**FREE FUN ON EDISON DAY**

WEST ORANGE, NJ – Join the National Park Service in celebrating Edison Day on Saturday, June 4, 2011, at Thomas Edison National Historical Park, 211 Main Street. Admission is free, no reservations are needed and all are welcome. Activities start at 10:00 am and will take place at both the Glenmont Estate in Llewellyn Park and the Laboratory Complex in West Orange. Rain or shine.

New for this year will be the opportunity to see the Heavy Machine Shop in action. The motors will be cranked on and visitors will have the opportunity to watch the belts as they whirl from motor to line shaft to machine. At scheduled times during the day, both line drives will be running and a machine will be engaged.

Back by popular demand is the wax cylinder recording session. Drop in throughout the day and watch as recordings are made of live musicians on a wax cylinder phonograph just as it would have been over 100 years ago. Musicians performing include the Bob Ferrel Trombone Quartet - Bob Ferrel has toured with the Duke Ellington Orchestra and Southside Johnny & The Asbury Jukes; singer and guitarist Mamie Minch who is known in Brooklyn as the area's premier blueswoman, writing and interpreting antique blues songs and ballads; and the Paragon Ragtime Laboratory Band, giving a special preview of the evening's entertainment.

Learn why some credit Edison with the birth of the motion picture industry then head over to the Black Maria and join in recreating a scene from one of Edison's movies. During the day, actors from Luna Stage will also be performing excerpts from a new play, "The Dangers of Electric Lighting". Visitors are sure to find a topic of interest during the day with talks on a wide range of topics including Edison and his cars, and "Famous to Forgotten - 125 Years of Guests at Glenmont".

Kids can become Junior Rangers and chat with Ranger Ellen to find out what it's like to be a real Park Ranger. The Kids Corner at Glenmont will feature some of the Edison family's favorite games and also a child-size replica Ford Model T for the kids to sit in.

End the day with a summer concert on the lawn at Glenmont listening to the unique sounds of the Paragon Ragtime Orchestra. The Orchestra is the world's only year-round, professional ensemble re-creating "America's Original Music" - the syncopated sounds of early musical theater, silent cinema, and vintage dance. The concert starts at 6:00PM and concert goers are invited to bring lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy the music.

"Although we have been celebrating our annual Edison Day for a number of years, it is always a special day," said Greg Marshall, Superintendent at Thomas Edison National Historical Park. "On Edison Day we can offer a much wider range of activities and events at both the Laboratory Complex and the Glenmont Estate. We hope that people will come out and join us in enjoying the day".

In addition to the Edison Day activities, all the usual Park attractions will be open. Visitors can spend time exploring the Main Laboratory Building; take a tour of the house and grounds at Glenmont; and visit the garage to view some of the Edison cars, including two electric cars dating back to the early 1900s.

For additional information on Edison Day and visiting the park please see our website at [www.nps.gov/edis](http://www.nps.gov/edis) or call the Edison Day hotline at 973-736-0550 extension 89.

Thomas Edison National Historical Park is a National Park Service site dedicated to promoting an international understanding and appreciation of the life and extraordinary achievements of Thomas Alva Edison by preserving, protecting, and interpreting the Park's extensive historic artifact and archive collections at the Laboratory Complex and Glenmont, the Edison family estate. The Visitor Center is located at 211 Main Street in West Orange, New Jersey.

The Laboratory Complex is open Wednesday through Sunday from 9:00am to 5:00pm. Glenmont, Edison's home, is open Friday through Sunday from 11:30am to 5:00pm. Tickets for Glenmont must first be obtained at the Laboratory Complex visitor center before going to Glenmont. For more information or directions please call 973-736-0550 ext. 11 or visit our website at [*www.nps.gov/edis*](http://www.nps.gov/edis).

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