



Austin Hindu Temple & Community Center



Celebrates

Lohri



Date: Tuesday, January 13th 2015

Program:

**6:30 pm: Agni Puja/Lighting of the festive fire
(Special puja for the 1st Lohri of the baby or 1st Lohri for newly wed couples)
7:00 pm: Lohri songs and dances followed by Prasad**

Venue:

**The Havan area on the steps of AHT Temple Hall,
9801 Decker Lake Road, Austin, TX, 78724**

Lohri is celebrated a day before [Makara Sankranti](#), as it marks the end of the winter season. *Lohri* is traditionally associated with the harvest of the rabi crops. During the day, children go from door to door singing folk songs. The treats gathered by the children are known as *Lohri* and consist of sesame seeds, crystal sugar, jaggery, peanuts, popcorn, rewaries. A bonfire is lit after sunset. People sit around it, offer *Lohri* to the bonfire. Singing and dancing is an intrinsic part of this celebration. Some people perform a prayer and go around the fire. This is to show respect to the natural element of fire. In families that have recently had a marriage or childbirth, *Lohri* is celebrated with even more excitement. Milk and water is also offered around the bonfire. This ritual is performed for thanking the Sun God and seeking his continued protection.

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