

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Celebrating



In America's National Parks

2008



Compiled by the National Park Service
Office of Communications and Public Affairs

Visit the
"Celebrating Independence in America's National Parks" website at
http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/inde/celebrate.htm



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National Park Service News Release

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Celebrate Independence in America's National Parks

WASHINGTON, DC –What better way to celebrate Independence Day this year than by visiting a National Park? The National Park Service has the honor of preserving numerous areas that commemorate the birth of the United States and American Independence. The ideals and freedoms that were won during the American Revolution and guaranteed in the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence are celebrated throughout the National Park System.

“I invite everyone to celebrate Independence at one of the many sites managed by the National Park Service,” said Mary A. Bomar, Director of the National Park Service. “Many of the events and people that established and helped maintain our Independence as a nation are today commemorated in areas managed by the National Park Service. The Fourth of July is also a good time to come together with family and friends and celebrate the birth of this nation. Come visit us and have a safe and happy Fourth of July.”

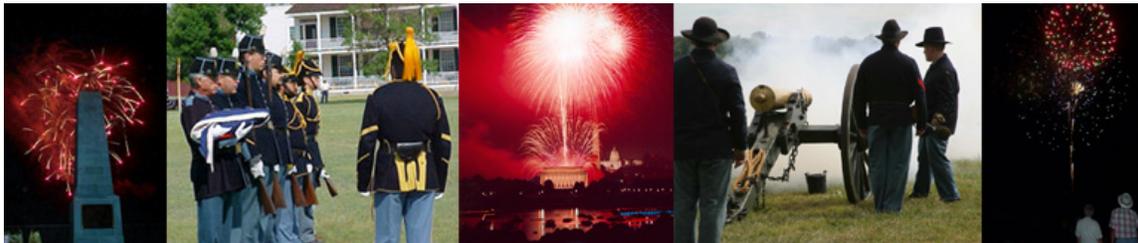
The National Park Service has made available, in time for the Fourth of July, a website to assist visitors as they make plans to visit national parks this Independence Day. By visiting the *Celebrating Independence in America's National Parks* website at http://www.nps.gov/pub_aff/inde/celebrate.htm, visitors can learn of the many special programs taking place on and around the Fourth of July at National Park Service sites throughout the nation.

To learn more about American Independence and the National Park Service and to gain a an understanding of our nation's past, present, and future, visit the *Celebrating Independence in America's National Parks* website and, more importantly, visit a National Park this Independence Day.

-NPS-



Independence Day Celebrations and Programs in the National Park Service - 2008



Many parks celebrate Independence with special events and programming. We invite everyone to join in the following celebrations of Independence at National Park Service sites this year.

Alaska

[Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve](#)

Float in Fourth of July Parade: The park and preserve will have a float in the Glennallen Fourth of July parade. For more information, please contact Megan Richotte at (907) 822-7225.

Colorado

[Bent's Old Fort National Historic Site](#)

"Old-Fashioned Fourth:" On **Friday, July 4, 2008**, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., join the staff and volunteers of Bent's Old Fort as they celebrate the country's birth nineteenth-century style. A parade featuring the fort's oxen-drawn wagon and patriotic music will kick off the festivities. Great orations will follow, as will games and stories of the period for both children and adults. Refreshments will include lemonade and virgin mint juleps as the fort inhabitants celebrate the holiday. Too much celebrating will result in an untimely death – leading to a fiery temperance speech and a somewhat solemn funeral. The festivities will end with one lucky visitor departing the site with a wonderful

souvenir: one of the twenty-seven-star U.S. flags that have flown over the fort. For more information, please call (719) 383-5010.

Colorado National Monument

4th of July Celebration at Colorado National Monument: Colorado National Monument will commemorate **Independence Day** by raising Old Glory 450 vertical feet from the canyon floor to the top of Independence Monument, the tallest free-standing rock formation in the park. As thirty-plus rock climbers scale Independence Monument, two interpretive programs will take place at scenic overlooks along the rim of Wedding and Monument canyons. After the last climber works his way through the final crux move of the climb, the climbing team will gather to raise the flag. As the Stars and Stripes begin to show, trumpeters will play “The Star- Spangled Banner.” The music will echo across the canyons. This tradition was started over ninety-seven years ago by the legendary John Otto. Today, Mesa County’s Technical Search and Rescue Team continues the tradition of raising the flag every Fourth of July.

From 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., take the guided walk “Raising Old Glory – John Otto’s Style.” Meet at the Otto’s Trailhead 1 mile east of the visitor center on Rim Rock Drive and join a park ranger for a short walk to the breathtaking overlook at the end of Otto’s Trail. Learn about John Otto’s classic tradition for July 4. Watch rock climbers from Mesa County’s Technical Search and Rescue Team scale Independence Monument and raise the flag. Bring water and sunscreen and wear sturdy walking shoes. Distance: 1.0 mile roundtrip.

From 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., attend the Ranger Talk “A Monumental Independence Celebration.” Meet at Independence Monument View Overlook. Come celebrate the raising of the American flag on top of Independence Monument. Listen to stories of the legendary John Otto, watch rock climbers from Mesa County’s Technical Search and Rescue Team scale Otto’s original route, and hear patriotic music resonate across the canyons as the Stars and Stripes is raised. Bring water and wear sunscreen.

For more information about the celebration, please contact Michelle Wheatley at (970) 858-3617 ext. 363.

Connecticut

Weir Farm National Historic Site

Float in Parade: Weir Farm National Historic Site will be participating in Ridgefield, Connecticut's 300th Anniversary Parade on **July 5, 2008** , from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. The float, created by the staff and volunteers of Weir Farm National Historic Site, depicts two artists, who represent both the past and the present, painting from the same Weir Farm landscape. It illustrates the enduring connection between the landscape of the farm

and the art that it has inspired. Since 1882, the farm has been a refuge for artists, and it remains a place where visitors of all ages are encouraged to participate in the creation of art and the appreciation of nature.

For more information, please contact Weir Farm National Historic Site at (203) 834-1896 or visit the Ridgefield 300th Anniversary website at www.ridgefield300.org.

Hawai'i

USS Arizona Memorial

Survivors ring bell for freedom: Join the national effort to Let Freedom Ring at the USS *Arizona* Memorial Visitor Center. Pearl Harbor survivors from the Aloha Chapter of the Pearl Harbor Survivors Association will ring the bell of the USS *Arizona* battleship on the morning of Friday, July 4, 2008 . This historic bell is one of two bells removed from the USS *Arizona* and is preserved by the National Park Service. Its companion bell is housed at the University of Arizona in Tucson, Arizona.

Survivors will ring the bell thirteen times for the thirteen original states at exactly 8:00 a.m. Hawaiian Time (2:00 p.m. Eastern Time). This event is synchronized with over ten thousand bells nationwide, including the Liberty Bell itself.

Following the bell ringing event, survivors will speak of their own personal experiences of December 7 and World War II. They will be available for pictures and book signing after the short, formal presentation. A special exhibit donated by the National Pearl Harbor Survivors Association will be on display at the center. This license plate exhibit displays special edition Pearl Harbor Survivor license plates from across the country.

In 1963, an act of Congress officially authorized the Let Freedom Ring National Bell Ringing Ceremony. For more information, please call 1-800-330-1776 or visit www.let-freedom-ring.org.

Indiana

George Rogers Clark National Historical Park

Fourth of July Events: George Rogers Clark National Historical Park in Vincennes, Indiana, will have living history interpreters available throughout the day on **July 4** to speak with visitors and perform demonstrations. At dark, a free fireworks display will be available. Fireworks launched from across the river will create a spectacular sight over the river and in the shadow of the George Rogers Clark monument. Visitors coming to view the fireworks are encouraged to bring blankets or lawn chairs as well as insect repellent. For more information, please call the park at (812) 882-1776 ext. 210 (Visitor Information) or (812) 882-1776 (Headquarters).

Kansas

Tall Grass Prairie National Preserve

July 4, 5, and 6—Independence Day at the Ranch: On **Friday** , enjoy a day of music and clogging in the historic barn. Bring your instruments for jammin'. Clogging demonstrations will take place at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

On **Saturday** , ride in a covered wagon, watch historic cooking demonstrations, or see the blacksmith hard at work. A historic barn dance will be held from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. with the Tallgrass Express band. Refreshments will be served.

On **Sunday** , join in the historic games of an old-fashioned egg toss, rope jumping, hoop and stick, and a lively bucket brigade. Activities will take place from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

For more information, please call the park at (620) 273-8494 (Ranch Headquarters Information Station) or (620) 273-6034 (Administrative Headquarters).

Kentucky

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

Musical Tribute to Abraham Lincoln: On **Friday, July 4, 2008**, from 5:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m., there will be a musical tribute to our sixteenth president, Abraham Lincoln. The tribute will feature period and patriot songs to honor Lincoln during his bicentennial celebration. The program will take place at the foot of the Memorial Building steps. Visitors are encouraged to sit on the steps to listen. The event is free. For more information about it, please contact Sandy Brue at (270) 358-3137.

Mammoth Cave National Park

Homecoming: Before Mammoth Cave National Park opened in 1941, its lands supported 600 farms and 30 small communities. Following creation of the park, “Going to the Fourth” was the common phrase that brought the scattered neighbors back together for a homecoming celebration on **July 4**. The event dwindled in the 1970s but is being revived this year and will become annual. For more information, please contact Greg Davis, manager of Mammoth Cave Hotel, at (270) 758-2225 or gdavisgm@usdol.net.

Louisiana

[New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park](#)

Red, White and Blues : The New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park will celebrate **Independence Day 2008** with a premier concert featuring the internationally known husband and wife team of pianist Jim Hession and vocalist Martha Hession. This free concert, entitled *Red, White and Blues* , will be held at the park's visitor center, located at 916 North Peters Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, on **July 4** from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. CDT. For more information about this event, please contact Ranger Matt Hampsey at (504) 589-4806. For information about the park and for a full schedule of events, please visit www.nps.gov/jazz.

Maryland

[Antietam National Battlefield](#)

Antietam Salute to Independence Celebration: Join the Maryland Symphony Orchestra for a special commemoration of Independence Day. The celebration will take place on **July 5, 2008**, from 7:30 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. and will feature a two-hour concert immediately followed by a fireworks display. The location for the event is the park's Visitor Center. There is no fee for the celebration. Donations will be accepted. Note: Due to this special event, the Visitor Center will be open from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Several of the park roads will not be available to tour after 3:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Antietam National Battlefield at (301) 432-5124 or visit <http://www.nps.gov/anti/salute.htm>.

[Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine](#)

An Old-Fashioned Fourth: Independence Day will be celebrated at Fort McHenry in true wild and historic fashion with cannon-firing, toasting, and feasting. "Our ancestors knew how to blend the solemnity and importance of the occasion with a good party," says Ranger Vince, who, with the living history "garrison" of the fort, will be dressed for the occasion.

Independence Day celebrations came into their own just before the War of 1812, and this **July 4** , the park hopes to give visitors a sense of the historical origins of the holiday. Visitors are invited to join the garrison of the fort as they commemorate the Glorious Fourth with fife-and-drum music , cannon firing, poetry reading, hanging King George in effigy, musket salute for eighteen states, period games, feasting, and historic toasts. The highpoint of the event will be at 3:00 p.m. with a public reading of the Declaration of Independence.

12:00 noon – Unfurling of the Star-Spangled Banner Flag by visitors

1:00 p.m. – Events begin with a blast! – Demonstration of cannon firing outside the fort

1:30 p.m. – Musket salute for each of the eighteen states during the War of 1812

2:30 p.m. – Sing-along and poetry reading – Historic poems and songs that speak to the holiday

3:00 p.m. – Public reading of the Declaration of Independence

3:30 p.m. – Toast like a Revolutionary! – Historic toasts with audience participation

4:00 p.m. – Demonstration of cannon firing

Ongoing – Period games visitors can join in. Visitors are invited to join in the feasting and toasting with their own picnic lunches and bottled water.

For more information, please call the park at (410) 962-4290.

[Thomas Stone National Historic Site](#)

“**Charles County: Players Through Time**”: The National Park Service presents “Charles County: Players Through Time,” a celebration of this nation’s birth and of the 350th anniversary of Charles County. Thomas Stone, a Maryland and Charles County native, literally wrote himself into history by signing the Declaration of Independence. Charles County residents made significant contributions towards the development of their county, of Maryland, and of the United States.

On **July 4, 2008**, from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m., “Players Through Time” will take an intimate look at the local people who have shaped national history. Activities are free and include taking a ride back in time in a horse-drawn carriage to look at the people and activities that helped shape America. There will be historical demonstrations, crafts, and Revolutionary Period medicine. Rangers will provide costumed tours of Haberdeventure, the home of Thomas Stone.

Thomas Stone National Historic Site is located at 6655 Rose Hill Road in Port Tobacco, Maryland. For more information, please call (301) 392-1776 or visit www.nps.gov/thst.

[Maryland / Virginia / Washington, DC](#)

[George Washington Memorial Parkway](#)

Free Concert on the Fourth: Visitors may attend a free concert from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on **July 4** at the Netherlands Carillon. The carillon is a large bell tower located near the U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia. Listen to bell chimes and

climb the tower stairs to see one of the best views of Washington, DC. The National Park Service recommends visitors use Metro or other public transportation, since on-site parking will not be available.

Concert at Fort Hunt Park: Come on out to Fort Hunt Park on **Sunday, July 6**, to hear Signature Live! perform Motown music. This event is part of the Fort Hunt Concert Series. Free concerts are held on Sunday evenings from June 22, 2008, to July 27, 2008, from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Fort Hunt Park. Bring a lawn chair or blanket.

The park is located approximately six miles south of Old Town Alexandria along the George Washington Memorial Parkway in Virginia.

For more information, please contact the parkway by using the e-mail feature at <http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/contacts.htm>. For more information about Fourth of July at the George Washington Memorial Parkway, please visit <http://www.nps.gov/gwmp/parknews/july-4-2008.htm>.

George Washington Memorial Parkway Access points:

- Gravelly Point, immediately north of National Airport (no access to National Mall);
- Washington Sailing Marina at Daingerfield Island (no access to National Mall);
and

U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial and Netherlands Carillon (no access to National Mall).

Massachusetts

Adams National Historical Park

Independence Forever: John Adams at the Continental Congress: Re-enact the passage of the Declaration of Independence at the Second Continental Congress, which convenes on **July 4, 2008**, at 12:00 noon and 3:00 p.m. in the Carriage House (Pennsylvania State House), located on the grounds of the Old House at Peace field, 135 Adams Street, Quincy, Massachusetts. As a member of this history-making “band of brothers,” participants may assume the roles of the delegates to the Second Continental Congress and engage in a debate that will culminate in the adoption of the Declaration of Independence and the signing of this historic document. This interactive and engaging event is an invitation to adults and children to take part in the momentous event that John Adams recalled as the “great anniversary festival” that would be celebrated by “bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forever more.” Please join us to commemorate the true and enduring meaning of Independence Day. For more information, please call the Visitor Center at (617) 770-1175.

Jefferson & Adams: A Revolutionary Dialogue: This moving and powerful dramatization of the remarkable friendship between two presidents of the United States will take place on **July 4, 2008**, from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Beale Estate, 181 Adams Street, Quincy. The performance is free. In a fast-paced series of encounters, we see the turbulent relationship between Thomas Jefferson (Colonial Williamsburg interpreter Bill Barker) and John Adams (veteran actor Sam Goodyear) as their friendship ignites, flourishes, ruptures, and resolves itself. The perceptive Abigail Adams (Colonial Williamsburg interpreter Abigail Schumann) acts as a catalyst and motivator while steadfastly maintaining her own beliefs. The play spans fifty years, including the early days of the republic and two wars with England. The performance will take place under a tent on the lawn of the Beale House. Chairs will be available on a first-come-first-served basis, so you may want to bring your own lawn chair. Bug spray is also a good idea. Please visit <http://www.jeffersonlegacy.org/jefferson-adams.html> or call Adams National Historical Park at (617) 770-1175.

[Boston African American National Historic Site](#)

Freedom's Trial: A Unique Walking Tour Offered by Boston African American National Historic Site : On **Friday, July 4, 2008** , at 11:00 a.m., join a National Park Service ranger on a special ninety-minute walking tour focusing on the time when the promises of the American Revolution were "on trial" in Boston's nineteenth-century African American community. Developed in conjunction with Boston National Historical Park, this new tour will take you to places where Boston's developing black community struggled to realize the full promise of citizenship. Hear the stories of men and women, black and white, who worked to secure freedom and equal rights for all. Learn of the struggle to maintain churches, the ongoing fight for equal school rights, the Abolition Movement, and the burgeoning social welfare services and organizations of the community. Tours will start at the Samuel Adams statue in front of Faneuil Hall in Boston and conclude at the African Meeting House on Beacon Hill. Tours are free and open to the public. For more information and to RSVP, please call (617) 742-5415. For more information about Boston African American National Historic Site, please visit www.nps.gov/boaf .

[Boston National Historical Park](#)

A Flag for the Fourth: On **Friday, July 4, 2008** , from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., learn about the flags of the American Revolution. The program will take place at the Boston National Historical Park visitor center at 15 State Street. Space is limited. For more information, please call (617) 242-5642.

USS *Constitution* Turnaround Cruise: On **Friday, July 4, 2008** , from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Old Ironsides gets underway to fire a twenty-one-gun salute to the nation. The cruise goes from Charlestown Navy Yard to the US Coast Guard base. For more information, please call (617) 242-7511.

The Battle for Bunker Hill: On **Friday, July 4, 2008** , from 2:00 p.m. to 2:45 p.m., join a ranger-guided walking tour of the famous battlefield. Space is limited. For more information, please call (617) 242-5601.

Twisted Times: On **Saturday, July 5, 2008** , from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., learn about the craft of rope making. Take part in this hands-on activity at the Charlestown Navy Yard visitor center. For more information, please call (617) 242-5601.

USS Constitution Sunset Parade: On **Saturday, July 5, 2008** , from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m., experience the traditional ceremony honoring our nation's flag at Pier One, Charlestown Navy Yard, in Boston National Historical Park.

For more information, please contact Sean Hennessey at (617) 242-5616.

[Longfellow National Historic Site](#)

Synergy Brass Quintet: Visitors can bring their Fourth of July weekend to a close at a concert on **Sunday, July 6**, at 4:00 p.m. Synergy Brass Quintet, back by popular demand, delights audiences with dazzling showmanship and technical virtuosity. The quintet performs works by composers such as J.S. Bach, Mussorgsky, Rimsky-Korsakov, W.C. Handy, John Phillip Sousa, and Louis Armstrong. For more information, please contact James M. Shea at (617) 876-4492.

[Nebraska](#)

[Homestead National Monument of America](#)

Fourth of July Campfire Program: Homestead National Monument of America will begin its annual campfire program series on **Friday, July 4**. The evening's program, "Thomas Jefferson and the American West," will examine the many impacts the nation's third president had on American agriculture and westward expansion. Monument historian Todd Arrington will conduct the program, which will also feature guitar music by Milford Smith of Odell. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m. behind the Education Center (old visitor center). Campfire programs are free of charge and are held outdoors unless inclement weather occurs. Visitors are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, insect repellent, and drinking water for comfort.

"Campfire programs are a summer tradition in America's national parks," said Mark Engler, superintendent of Homestead National Monument of America. "The Fourth of July is a great time for us to begin our annual campfires, and Thomas Jefferson is a perfect program subject for our nation's birthday."

Homestead National Monument of America is located four miles west of Beatrice, Nebraska, on State Highway 4. For more information, please call the park at (402) 223-3514 or visit www.nps.gov/home.

New Jersey

Morristown National Historical Park

Seventy-fifth Anniversary Programs: The seventy-fifth anniversary of Morristown National Historical Park (NHP) as part of the National Park Service will be observed on **July 4, 5, and 6, 2008**, with the free programs and events specified below. These programs and events may appeal to visitors looking for Fourth of July activities. Honorary Chairmen of the celebrations are Congressman Rodney Frelinghuysen (R-11th) and noted New Jersey historian John T. Cunningham.

Free Independence Day Events: A short rededication program will be held in front of the newly renovated Washington's Headquarters Museum. (Washington's Headquarters are located at 30 Washington Place, Morristown, New Jersey.) The program will begin at 2:00 p.m. on **Friday, July 4**, and will be followed by a reading of the Declaration of Independence. Visitors are asked to bring blankets or folding chairs for the outdoor events. Both the museum and the adjacent Ford Mansion will be open for self-guiding tours from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. The museum offers a gift shop/sales area and restrooms and serves as a visitor contact point to begin Ford Mansion tours. Two galleries of new exhibits featuring items from the museum's collection will open on **July 4**. The National Park Service continues to work with the park's private partner, the Washington Association of New Jersey, to raise funds for and plan for all of the museum's exhibits.

Free Fireworks: On **Saturday, July 5**, a fireworks program will begin at dusk in Lewis Morris County Park in the area next to Sunrise Lake. Visitors are welcome to enjoy pre-fireworks picnics in Lewis Morris County Park, which is adjacent to the Jockey Hollow Unit of Morristown NHP. Lewis Morris County Park is located at 270 Mendham Road (Routes 510 and 24), Morris Township, New Jersey. Information about visiting Lewis Morris County Park, including directions, a list of facilities, and regulations, may be found at <http://parks.morris.nj.us/aspparks/lmmain.asp>. The Washington Association of New Jersey is sponsoring the fireworks program.

Free Concert on the Green: On **Sunday, July 6**, the sextet Solid Brass will perform Sousa, Ragtime, and other music from the early twentieth century. The concert will begin at 1:30 p.m., last an hour, and take place on the Morristown Green in Downtown Morristown. Visitors are encouraged to picnic on the grounds of the Green before and during the concert, which is sponsored by the Trustees of the Morristown Green.

For more information about Morristown NHP's seventy-fifth anniversary events on **July 4, 5, and 6**, please call (973) 539-2016 ext. 210 (Washington's Headquarters) or (973) 543-4030 (Jockey Hollow) or contact Anne DeGraaf at (973) 285-0126.

New Mexico

[Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument](#)

Float in Parade: Salinas Pueblo Missions National Monument plans to enter a float in the town parade in Mountainair, New Mexico. This year's theme in Mountainair is America's Pride. The monument's float will feature several National Park Service sites, such as Mount Rushmore, the Statue of Liberty, the USS *Arizona*, and, of course, Salinas. The parade will be on **July 5**.

For more information, please call the park at (505) 847-2585.

New York

[Sagamore Hill National Historic Site](#)

Independence Day at Sagamore Hill—A Red, White, and Blue Fourth of July:

Independence Day was an important holiday for Theodore Roosevelt, who often spoke at the festivities in Oyster Bay and then gathered his extended family and friends at Sagamore Hill for a day of celebration. Cousins and friends enjoyed the day here and participated in flag-waving outdoor activities for all. The National Park Service and the Friends of Sagamore Hill invite you to bring your family and friends, dressed in your best patriotic attire, to join the afternoon outdoor festivities at Sagamore Hill on **Friday, July 4**, all of which are free and open to the public.

In the morning, at 11:00 a.m., there will be a special "Birds of Prey" demonstration presented by the Theodore Roosevelt Audubon Sanctuary in the picnic area adjacent to the Visitor Center. Come and see raptors, including a hawk, an owl, and a falcon, close-up and hear about their natural history and how they have come to the Sanctuary. Learn to identify these birds and ask questions of the experts.

During the afternoon, beginning at 1:00 p.m., an old-time red, white, and blue Fourth of July celebration will start with an equestrian demonstration by the "Rough Rider Re-enactors" in the field adjacent to the windmill. The "Rough Rider" Cavalry Troop of the Nassau-Suffolk Horsemen's Association will offer demonstrations of riding techniques used by mounted soldiers of the Spanish American War at an authentic cavalry training camp. A period encampment will be set up as well.

A concert at 2:00 p.m. with the Sagamore Hill Band, under the direction of Bandmaster Steve Walker, will feature music of the time of TR, speeches by local dignitaries, and an appearance by Theodore Roosevelt himself, as portrayed by re-enactor James Foote. The Band will present works by Sousa, period campaign songs, and popular selections of that

Ohio

[William Howard Taft National Historic Site](#)

Fourth of July Concert and Ice Cream: William Howard Taft National Historic Site will host a free concert by the Last Boppers on **Friday, July 4**, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. This phenomenal band combines improvisational jazz with ethnic sounds. Free ice cream will be served.

The event begins at the William Howard Taft National Historic Site, located at 2038 Auburn Avenue, one block south of the Christ Hospital. Free parking is available in a small lot in front of the Taft Education Center or a lot on Southern Avenue. Please call (513) 684-3262 for accessibility assistance and information. You can obtain a map and driving directions and information related to your visit at www.nps.gov/wiho or by calling (513) 684-3262. For more information about the Fourth of July event, please contact Kerry Wood at (513) 684-3262.

Oregon/Washington

[Fort Vancouver National Historic Site](#)

Comcast Presents 4th of July at the Historic Reserve: On **July 4**, for the forty-sixth year, the park will host "Comcast Presents 4th of July at the Historic Reserve," the Pacific Northwest's annual Fourth of July celebration. Managed by the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Trust, the park's cooperating association, the event annually draws 60,000 plus visitors, making it one of the largest Fourth of July celebrations taking place in a unit of the National Park System.

The festival-style event features food and craft vendors (on adjacent city property), family activity areas, and an entertainment stage with over ten hours of live, family-oriented music, culminating in a thirty-minute fireworks display billed as "the largest fireworks display west of the Mississippi." The event footprint includes lands managed by the National Park Service, US Army, State of Washington, and City of Vancouver within the boundaries of the congressionally-established Vancouver National Historic Reserve. Lands managed by the National Park Service are the heart of the event; they include the preferred viewing area for the main stage, fireworks display, and family activity areas.

Throughout the day, more than thirty National Park Service staff and Volunteers-in-Parks will provide roving interpretation and special programs for visitors. Staff and volunteers involved in the annual Public Archaeology Field School will interpret an active National Park Service archaeological excavation for the public, and members of the US Army

Reserve will lead traditional games, including sack races and three-legged races, on the park's historic main parade ground.

For more information, please visit the event's website at <http://www.official4thofjuly.org/>.

Pennsylvania

Independence National Historical Park

Independence Hall (enter at 5 th and Chestnut Streets) and the Liberty Bell Center (enter off Chestnut Street, between 5 th and 6 th Streets): In honor of our nation's birthday, these two buildings will stay open beyond regular hours. **July 1 to July 4** , both buildings will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. No tickets are needed to see the Liberty Bell. No tickets are needed to see Independence Hall between 5:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. or all day on **July 4** . During daytime hours (**July 1 to July 3** , 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.), free tickets for Independence Hall are available at the Independence Visitor Center at 6 th and Market Streets.

On **Thursday, July 3** , at 8:30 p.m., join the Philadelphia POPS for a free outdoor concert. It doesn't get much better than rolling out a blanket, breaking open a picnic basket, and settling in for an evening of al fresco entertainment with Peter Nero & the Philly POPS performing in the shadows of Independence Hall. Under the baton of the two-time Grammy-winning maestro, the POPS and the Voices of The POPS will delight audiences with a playful blend of patriotic tunes, popular classics, and new favorites. None other than Thomas Jefferson will make an appearance to read the powerful words he wrote in the Declaration of Independence.

On **Friday, July 4** , at 10:00 a.m., the city of Philadelphia sponsors its annual Independence Day Ceremony in front of Independence Hall. Join Independence National Historical Park Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod, Mayor Nutter of Philadelphia, and special guests to honor our nation's proud history.

On **Friday, July 4** , at 1:00 p.m., the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution and the Society of Descendants of Signers of the Declaration sponsor the annual Let Freedom Ring ceremony. Let Freedom Ring (1:00 p.m. to 2:15 p.m.) celebrates the day with patriotic music and, at 2:00 p.m., the ringing of bells all across the country to commemorate the 232nd anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The ringing will be set off by the symbolic tapping of the Liberty Bell by eight young descendants of original signers of the Declaration. Watch the ceremony, including special guests, in the shade on the south side of Independence Hall or come into the Liberty Bell Center before 1:30 p.m. to watch the symbolic tapping.

On **Tuesday, July 8** , at noon, stand on Independence Square to participate in a re-enactment of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Join the crowd

to hear a costumed park ranger, portraying Colonel John Nixon, read the Declaration to the public, as Nixon did on July 8, 1776. Free copies will be given out so that you can follow along and cheer or jeer.

For more information, please call the park at (215) 965-2305 or (215) 597-8787.

South Carolina

Cowpens National Battlefield

History, Fireworks, and Family Fun at Cowpens National Battlefield: Cowpens National Battlefield will celebrate our nation's Independence with fireworks and activities on **Saturday, July 5, 2008**. This free event will begin at 9:30 a.m. with a guided battlefield walk and end with a professional firework display around 9:00 p.m.

Local re-enactors will set up a soldiers' camp and will give musket and cannon firing demonstrations at 2:00 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 5:00 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. Additional battlefield programs will begin at the Visitor Center at 2:45 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The Visitor Center will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.

On the lawn behind the Visitor Center, the Spartanburg Community Band will play patriotic music from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., leading up to the fireworks. In the event of inclement weather, only the fireworks display will be rescheduled for Sunday, July 6, 2008.

New to the event this year will be children's activities from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. After rolling a musket "cartridge" and performing a Revolutionary War musket drill, children will use a quill pen to sign up as Junior Patriots.

Bring a picnic and enjoy the afternoon with your family and friends. Please note that there will not be food available in the park. Restaurants and fast food are located in both Chesnee and Gaffney. Water and soft drinks will be available for purchase outside the Visitor Center. Park regulations prohibit personal fireworks, sparklers, chem-lights, etc. For our visitors' safety, the Macedonia Fire Department will close the Green River Road and battlefield trail at 5:30 p.m. Bring a flashlight to light your way back to your car after the fireworks.

Cowpens National Battlefield is the site of the American victory over the British on January 17, 1781, and is located ten miles west of Gaffney, South Carolina, and three miles east of Chesnee, South Carolina, at the intersection of Highways 11, 110, and 221-A. For more information, please call (864) 461-2828 or visit the park's web page, www.nps.gov/cowp/.

Texas

[Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park](#)

Civil Rights Act of 1964--"LBJ and Civil Rights": Fourth of July activities celebrating civil rights will take place on **July 4, 2008**, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the LBJ National Park Service Visitor Center in Johnson City.

July 4th Spange-Dangle: The July 4th Spange-Dangle celebration will be held in the Johnson Settlement area of the park. Old-time games, washer pitching, music, and other family-friendly entertainment can be enjoyed by visitors throughout the day. A fireworks display is scheduled to end the day's festivities.

For more information about both events, please contact Liz Lindig at (830) 868-7128 ext. 231 or Liz_Lindig@nps.gov.

Virginia

[Colonial National Historical Park](#)

Independence Day Celebration: The Yorktown Battlefield unit of Colonial National Historical Park will host the twenty-ninth annual Independence Day Celebration in the historic village of Yorktown, Virginia, on **July 4**. Highlights will include a 5K run on the battlefield tour road, a parade down Main Street, musical entertainment, and a bell-ringing ceremony at the home of Thomas Nelson, Jr., a signer of the Declaration of Independence. The celebration will culminate with a spectacular fireworks display over the Yorktown Victory Monument and is sponsored by the Yorktown Fourth of July Celebration Committee, in cooperation with Colonial National Historical Park. For more information, please visit www.yorkcounty.gov/fourth or call (757) 890-3500.

Washington, DC

[National Mall](#)

America 's 2008 Independence Day Celebration with a Parade, Activities, Concerts, and Fireworks in the Nation's Capital: The National Park Service announces the **2008** annual **Independence Day** celebration of our nation's founding, continuing the tradition of daylong activities for all ages, with events designed to highlight freedom and diversity. The events will include a parade, the Folklife Festival, concerts, and fireworks, all taking place on and near national parkland in the heart of the nation's capital on both sides of the Potomac River. This year's theme is "Land of the Free, Home of the Brave."

Public access to the National Mall begins at 10:00 a.m., with all visitors required to enter via a National Mall Access point. (Please see the complete list of access points at the end of this description.) The U.S. Capitol grounds open at 3:00 p.m. for visitors wanting to view “A Capitol Fourth,” with a security check required of all visitors. The National Park Service will provide bottled water on the Capitol grounds. No alcohol or glass containers are allowed.

The forty-second annual Smithsonian Folklife Festival, co-sponsored by the National Park Service, continues its run on the National Mall from 11:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. between 7 th and 14 th Streets. This year’s festival will celebrate the living, traditional cultures of Bhutan ,which is situated in the eastern Himalayas and bordered by China and India. “ Bhutan: Land of the Thunder Dragon” is celebrating its special approach toward life in the twenty-first century.

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA),the Folklife Festival will showcase the role the men and women of NASA have played in broadening the horizons of American science and culture. Also, this year’s festival will celebrate the living cultures of Texas in “Texas: A Celebration of Music, Food, and Wine,” exploring a dynamic and creative society built upon rich natural resources, thriving cosmopolitan cities, and engaging rural landscapes. For more information, please visit www.folklife.si.edu/center/festival_2008.html or call (202) 633-1000.

The National Park Service’s “ America’s 2008 Independence Day Parade” kicks off the excitement at 11:45 a.m. and will last approximately two hours on Constitution Avenue. The parade route moves westward from 7 th Street to 17 th Street, N.W. Viewing areas for this traditional July Fourth parade will be available along Constitution Avenue. Parade participants include marching bands, floats, balloons, and military units.

Rangers from National Mall & Memorial Parks present a vignette, entitled “The Importance of July 4th Throughout American History,” on the Washington Monument grounds stage beginning at 6:45 p.m. The National Park Service, with the assistance of many individual volunteers and the Environmental Protection Agency, will monitor the grounds and maintain four recycling locations along the National Mall to collect recyclables, including paper, aluminum cans, and plastic bottles. Glass bottles are not permitted within the Independence Day celebrations.

At 6:00 p.m., the Independence Day concert begins on the southwest corner of the Washington Monument grounds, near the intersection of 17 th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W. Artists include the United States Air Force Band with special guests Larry Gatlin and the Gatlin Brothers. United States veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars recuperating at Walter Reed Army Medical Center will be transported to the Washington Monument grounds for this concert.

America ’s biggest and best-loved birthday party , the concert “A Capitol Fourth,” featuring the National Symphony Orchestra (NSO), begins at 8:00 p.m. on the West

Lawn of the U.S. Capitol. This ninety-minute concert will be broadcast live nationally on both PBS and NPR-member stations. The concert is free and is presented by the National Park Service and its producer, Capital Concerts, Inc. Joining host Jimmy Smits are Grammy-winning music legends Huey Lewis and the News, *American Idol* winner Taylor Hicks, Rock n' Roll Hall of Fame legend Jerry Lee Lewis, Broadway star Brian Stokes Mitchell, classical superstar Hayley Westenra, and American soprano Harolyn Blackwell. Conductor Erich Kunzel will direct the NSO. In addition, "A Capitol Fourth" will include a special salute to the Olympic Games with figure skater and gold medal winner Scott Hamilton. The concert will be capped off by a rousing rendition of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture," complete with live cannon fire provided by the United States Army Presidential Salute Battery.

The day concludes with the traditional National Park Service fireworks beginning at 9:10 p.m. and lasting until 9:30 p.m. Pyro Shows, Inc. of LaFollette, Tennessee, will provide this year's visual extravaganza. The rain date for the National Park Service fireworks display is Saturday, July 5. The National Park Service and Pyro Shows, Inc. will fire more than 2,800 shells weighing more than 14,000 lbs .

For more information about the National Mall fireworks show on the Fourth of July, please visit www.pyroshows.com.

For more information about the Fourth of July activities at the National Mall & Memorial Parks, please visit <http://www.nps.gov/mall/planyourvisit/4thofjuly.htm> .

For more information about Capitol Concerts, please visit http://pressroom.pbs.org/programs/a_capitol_fourth_2008.

National Mall & Memorial Parks Access points:

- West entrance, or GWMP side of Memorial Bridge;
- Rock Creek and Potomac Parkway, immediately south of Theodore Roosevelt Bridge;
- Constitution Avenue and 23 rd Street;
- Constitution Avenue and 17 th Street;
- Constitution Avenue between 14 th and 15 th Streets;
- Constitution Avenue and 12 th Street;
- Madison Drive and 7 th Street;
- Madison Drive and 4 th Street;
- Independence Avenue and 4 th Street;
- Independence Avenue and 7 th Street;
- Independence Avenue and 12 th Street;
- Independence Avenue and 14 th Street;
- Westside of 3 rd Street between Madison Drive and Jefferson Drive;
- Westside of 14 th Street, north of Jefferson Drive, S.W.;
- Eastside of 14 th Street, south of Madison Drive, S.W.;
- Maine Avenue and Raoul Wallenberg Place (i.e., formerly 15 th Street);

- East Basin Drive , just south of the Jefferson Memorial (visitors will not be able to access the National Mall from this access point); and
- East Basin Drive , at the Inlet Bridge.

The Smithsonian Protection Services will also establish two access points that will allow the public access to the National Mall on the Fourth of July. One access point will be located at the Smithsonian Castle Building (1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.), and the other will be located at the Hirshhorn Museum (Independence Avenue west of 7 th Street, S.W.) Besides these access points, the public may access the National Mall via several Smithsonian facilities during their hours of operation.

Fort Washington Park, National Capital Parks – East

Musket and Artillery Demonstrations: At the Old Fort, there will be musket demonstrations at noon and artillery demonstrations at 1:00 p.m., 2:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. on **Sunday, July 6**.

At noon, members of the Fort Washington Guard dressed in Civil War uniforms will demonstrate the firing of muzzle-loading muskets. At 1:00 p.m., procedures used during the muzzle-loading era of American artillery will be demonstrated using a six-pounder field gun. The demonstrations are appropriate for visitors of all ages. In recognition of Independence Day, thirteen shots will be fired to commemorate the original colonies. For more information, please call (301) 763-4600.

President's Park (The White House)

A Signature Event and more: If you have the “liberty” to stop at the White House Visitor Center on **Friday, July 4, 2008**, from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., you can experience what it would be like to be a “signer of the Declaration of Independence for a day” with the help of National Park Service rangers and volunteers from President’s Park. During this full day of free programming, visitors of all ages will have the opportunity to sample some of the sights, sounds, activities, and personages that helped to form the United States of America on July 4, 1776. The day’s events will include games, crafts, and other activities for both children and adults.

The Signature Event, scheduled for 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., will be a one of a kind chance to don a tricornered hat and play a role in one of this nation’s greatest dramas, the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. In this fun and engaging program suitable for all ages, members of the audience will actually assume the roles of delegates to the Continental Congress and represent their colonies in a debate that will determine the fate of a nation. After the debate, each delegate will sign his or her name with a quill pen to an oversized copy of the document, receive a facsimile of period currency from his or her respective colony, ring a Liberty Bell, and receive a copy of the Declaration of Independence to keep as a memorial to his or her great efforts in the service of this nation.

Chat with John Adams about the decision that he and his fellow delegates made to commit treason against the King of England by signing the Declaration of Independence.

Fine-tune your Congressional correspondence by writing with a quill pen and protecting the privacy of the letter with sealing wax. Have your portrait taken while wearing a tricornered hat and affixing your signature to America's most famous document. Sample games and entertainments of the eighteenth century. Participate in a formal reading of the Declaration at 1:00 p.m.

Program Schedule

- 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Portrait opportunity signing the Declaration of Independence
- 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Test your skills in Congressional correspondence and writing with a quill pen
- 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Roll a beeswax candle
- 9:00 a.m. to 10:45 a.m. “The Pursuit of Happiness”—A Round-Robin Tournament of 18th-and 19th-Century Games
- 9:30 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. A public audience with John Adams
- 12:30 p.m. to 1:15 p.m.
- 11:00 a.m. & 2:00 p.m. ***A Signature Event:*** An opportunity to don a tricornered hat and play a role in one of this nation's greatest dramas, the passage of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776. **(Program Duration: 60 minutes. Space is limited.)**
- 1:00 p.m. to 1:15 p.m. Reading of the Declaration of Independence

The White House Visitor Center is located near the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue between 14th and 15th Streets, N.W., on the north side of the Commerce Department building. The National Park Service reminds all visitors that public parking is limited and encourages them to take Metro. The nearest stations are Metro Center and Federal Triangle, on the orange, blue, and red lines. For more information about this event, please call (202) 208-1631 or visit www.nps.gov/whho.

Wyoming

[Fort Laramie National Historic Site](#)

Annual "Old-Fashioned Fourth of July" Celebration: For many years, Fort Laramie has been a part of Independence Day activities in southeast Wyoming. As in years past, the

day will be packed with events and will offer something for everyone. Admission to the celebration is free.

The observance this year will begin on **July 4, 2008**, at 9:30 a.m. with a military flag-raising ceremony and cannon firing.

Old-time children's games will begin on the parade ground in front of "Old Bedlam" promptly at 10:00 a.m. Sack races, pole climbing, egg tossing, foot races, and more will challenge "youngsters of all ages." All participants will receive a ribbon, and first, second, and third place prizes will be awarded for each event and age group.

At noon, a thirty-eight gun salute will be presented at the flag pole. The salute will include the firing of the park's twelve-pound Mountain Howitzer.

Michael "Bad Hand" Terry, a noted Plains Indian warrior living historian, will be present throughout the day and will give a formal program at 12:45 p.m. on the culture and warrior traditions of the Northern Plains Tribes. Mr. Terry will also set up his Lakota warrior lodge for visitors to inspect.

Back by popular demand, the Trotters equestrian drill team will perform at 2:00 p.m. Once again, the sights and sounds of nineteenth-century cavalry drill will be seen and heard on the historic parade ground.

At 2:30 p.m., Kay Threlkeld will present "Women's Voices from the Emigrant Trails."

At 3:30 p.m., park living history interpreters will present a demonstration of historic weapons.

Kids ages seven to twelve are invited to gather on the parade ground at 4:30 p.m. for "Junior Soldier Drill," in which they will be schooled in marching and drill just as the soldiers of Fort Laramie were 125 years ago.

The day will close with a "final bang" as members of the staff of the park re-create an 1876- period retreat parade and cannon firing for the lowering of our national colors at 5:15 p.m. The day will end at 5:30 p.m.

Throughout the day, members of the public can visit a variety of living history stations and period craft demonstrations. Free samples of army bread will be given out in the 1876 bakery.

A food concession will be operated by the Goshen County Chapter of Relay for Life and will be selling drinks, hamburgers, and chips. The 1883 Soldiers bar will also be open and will be selling root beer and sarsaparilla.

For more information about this old-fashioned, event-filled day of family fun and activities, please contact Stephanie Simon at (307) 837-2221.

Updated: June 26, 2008

National Parks That Preserve and Commemorate Independence or Related Themes



[Independence National Historical Park, PA](#): Independence Hall and the related historical buildings which make up the park witnessed the 18th century delegates to the Second Continental Congress argue over the next step in the dangerous game of rebellion and then issue the Declaration of Independence. Eleven years later, secret deliberations and hard compromises resulted in a new frame of government to hold the country together - the Constitution of the United States.

[Boston National Historical Park, MA](#): Discover the revolutionary generation of Bostonians who blazed a trail from colonialism to independence. Boston National Historical Park is an association of sites that together give the visitor a coherent view of the city's role in the nation's history.

[Colonial National Historical Park, VA](#): The park encompasses five units spanning over 9,000 acres and 174 years. The sites mark the first permanent English settlement at Jamestown and the last battle of the American Revolution at Yorktown -- literally the beginning and end of English colonial America. The 23-mile Colonial Parkway provides a link between the two sites. Join National Park Service rangers for interpretive tours and drive the historic tour roads. Experience the sense of place that formed the character of a nation in the 17th and 18th centuries.

[Saratoga National Historical Park, NY](#): Site of the first significant American military victory during the Revolution, the Battles of Saratoga ranks among the most decisive battles in world history. Here in 1777, American forces met, defeated and forced a major British army to surrender, an event which led France to recognize the independence of the United States and enter the war as a decisive military ally of the struggling Americans.

[Appomattox Court House National Historical Park, VA](#): On Palm Sunday, April 9, 1865 General Robert E. Lee surrendered the Army of Northern Virginia to Lt. General Ulysses S. Grant signaling the end of the Southern States' attempt to create a separate nation. The surrender at the small village of Appomattox Court House in Virginia set the stage for the emergence of an expanded and more powerful Federal government. In a

large sense the struggle between the Federalists and Anti-Federalists, in Philadelphia, over how much power the central government would hold over the states had finally been settled. The end of the war led directly to the adoption of the 13th, 14th, and 15th amendments to the Constitution – ending slavery, providing citizenship and the right to vote (for males only, women would not get the right to vote until 1920).

Jefferson National Expansion Memorial, MO: The Gateway Arch, the Museum of Westward Expansion, and St. Louis' Old Courthouse, site of the Dred Scott Case, make up this park. During a nationwide competition in 1947-48, architect Eero Saarinen's inspired design for a 630- foot stainless steel arch was chosen as a perfect monument to the spirit of the western pioneers.

Women's Rights National Historical Site, NY: The Park consists of four major historical properties and a state of the art Visitor Center. Start at the Visitor Center where you can view an inspirational film and exhibits. Continue to the Wesleyan Chapel and imagine being a participant at the First Women's Rights Convention.



Washington Monument, District of Columbia: Of all the Presidents of the United States, George Washington is the most celebrated. Efforts to commemorate his legacy began during his lifetime and continue to this day. His leadership and service to the republic have been distinguished through the naming of the federal capital, universities, streets, counties, and a state. In addition to these honors, he has been remembered in works of art and monumental buildings. But none have captured the imagination of the people world-wide like the Washington Monument.

USS Arizona Memorial: Today the USS Arizona is a national shrine that symbolizes American sacrifice and resolve. Through national tragedy, a "sleeping giant awoke" and the United States moved towards its destiny as a global power

The National World War II Memorial: Located on the National Mall in Washington, DC the memorial commemorates the sacrifice and celebrates the victory of the WWII generation. The World War II Memorial creates a distinct, evocative and serene tribute yet remains respectful and sensitive to its historic surroundings. The memorial was recently dedicated on May 29th, 2004.

Lincoln Home National Historic Site, IL: The foundation of Abrahams Lincoln's political beliefs rested on the idea expressed in the Declaration of Independence that, "All men are created equal ..." In his time, the debate over slavery divided the country. Lincoln Home NHS gives visitors the opportunity to walk in the footsteps of Abraham Lincoln. A four block historic neighborhood surrounds the only home Mr. Lincoln ever owned. Lincoln's home is the centerpiece of the site. It has been restored to its 1860s appearance, revealing Lincoln as husband, father, politician, and President-elect.

Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt National Historic Site: Contains "Springwood", the lifelong home of America's only four-term President. Roosevelt successfully led this nation through the greatest crises of the Twentieth Century, the Great Depression and World War II. Also on the site is the Presidential Library and Museum, operated by the National Archives. Visitors may enjoy a guided tour of FDR's home, take a self-guided tour of the Museum, or stroll the grounds, gardens, and trails of this 300-acre site.

Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site, KS: On October 26, 1992, Congress passed Public Law 102-525 establishing Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site to commemoratethe landmark Supreme Court decision aimed at ending segregation in public schools. On May 17, 1954, the Supreme Court unanimously declared that separate educational facilities are inherently unequal" and, as such, violate the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees all citizens "equal protection of the laws."

Mount Rushmore National Memorial, SD: The four figures carved in stone on Mount Rushmore represent the first 150 years of American history. The birth of our nation was guided by the vision and courage of George Washington. Thomas Jefferson always had dreams of something bigger, first in the words of the Declaration of Independence and later in the expansion of our nation through the Louisiana Purchase. Preservation of the union was paramount to Abraham Lincoln and eventually a nation where all men were free and equal was destined to be. At the turn of the Twentieth Century, Theodore Roosevelt saw that in our nation was the possibility for greatness. Our nation was changing from a rural republic to a world power. The ideals of these presidents laid a foundation for our nation as solid as the rock from which their figures are carved.

Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, GA: Martin Luther King, Jr., National Historic Site includes a number of facilities that are operated in partnership with the National Park Service, Ebenezer Baptist Church and The King Center. Within these facilities the visitor can learn about Dr. King's life and his influence on the civil rights movement in America.

The National Mall, District of Columbia: The National Mall's origins are as old as the capital city itself. The open space and parklands envisioned by Pierre L'Enfant's plan, which was commissioned by George Washington, created an ideal stage for national expressions of remembrance, observance and protest.

Morristown National Historical Park, NJ: Attracted by Morristown's strategic location, General George Washington twice chose Morristown as the site of the Continental Army's main winter encampment during the War for Independence. The park includes the site of the fortification from the 1777 encampment, and most of the ground occupied during the vast 1779-80 encampment, where over 10,000 troops endured the worst winter of the American Revolution. The Ford Mansion, here Washington made his headquarters, is an important feature of Morristown NHP and recalls civilian contributions to the winning of Independence.



Home of Franklin D. Roosevelt NHS



Lincoln Home NHS



Valley Forge NHP

Additional National Park Sites that Preserve or Commemorate Independence or Related Themes

[Adams National Historical Park](#) - Quincy, MA
[Andrew Johnson National Historic Site](#) - Greeneville, TN
[Arlington House, The Robert E. Lee Memorial National Memorial](#) - Arlington, VA
[Boston African American National Historic Site](#) - Boston, MA
[Charles Pinkney National Historic Site](#) - Sullivan's Island, SC
[Cowpens National Battlefield](#) - Chesnee, SC
[Cumberland Gap National Historical Park](#) - Middlesboro, KY
[Eisenhower National Historic Site](#) - Gettysburg, PA
[Eleanor Roosevelt National Historic Site](#) - Hyde Park, NY
[Ellis Island National Monument](#) - NJ, NY
[Fort Davis National Historic Site](#) - Fort Davis, TX
[Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine](#) - Baltimore, MD
[Fort Moultrie National Monument](#) - Sullivan's Island, SC
[Fort Necessity National Battlefield](#) - Farmington, PA
[Fort Pulaski National Monument](#) - Savannah, GA
[Fort Stanwix National Monument](#) - Rome, NY
[Fort Sumter National Monument](#) - Charleston Harbor, SC
[Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial National Memorial](#) - Washington, DC
[Frederick Douglass National Historic Site](#) - Washington, DC
[General Grant National Memorial](#) - New York, NY
[George Rogers Clark National Historical Park](#) - Vincennes, IN
[George Washington Birthplace National Monument](#) - Westmoreland County, VA
[Gettysburg National Military Park](#) - Gettysburg, PA
[Guilford Courthouse National Military Park](#) - Greensboro, NC
[Hamilton Grange National Memorial](#) - New York, NY
[Harpers Ferry National Historical Park](#) - Harpers Ferry, WV
[Harry S Truman National Historic Site](#) - Independence and Grandview, MO
[Herbert Hoover National Historic Site](#) - West Branch, IA
[Homestead National Monument of America](#) - Beatrice, NE
[John F. Kennedy National Historic Site](#) - Brookline, MA
[Kings Mountain National Military Park](#) - Blacksburg, SC
[Lincoln Memorial National Memorial](#) - Washington, DC
[Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site](#) - Little Rock, AR
[Lyndon B. Johnson National Historical Park](#) - Johnson City, TX
[Manassas National Battlefield Park](#) - Manassas, VA
[Minute Man National Historical Park](#) - Concord, Lincoln, Lexington, MA
[Manzanar National Historic Site](#) - Independence, CA
[Moores Creek National Battlefield](#) - Currie, NC
[Morristown National Historical Park](#) - Morristown, NJ
[Nez Perce National Historical Park](#) - four states, ID,MT,OR,WA
[Ninety Six National Historic Site](#) - Ninety Six, SC
[Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail](#) - parts of, NC,SC,TN,VA

[President's Park \(White House\)](#) - Washington, DC
[Sagamore Hill National Historic Site](#) - Oyster Bay, NY
[Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail](#) - Montgomery, Lowndes & Dallas Counties, AL
[Shiloh National Military Park](#) - Shiloh, TN
[Statue of Liberty National Monument](#) - New York, NY
[Thaddeus Kosciuszko National Memorial](#) - Philadelphia, PA
[Thomas Jefferson Memorial National Memorial](#) - Washington, DC
[Tuskegee Institute National Historic Site](#) - Tuskegee Institute, AL
[Ulysses S Grant National Historic Site](#) - St. Louis, MO
[Valley Forge National Historical Park](#) - Valley Forge, PA
[Vicksburg National Military Park](#) - Vicksburg, MS
[William Howard Taft National Historic Site](#) - Cincinnati, OH

Additional National Park Service web sites about Independence or Related Themes

Revolutionary War

<http://www.nps.gov/revwar>
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/categrs/mili7.htm>
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/museum/exhibits/revwar/index.htm>
<http://www.nps.gov/vafo/mropening.htm>
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/declaration/
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/inde/shs.pdf

The Constitution and the Declaration of Independence

http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/dube/inde1.htm
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/categrs/govn2.htm>
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/declaration
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/butowsky2/index.htm

Presidents of the United States

http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/presidents/index.htm
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/categrs/govn6.htm>
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nhl/themes/Scanned%20Nominations/Presidential-Sites.pdf>

The Civil Rights Movement

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/travel/civilrights/>
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/categrs/etnc1.htm>
http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/online_books/nhl/school.htm

Women's Rights

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/nr/feature/wom/>
<http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/categrs/women.htm>

American History Online Publications

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/categrs/index.htm>

<http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/books-title.htm>

http://www.cr.nps.gov/history/park_histories/index.htm

Return to [Related Sites](#)

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