



## Austin Hindu Temple and Community Center

9801 Decker Lake Road, Austin, TX 78724. Phone: 512-927-0000. [www.AustinHinduTemple.org](http://www.AustinHinduTemple.org)

## Austin Hindu Temple & Community Center Celebrates

# Lohri

**Sunday, January 13<sup>th</sup> 2019**



### Program:

**6:00 pm: Agni Puja/lighting of the festive fire**

(Special puja for the 1st Lohri of the baby or 1st Lohri for newlywed couples)

**6:30 pm: Lohri Songs and dances followed by Prasad**

**Venue: The Havan Area**

*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 (Agni Devata). 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.

**Sponsorship, Special Puja: \$21**

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