culinary programming in Texas through our strong, supportive partnership with The Art Institute of Houston.
- Our Cafe Operations and Catering Practicum prepares students for running and managing small operations like our campus coffee shop.
- In Summer 2014, 5 select students train for 3 weeks at the Culinary Institute of Stavanger.

In recent years, students became involved with peer competitions. At the regional level against 27 Texas teams, Guthrie students earned top placements and advanced to state competition.

Students learn how to give back as well, serving others in community activities and volunteer settings throughout the Greater Houston area.

The culinary facility at Guthrie is a state-of-the-art high-level system of teaching kitchens and labs that surpasses most culinary schools in Texas. It was designed by industry professionals and educators, blending the best of both worlds to provide optimal hands-on learning. For additional information visit us online at

<http://guthriecenter.springbranchisd.com/category/programs/ca>

## Spring Woods High School Safari Singers



*The Spring Woods High School Department of Choral Activities* involves approximately 150 students in grades 9-12 and includes five sections of ability based ensembles: Beginning Women, JV/Beginning Men, JV women, Concert Women, and Chorale (Varsity Mixed). The students in Safari Singers meet outside of class and are all members of Chorale. The department performs four major concerts a year: a traditional fall concert, “Sounds of the Season” winter concert, Pre- UIL concert and spring pop show. Approximately four choirs traditionally perform at Texas’s state based Concert and Sight-reading competition The department participates in a spring trip, alternating in and out of state venues. SWHS Choirs have a tradition of excellence and in bringing home many awards at UIL Competitions.

*The Safari Singers* were originally in existence from 1964 to 2006. This specialty ensemble was brought back this year in celebration of the school’s 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and to participate in Texas Days in Stavanger. The Safari Singers are a small ensemble (12 students) that perform a variety of music—from chamber to pop style choral music. Participation in Safari Singers is by audition only. Most students involved in this group are also active in numerous other activities, including theater, football, soccer, volleyball, basketball, swimming, band, track, and many other activities.

## Spring Woods High School

2045 Gessner Road

Houston, Texas 77080

713-365-4475; Fax: 713-365-4474

## St. John's School – Houston Area Golf Team



Three students represent the St. John's School of Houston Golf team for the Stavanger trip. Two are a brother-sister pair. All three have parents who are golf enthusiasts, and encourage them. They look forward to meeting peers of their age group who are excited about golf, and interacting with them to practice and play in Stavanger, particularly with many more hours of sunlight in the summer.

The first student will be a graduating senior in high school this coming year. She is a co-captain of the St. John's Girls Varsity Golf Team and has been a varsity member since freshman year. She also is a varsity volleyball player. In April, the girl's golf team finished second place at the Southwest Preparatory Conference, out of about 16 schools participating and 70 girls competing. To focus on reaching a professional level as an adult, she is a member of the Houston Golf Association (HGA) and American Junior Golf Association (AJGA). She started playing at 9 years old.

The brother in the family pair will be a junior (third year of four) in high school. He plays on the St. John's Boys Varsity Golf Team and has been a varsity member since freshman year. He also plays on the St. John's Junior Varsity Boys Soccer Team. He is a member of the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Association (STPGA). He started playing golf when he was 9 years old and had his only hole in one when he was 10 years old.

His sister will be entering high school as a freshman (first year of four). She plans on playing on the St. John's Girls varsity Golf Team her freshman year. She also plans on playing goalie for a school field hockey team, and swim on the school swim team. She is a member of the Southern Texas PGA Junior Golf Association (STPGA). She began playing golf when she was 7 years old.

**200th Anniversary of the Norwegian Constitution (Grunnloven)  
Syttende Mai -- May 17, 2014**



Constitutional Assembly at Eidsvoll, Norway: April 10 – May 20, 1814  
Painting by Oscar Wergeland

Forefather Christian Magnus Falsen stands and reads from the new Norwegian Constitution  
(Original copy hangs in Parliament's Assembly Room (Storting), Oslo, Norway)

**Syttende Mai** - Norwegian Constitution Day

On the 17th of May 1814, the Norwegian constitution was adopted. On the 17th of May 2014 we celebrated the starting point of 200 years of developing the Norwegian democracy where it all started – the Eidsvoll Manor House. Here and throughout the country, the unique Norwegian national day celebrations are held with flags, children parades, music, national costumes, historical plays, speeches, activities, and food!.

Based on the American constitution and French Revolution, Norway's constitution is the second oldest written constitution in the world. Norway yearned for her own constitution and independence first from Denmark at the end of the Napoleonic Wars (since 1300s), and then in 1905 from a union with Sweden. We join with our sister city, Stavanger, in celebrating this important accomplishment and milestone.

Official site and in English: <https://www.stortinget.no/en/In-English/About-the-Storting/The-Constitution/> (2012 update) and <https://www.stortinget.no/en/Grunnlovsjubileet/In-English/>  
In Norwegian (2012 update): <http://lovdata.no/dokument/NL/lov/1814-05-17>  
Read more: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution\\_of\\_Norway](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Constitution_of_Norway) and  
[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norwegian\\_Constitution\\_Day](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Norwegian_Constitution_Day)



Main Building of Eidsvoll Ironworks, restored for 2014 Bicentennial of the Norwegian Constitution: Location: 45 minutes drive north from Oslo by car or coach, on the way to Lillehammer. Sign posted "Eidsvollbygningen" from the E6 road. It is also 15 minutes drive from Oslo Airport Gardermoen. <http://www.eidsvoll1814.com/default.aspx?aid=9078804>  
More in Norwegian Wikipedia: <http://no.wikipedia.org/wiki/Riksforsamlingen>

**Greeting from the Consul General of Norway in Houston  
to the Student Participants**

First of all: Congratulations on your decision to visit Norway!

As you might be aware of, you are visiting our country in a quite special year. A few weeks ago, cheering children overflowed the streets of cities, towns and villages all over the country, waving their flags to celebrate the Bicentennial of our Constitution. Highly influenced by the American Declaration of Independence, the Anniversary reminds us of the importance of exchanging ideas, knowledge, and people between different countries and cultures. By coming to Stavanger, you are now further strengthening this tradition of companionship between our two nations. Growing up in the Stavanger region myself, I am especially glad that Houston-Galveston is a Sister City to Stavanger, a destination that the next week will bring you new good friends, new challenges and great memories.



The Honourable Dr. Jostein Mykletun  
Royal Norwegian Consul General in Houston

Wishing y'all a terrific stay!

Jostein Mykletun,  
Consul General of Norway, Houston



Courtesy: [www.Adamsleathercrafts.com](http://www.Adamsleathercrafts.com)

2014 gift from HGSSCS to the City of Stavanger – small scale Western Saddle

Grateful thanks to our sponsors and partners for making Texas Days in Stavanger 2014 possible.

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With generous support and logistical assistance from:

**The Royal Norwegian Consulate General,**

