

VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK CELEBRATES ACHIEVEMENTS OF WASHINGTON'S ARMY

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Contacts

Barbara Pollarine, 610-783-1006

Marc Brier, 610-783-1064

VALLEY FORGE, Pa., – 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 a highly-trained, fully-outfitted fighting force in pursuit of the British who were moving toward New York. Their efforts will be honored next weekend at the 228th annual "March-out" celebration at Valley Forge National Historical Park.

"To celebrate the March-out this year, we're working with members of the Oneida Indian Nation who served in many roles, from soldiers and riflemen to artillerymen in the Continental Army, and the Second Pennsylvania Regiment to present a family and kid-oriented educational program," said Valley Forge National Historical Park Ranger Marc Brier. "We're aiming to illustrate the successes of the encampment," added Brier.

The activities will take place between 10am and 4pm on Saturday, June 17 and Sunday, June 18. Below is a listing of activities for both days:

- 2pm: At the Muhlenberg Brigade, tour route stop #2, on Outer Line Drive at the Park, all the regiments assembled at Valley Forge will come together for the ceremonial March-out of Valley Forge. Members of the regiment will perform various tactical maneuvers taught to the original Continental soldiers by Baron Von Steuben during their Valley Forge encampment.
- 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.: Formal tactical rifle, musket, and cannon firing demonstrations will be conducted.

It was under the intensive training of Baron von Steuben that the Continental Army was ready to meet the British on equal terms. Visitors will learn how the Continental Army used the "Baron's" specific lessons to defeat the British in battle, as well as how Steuben's program helped the Continental Army achieve victory of another sort.

Upon the March-out, Washington had a better-trained army, as well as an alliance and trade agreement with France. In addition, when the British retreated from Philadelphia, the Revolutionary forces were also able to take back possession of the city without having to fire a single shot.

The following special activities will take place on Saturday, 6/17 in the Welcome Center:

- 1pm: Thomas Fleming, author of *Washington's Secret War: The Hidden History of Valley Forge* will engage visitors with a 15-minute discussion followed by a book signing.

- 11am to 1pm: Children's Activity for Father's Day "Metal Tooling"

Admission for all activities is free. The Welcome Center will be open all weekend and visitors are encouraged to browse through the Encampment Store. Washington's Headquarters is open to the public, as are the soldiers' log huts throughout the 3,600-acre park. Program bulletins about this and other upcoming events are available at the Welcome Center, located at the intersection of Route 23 and North Gulph Road. For further information, please call 610-783-1077.

About Valley Forge National Historical Park Valley Forge National Historical Park educates present and future generations of Americans about one of the most defining events in our nation's history by preserving the natural and cultural resources that commemorate the encampment of the Continental Army at Valley Forge in 1777-78.