



**NEWS RELEASE**

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## Valley Forge National Historical Park announces Summer 2007 Calendar of Events

Valley Forge, PA – Enjoy summer in Valley Forge with more things to do than ever before! All programming listed below runs June 16 through September 3 unless noted otherwise.

### **Event! March-out of the Continental Army - June 16 – 17, 2007**

Six months after Washington's Army marched into Valley Forge in the winter of 1777 as a tired, cold, ill-equipped, group of 12,000 men, they marched out as a highly trained, fully outfitted fighting force in pursuit of the British. Their achievements will be honored at the 229<sup>th</sup> annual "March-out" celebration at Valley Forge National Historical Park on June 16 and 17. Activities will take place at the Muhlenberg Brigade from 10am to 4pm, with formal reenactments at 11am, 1pm and 3pm. Free.

### **Storytelling Benches**

*NEW!* Guaranteed to educate and entertain, these one-of-a-kind storytelling benches are in three locations around Valley Forge National Historical Park. Storytellers, trained at Once Upon A Nation's unique month-long Benstitute, share riveting stories of the encampment, and how it became a turning point in the Revolutionary War. Short, five-minute stories are told to anyone who comes to visit one of the signature 13-foot curved Once Upon A Nation benches. Hours of operation are June 16 – September 3: 10:30 am – 4:30 pm, daily. The benches will be in three locations: Welcome Center, National Memorial Arch, and Washington's Headquarters. Free.

### **Valley Forge: After Hours**

*NEW!* Spend an intimate evening in a historic setting with key figures of the Valley Forge Encampment, such as General George Washington and Alexander Hamilton. Begin at the park Welcome Center and be transported by trolley to Washington's Headquarters for a picnic supper. Continue with a campfire on the Grand Parade, where Continental soldiers will tell tales of the winter. Saturdays through September 1 at 5:30pm. Duration: 3 hours. Price: \$45 adults; \$40 senior/military/student/children. Tour departs from the Valley Forge Park Welcome Center. For tickets visit [www.ouonceuponanation.org](http://www.ouonceuponanation.org) or call 215-629-4026

### **Valley Forge: Secrets and Spies Tour**

Journey back in time for a top-secret mission led by an American spy. Intrigue abounds as you travel from Philadelphia to Valley Forge, where General George Washington awaits your arrival. While at Valley Forge, visit the encampment to experience the everyday life of a Continental soldier and the women and children who traveled with the army, and report to Washington's Headquarters to receive your orders. Be sure not to reveal your identity or the entire mission will be blown. Saturdays through September 1 at 1pm. Duration: 4 hours. Price: \$40 adults; \$35 student/senior/military; \$25 children 12 and under. Tour departs from Independence Living History Center, 3rd and Chestnut Sts. Philadelphia. For tickets visit [www.valleyforge.org/onceuponanation](http://www.valleyforge.org/onceuponanation) or call 215-629-4026

### **Trolley Tours: The Story of Valley Forge**

Leave your car behind and enjoy a ride through the beautiful park on an old-fashioned open-air trolley, conducted by an expert guide. Daily at 11am, 1pm and 3pm. Duration: 90 minutes. Price: \$15 for adults, \$9 for military and seniors, \$6 for children under 11 years of age. Tours leave from the Encampment Store at the park Welcome Center. For reservations or more information, call 610-783-7503.

### **Walking Tours**

Explore the history of Valley Forge and its impact on the American Revolution during a 40-minute walking tour. Daily, 11:50am and 1:50pm. Tours depart from the park Welcome Center. Free.

### **Weekend Bike Tours**

*NEW!* Join a guide for a 90-minute bike tour of Valley Forge on Saturdays and Sundays at 11:00am. Hear about the park's vital natural history, and find out why these features led General Washington to choose Valley Forge for the Continental Army's six-month encampment in the winter of 1777-78. Tours depart from the main Welcome Center parking lot, adjacent to the bike rental facility. Free.

### **Welcome Center**

Your starting point for a great experience at Valley Forge. Talk to a park ranger, pick up a map, and find out about all the great things you can do at the park. Get an overview of the history of Valley Forge as you stroll through the exhibits featuring remarkable artifacts from the encampment. See an 18-minute film about the encampment. Pick up a snack or a great souvenir at the Encampment Store (see below). Get a tip on regional activities from expert Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau staff. Daily, 9:00am to 6:00pm. 8am opening July and August. Free. For information, call 610-783-1077.

### **Gallery Talks**

*NEW!* Wiggle your way into 18<sup>th</sup> century clothing, touch and learn about artifacts discovered in a recent archeological dig, or think kind thoughts about your physician's medical training as you handle surgical tools and hear about medical practices during

the encampment. Talks take place at the Welcome Center gallery. Monday through Friday at 10:00am, 12noon, and 2:00pm. Duration: 20 minutes.

### **Encampment Store at Valley Forge**

Unique gifts, prints, one-of-a-kind books, souvenirs, beverages, and snacks. Located in the park Welcome Center. Open daily 9:00am – 6:00pm. For more information call 610-783-7503.

### **Muhlenberg Brigade Huts**

Soldiers built and lived in log huts to get through the winter. Visit with living history interpreters describing daily life, privations, and the ultimate triumph of the troops. Daily. 10:00am to 4:00pm. Free

### **Washington's Headquarters**

Living history interpreters describe the challenges facing General Washington as he struggled to keep the army together and the Revolution alive. Tour the tiny house in which the general and more than 20 members of his military and domestic staff—and Martha!—lived and worked. **Also a Once Upon A Nation story telling bench location.** Daily. 9:00am to 5:00pm. Free.

### **Varnum's Quarters**

A farm family woke up one day to find an army occupying their land and a general sharing their home! At this authentically furnished house, talk with living history interpreters who discuss the civilian experience of war, the contributions of the African American troops who were encamped nearby, and activities on the Grand Parade, which the house overlooks. Saturdays and Sundays, 12 noon to 4:00pm. Park at the von Steuben statue parking lot on Route 23 and follow the path to Varnum's Quarters. Free.

### **Bird and Raptor Watch**

*NEW!* Valley Forge is one of the best places in the region to spot birds. Meet a naturalist to hear more. Bring you own binoculars or use ours. Saturdays from June 9 through August 11, from 9:00am to 1:00pm. Park at the von Steuben statue parking lot on Route 23 and follow the path to the tent near Varnum's Quarters. Free

### **Washington Memorial Chapel**

The National Shrine at Valley Forge pays homage to the General Washington and the Valley Forge Encampment. An active Episcopal church, open daily 9:00am – 5:00pm. Free carillon concerts every Wednesday in July and August at 7:30pm. Afternoon carillon playings every Sunday at 12:30 pm, 1:30 pm, 2:30 pm, 3:30 pm. For more information visit [www.washingtonmemorialchapel.org](http://www.washingtonmemorialchapel.org)

### **Chapel Cabin Shop**

Fine gifts, souvenirs and our own baked goods and candies. Located directly behind Washington Memorial Chapel. Open daily 9:00am – 5:00pm. For more information call 610-783-0576

### **Cell Phone Tours**

A great way to hear about the park anytime. Dial 408-794-2820 and follow the prompts for 12 different messages about what you see. Look for the yellow signs throughout the park, or pick up a map in the Welcome Center. Free except for the cost of the call. Available 24 hours a day.

### **Canteen Snack Bar**

Enjoy hot dogs, ice cream, soft drinks, health-conscious snacks and much more. Located in the Welcome Center main parking lot. Daily. 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

### **Valley Forge Bike Rentals**

Hybrid bike rentals for adults and children get you out on over 20 miles of park bike trails. Located in the Welcome Center main parking lot and the Betzwood parking lot. Open daily, 10:00am – 4:00pm.

For more information on Valley Forge National Historical Park and a free copy of the park's Summer Program guide visit [www.nps.gov/vafo](http://www.nps.gov/vafo).

For area visitor information and discounted summer hotel packages visit [www.valleyforge.org](http://www.valleyforge.org)