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The View From the Forge  
September 2007

Hello, my name is Mike Caldwell, Superintendent of Valley Forge National Historical Park. I'd like to welcome you to "The View from the Forge" – a monthly podcast of news and events from Valley Forge National Historical Park. Here with this month's edition is park volunteer, John Grossman.

Saturday September 29<sup>th</sup> is National Public Lands Day; volunteers and visitors are invited to participate and give back by lending a hand and helping to improve and preserve public lands. Organizations, corporations and individuals are welcome to share in the experience. For more information on how you can volunteer with Valley Forge visit the Welcome Center or visit the park's website at [www.nps.gov/vafo](http://www.nps.gov/vafo)

The park's fall/winter activities began September 1<sup>st</sup>. A new program offered this fall is behind the scenes Vault Tours that allow you to see and hear about artifacts and rare documents that are seldom put on exhibit. Vault tours are held by reservations only and are limited to 8 people per tour. They are held the first and third Saturday of each month starting September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Trolley Tours will continue into the fall running Saturdays and Sundays at 11am, 1pm and 3pm through the end of October.

On Saturdays and Sundays in November the Friends of Valley Forge will host a one hour 'Lunch and learn' program. Bring your own lunch and sit and discuss exciting topics of the encampment and the park with the Friends of Valley Forge. This program is free.

This fall the park is offering an exciting hands-on program for children ages 6-12. In "Joining a Continental Army" children are invited to "enlist" in the Continental Army, they are taught how to stand and march like a soldier, are issued dummy muskets and learn the different ways Washington's soldiers would have carried them. This program will be on the first Saturday of each month.

Opening in October is a new, temporary exhibition presenting the history and archeological discovery of the original iron forge, for which the area was named. The exhibition will be located at the stable at Washington's Headquarters.

On our website we also have online exhibits of The George C. Neumann Collection. You can browse through natural and cultural historical artifacts; 18<sup>th</sup> century military weaponry and related accoutrements tells the story of everyday life of the common soldier during America's War for Independence. Accumulated over a twenty year period by Mr. Neumann, the collection was purchased by the National Park Service, in 1978.

For more information on the park's collections and archives, please look under the history and culture section of our website.

For more information on any of the park's programs stop by the Welcome Center or visit the parks website at [www.nps.gov/vafo](http://www.nps.gov/vafo)

This is park volunteer John Grossman. Thanks for listening, and we will see you in the park.