



## **VALLEY FORGE TO OFFER MOST DIVERSE VISITOR PROGRAMMING IN ITS HISTORY THIS SUMMER**

### **Date**

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### **Contact**

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VALLEY FORGE, Pa., – Whatever activity you enjoy chances are you can do it this summer at Valley Forge National Historical Park. From shopping to biking, campfires to trolley tours, casual dining to concerts and historic reenactments to children's craft activities.

There are so many things happening this summer at Valley Forge that it's enough to tire out a Continental Army soldier. The park's summer season officially kicks off this Saturday and goes through Labor Day. The Welcome Center and Encampment Store will be open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily throughout the summer.

March Out Commemoration Weekend This weekend marks the 228th annual "March-out" celebration at Valley Forge National Historical Park. The celebration commemorates the Continental Army's march out of the Valley Forge Encampment on June 19, 1778 as a highly trained, fully outfitted fighting force in pursuit of the British who were moving toward New York. This free event, which includes formal tactical rifle, musket, and cannon firing demonstrations at 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m. is being held 10am – 4pm this Saturday and Sunday.

Once Upon a Nation's "The Road to Valley Forge: Secrets and Spies" Once Upon A Nation journeys to the Park with "The Road To Valley Forge: Secrets & Spies," where visitors journey back in time for a top-secret mission led by an American spy. Danger abounds as guests travel the roads from Philadelphia to Valley Forge where George Washington awaits their arrival. Each visitor receives a secret identity they are trusted not to reveal. June 17 – September 2: 1

p.m., Saturdays Departs from Independence Visitors Center, 3rd & Chestnut Streets \$40 adults, \$35 student/senior/military, \$25 children 12 & under. Duration: 4 hours

New Valley Forge Trolley Tours Beginning Saturday, June 17th you can ride in style on an old-fashioned, open-air trolley and experience Valley Forge in a whole new way. These 90-minute guided tours stop at key landmarks in the park, and present an abundance of informational commentary. The trolley tours depart from the Welcome Center Thursday through Monday at 11 am, 1 pm, and 3 pm. \$13 adults, \$7 students/pass holder, \$5 children 10 and under.

Quest for Freedom On Saturdays at 1 p.m. through August 19, join "Quest for Freedom," a regional African-American program. Meet Hannah Till, a cook for George Washington and hear her story about what it was like to be enslaved during the Revolution. This program takes place at Washington's Headquarters. \$3 adults, free for Children 16 and under, National Parks Pass and Golden Pass holders.

Storytelling around the Campfire Gather around the campfire and join one of our park rangers in a discussion about a variety of important topics relating to the Philadelphia Campaign and the Valley Forge Encampment. Friday nights at dusk from June 23rd to August 18th. Bring a blanket or lawn chair. Admission is free.

Bike Rentals, Gallery Talks and Ranger Tours For a more hands-on way of touring the park, visitors can rent a hybrid bike and explore the Park on their own, or take a ranger-led bike or walking tour. Bike rentals are available from the lower Welcome Center parking lot daily 10a.m. – 5 p.m. through Labor Day, weather permitting. Rentals start at \$15 adults, \$12 children, \$49 family rate (2 adults and 2 children) for two hours. The 40-minute ranger-led walking tours are free and depart twice daily, at 11:50 a.m. and at 1:50 p.m. Curator-led gallery talks are also planned this summer. Inquire at the Welcome Center for availability.

Kid's Corner Every Saturday is dedicated to children at Kid's Corner, a free event located in the Welcome Center. From 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. kids can learn about the history of Valley Forge while making various crafts they can take home. Upcoming activities include metal tooling, bug bells, patriot necklaces, ladybug thermometers and balsa planes to name a few.

Valley Forge Canteen Casual and affordable dining is now available at the Valley Forge Canteen. Enjoy all Pennsylvania-made products including hot dogs, ice cream, soft pretzels, chips, candy, cakes and beverages. Located in the lower Welcome Center parking area next to bike rentals. Open 10am to 5pm daily through Labor Day.

Concerts at Washington Memorial Chapel The Washington Memorial Chapel is hosting a series of Carillon Concerts, every Sunday afternoon in June and July from at 2pm and throughout July and August on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. All concerts are free to the public and will carry on, rain or shine. Bring a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy the performances, refreshments available at the Chapel Cabin Shop.

Encampment Store at Valley Forge Located in the Welcome Center. The store offers unique gifts, one-of-a-kind books, snacks and souvenirs. Open daily 9am to 6pm.

Friends of Valley Forge Lunch and Learn Series Wednesdays 12 p.m. June 21 - July 26, 2006. See Welcome Center staff for details.

Receive your free summer program guide and information on other upcoming events at the Welcome Center, located at the intersection of Route 23 and North Gulph Road in King of Prussia. For further information, please call 610-783-1077 or visit [www.nps.gov/vafo](http://www.nps.gov/vafo).

About Valley Forge National Historical Park Valley Forge NHP 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.