

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Celebrating

INDEPENDENCE

In America's National Parks

2009



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



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of Communications
& Public Affairs
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20240
202-208-6843 phone
202-219-0910 fax

National Park Service News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JUNE 15, 2009

David Barna: (202) 208-6843

Gerry Gaumer: (202) 208-6843

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.

“The Fourth of July is an American tradition and a National Park tradition,” said Dan Wenk, acting Director of the National Park Service. “It is a time to come together with family and friends and celebrate the birth of this nation. I invite everyone to celebrate Independence this year at a National Park site - 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. 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 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 - 2009

Colorado

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-eight years ago by the legendary John Otto. Today, Mesa County’s Technical Search and Rescue Team continue 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 or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/colm/>

Hawai'i

World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument

Survivors ring bell for freedom: Join the national effort to Let Freedom Ring at the World War II Valor in the Pacific National Monument 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 Saturday, **July 4, 2009**. 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, 1941 and World War II. They will be available for pictures and book signing after the short, formal presentation. 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.letfreedom-ring.org.

Illinois

Lincoln Home National Historic Site

Capitol City Celebration (the evening of **July 3 thru July 4, 2009**) - A variety of period games, performances and activities will take place as part of the City of Springfield's Bicentennial celebration. For more information about this program, contact the park at (217) 391-3226 or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/liho/>

Kansas

Fort Larned National Historic Site

Volunteers on the Plains 1859 to 2009: **July 3 & 4, 2009** - This special event honors volunteer units manning Fort Larned during the Indian Wars and 21st Century heroes. Special ceremonies and living history memorialize contributions by volunteer state militia replacing regular army troops redeployed east to fight in the Civil War. 21st Century military and civilian emergency responders will demonstrate equipment and field operations. A special dedication of a Medal of Honor replica recognizing Medal of Honor recipients from Fort Larned's past and Kansans will be conducted. For more information about this program, contact the park at (620) 285-6911 or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/fols/>

Tall Grass Prairie National Preserve

July 3, 4 and 5—Independence Day at the Ranch: On **Friday**, enjoy a day of music and clogging in the historic barn. Clogging demonstrations at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Historic barn dance from 6 p.m.-9 p.m. with the Tallgrass Express String band. Refreshments served.

On **Saturday**, ride in a covered wagon, watch historic cooking demonstrations, and see the blacksmith hard at work.

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) or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/tapr/>

Kentucky

Abraham Lincoln Birthplace National Historic Site

Independence Day Programs: July 4, 2009, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm - Costumed interpreters from the Frazier International History Museum, Louisville, KY will present two special hour long programs, "Young Abe" at 11:00 a.m. and "Day in a Soldiers Life: the American Civil War" at 2:00 p.m. In addition there will be a living history program with demonstrations about military life during the Civil War. Demonstrations will be from 10:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. (ET). For more information about this program, contact the park at (270) 358 -3137 or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/abli/>

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park

Golden Anniversary Dedication Celebration: July 4, 2009 - The July 4th, 1959 weekend was a buzz as local residents and dignitaries celebrated the dedication of the new Cumberland Gap National Historical Park. 50 years later, the excitement continues with the purchase of lands surrounding Fern Lake and the recently restored Wilderness Road Trail. Festivities galore will mark this day. Activities will be at the Cumberland Gap National Historical Park visitor center. For more information about this program, contact the park at (606)248-2817 or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/cuga/>

Maryland

Antietam National Battlefield

Salute to Independence: July 5th, 2009, Concert starts at 7:30 p.m., Fireworks at approximately 9:45 p.m. - There is a minimum one hour to ninety minute traffic delay when leaving the event so be patient. Be sure to bring a blanket, plenty of water or soft drinks, and a flashlight. Sharpsburg Volunteer Fire Department and Emergency Medical Service sells food and drinks at the event. Be prepared for large crowds of up to 30,000 people. Limited parking is available in the park and additional parking can be found on Rt. 65 and Rt. 34 bordering the park. For more information about this program, contact the park at (301) 432-5124 or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/anti/>

Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine

The Glorious Fourth!...an Old-Fashioned Fourth of July! - **Saturday, July 4**, 12 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.: July 4th was the most important holiday in early America. Many regarded the War of 1812 as “America’s Second War of Independence.” Join the garrison of Fort McHenry and patriotic citizens of Baltimore for the following activities: fife and drum music, cannon firing, a musket salute for 18 states, period dancing and games. Highlight of the event will be the public reading of the Declaration of Independence at 3 p.m.

For more information, please call the park at (410) 962-4290 or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/fomc/>

Massachusetts

Adams National Historical Park

Liberty or Loyalty: Take a Stand: On **Sunday, July 5, 2009**, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Join the Continental Congress and debate independence with the future President, John Adams. Admission \$1-\$5, Massachusetts school children free. Old State House at the corner of State Street and Washington Street in Boston. For more information, please call (617) 720-1713.

Boston African American National Historic Site

Freedom’s Trial: A Unique Walking Tour Offered by Boston African American National Historic Site: On **Tuesday, June 30, 2009**, **Thursday, July 2, 2009**, and on **Saturday, July 4, 2009** 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 the park website at www.nps.gov/boaf.

Boston Harbor Islands National Park Area

Boston Light Climbing Adventure: On **Thursday, July 2, 2009**, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. A guided tour of Little Brewster Island, site of the first lighthouse in the nation, meet the keep and cruise the outer Brewster islands. The boat leaves from Fan Pier at the Moakley Courthouse, Northern Avenue, South Boston. Admission \$40-\$48, reservations recommended. For more information, please call (617) 223-8666.

Kayaking at Grape Island: On **Thursday, July 2, 2009**, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Take the water shuttle from Georges Island to Grape Island and kayak around the island with an experienced ranger. Admission \$8-\$14 for ferry, space is limited. Boston Harbor Islands Ferry Kiosk, Long Wharf, Boston. For more information, please call (617) 223-8666.

Boston National Historical Park

Rum and Revolution: On **Wednesday, July 1, 2009**, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Join a ranger-guided walking tour of colonial taverns where the Revolution was brewed! Tours begin at the Boston National Historical Park visitor center at 15 State Street. Space is limited. For more information, please call (617) 242-5642.

Join the Colonial Militia!: On **Thursday, July 2, 2009**, from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Learn about the life of an eighteenth-century soldier. The program will take place at the Battle of Bunker Hill Museum in Monument Square, Charlestown. For more information, please call (617) 242-5601.

A Flag for the Fourth: On **Saturday, July 4, 2009**, 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 **Saturday, July 4, 2009**, 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.

“Cock..Firelock! Present..Fire!” On **Saturday, July 4, 2009** from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., demonstration of eighteenth-century military skills. The program will take place at the Bunker Hill Monument in Charlestown. For more information, please call (617) 242-5601.

The Battle for Bunker Hill: On **Saturday, July 4, 2009**, 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 4, 2009**, 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 **Sunday, July 5, 2009**, from 6:45 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 call (617) 242-7511

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

Nebraska

Homestead National Monument of America

Fourth of July Campfire Program: Homestead National Monument of America will be hosting its annual Fourth of July Campfire Program. The program series will begin on Saturday, **July 4** at 7:30 p.m. behind the Education Center (old visitor center). First, musician Chris Sayre will entertain with patriotic songs from the 18th Century to today. Then join a Park Ranger to discuss the meaning of patriotism. Campfire programs 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," according to Mark Engler, Superintendent of Homestead National Monument of America. "The Fourth of July is a great time for us to begin our annual campfire programs."

Homestead National Monument of America is a unit of the National Park System located four miles west of Beatrice, Nebraska on State Highway 4. The monument is open 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every day, including Saturday and Sunday. Admission is free of charge. **For additional information, please call 402-223-3514 or visit www.nps.gov/home.**

New Jersey

Morristown National Historical Park

Saturday, July 4; noon: **Warm-Up for the Declaration.** Stories, riddles, jokes and an inspection of the troops are just part of the warm-up activities prior to our reading of the Declaration of Independence. Join in the fun as a costumed park ranger entertains the crowd and gives a "kids level" explanation of the Declaration. Ford Mansion Grounds.

Saturday, July 4; 1:00 p.m.: **Public Reading of the Declaration of Independence.** Celebrate the Fourth of July the way our ancestors did, with a public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Cheer along with costumed park rangers as they denounce tyranny and praise liberty! Ford Mansion Grounds.

For more information about Morristown NHP's July 4th events, please call (973) 539-2016 ext. 210 (Washington's Headquarters) or (973) 543-4030 (Jockey Hollow).

New York

Fort Stanwix National Monument

Public Readings of the Declaration of Independence: July 4, 2009 - Join the Park as we commemorate public readings of the Declaration of Independence to the Continental Army. In the morning and in the afternoon public readings will take place in the fort's Parade Ground. This will be followed by cannon salutes and cheers for the new independent United States of America. Children may join this event by serving

as honor guards. Please call the park for further information at (315) 338-7730 or visit our website at <http://www.nps.gov/fost/>

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 **Saturday, 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, closeup 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 day. The program will include Don Luckenbill's "Sagamore Hill March," written in 1953 for the opening of Sagamore Hill. Seating for the audience is on the lawn, so you may want to bring a blanket or a lawn chair.

The home is open from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and morning is the best time for a tour. The house is open by guided tour only. Tours are held on the hour, cost \$5 per person, and are available on a first-come-first-served basis until 4:00 p.m. Those wishing to enter the house must have a ticket and an assigned tour time.

Sagamore Hill National Historic Site is located at 12 Sagamore Hill Road, Oyster Bay, New York. For more information, please call Sagamore Hill National Historic Site at (516) 922-4788 or visit our website at www.nps.gov/sahi

Saratoga National Historical Park

Fourth of July: Saturday, July 4, 2009 at the Visitor Center (Battlefield) - Morning citizenship ceremony, followed by Park Ranger Joe Craig portraying a 1776 town crier with news of American Independence. Join with fellow citizens in toasting the 13 "new" states. Naturalization Ceremony at 10 am; Readings of the Declaration of Independence at 1 and 3 pm. House For more information about this program, contact the park at (518) 664-9821 ext. 224 or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/sara/>

Ohio

William Howard Taft National Historic Site

Independence Day Celebration 2009: Come celebrate with us on **July 4, 2009** - Independence Day and enjoy free tours, free music, and free Ice Cream. The National Park Service is proud to host Jake Speed and the Freddie's. **FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.** For more information, contact Park Ranger Kerry Wood at (513) 684-3262 ext:310.

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.

Pennsylvania

Gettysburg National Military Park

146th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg: July 1, 2 & 3, 2009 - A series of ranger-conducted battle walks and special programs will mark the 146th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg. The **146th Anniversary Battle Walks** will be held July 1-3. A schedule will be posted on our Summer Ranger Programs page by June 1, 2009.

The **Real-Time Programs** guide visitors through the battle in chronological order in a series of special, short programs held at specific sites throughout the park. The schedule for these programs will be announced. A complete schedule of the park's anniversary programs will be available at the Visitor Center Information desk. These programs are free of charge. House For more information about this program, contact the park at (717) 334-1124, extension 8023 or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/gett/>

Independence National Historical Park

Independence Hall (enter at 5th and Chestnut Streets) and the Liberty Bell Center (enter off Chestnut Street, between 5th and 6th 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 6th 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 reenactment 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

Celebrate our nation's independence on Friday, July 3, 2009 at Cowpens National Battlefield. This 17th annual FREE event is a traditional visitor and local favorite. The day will begin with a guided battlefield walk at 9:30 a.m. and end with fireworks behind the Visitor Center around 9:00 p.m.

Between 7:30 p.m. and 9:00 p.m., the Spartanburg Community Band will play patriotic music. In the evening, visiting children can participate in special family activities and 18th century games. The fireworks will be begun around 9:00 p.m.

Bring a picnic and enjoy the evening with your family and friends. If you plan to stay for the fireworks, remember to bring a flashlight to light the way back to your car. Please note that there will NOT be food or drink available for purchase in the park. Restaurants and fast food are located in both Chesnee and Gaffney. Safety is our top priority – park regulations prohibit personal fireworks, chemlights, sparklers, etc. In the event of inclement weather, only the fireworks will be rescheduled for Sunday, July 5, 2009.

Cowpens National Battlefield is the site of the American victory over the British on January 17, 1781 and is located 10 miles west of Gaffney, SC, and 3 miles east of Chesnee, SC at the intersection of Highways 11, 110, and 221-A. For more information, call (864) 461-2828 or visit the park's web page at www.nps.gov/cowp/.

Kings Mountain National Military Park

Sign the Declaration of Independence on Independence Day: July 4, 2009 from 9:00 am to 6:00 pm at the park Visitor Center. For more information about this program, contact the park at (864) 936-7921 or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/kimo/>

Virginia

Colonial National Historical Park

Independence Day Celebration: The Yorktown Battlefield unit of Colonial National Historical Park will host the Thirtieth 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, musical entertainment, and a bellringing 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.

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 learn about the significance of this gift to the United States, from the Netherlands. The National Park Service recommends visitors use Metro or other public transportation, since on-site parking will not be available. Visitor access to the viewing areas in the carillon will, unfortunately, not be possible this year.

George Washington Memorial Parkway Access points:

- The U.S. Marine Corps War Memorial/Netherlands Carillon area - pedestrian access only.
- Memorial Circle area - pedestrian access from Metrorail and limited vehicle parking north and south of Memorial Circle.
- Columbia Island - very limited vehicle parking accessed only from the Parkway's southbound lanes; pedestrian access available from the Pentagon's north parking lot.

Note: There is no access from Columbia Island across the Parkway, to the Potomac River shoreline.

- Gravelly Point - Limited parking in the paved parking lot and vehicle parking in the open field (weather permitting). Both areas accessed only from the Parkway's northbound lanes.
- Dangerfield Island - vehicle parking in a medium sized lot with good handicapped access to views of the fireworks. The site is accessed from north and south lanes of the Parkway.
- Safety Note: Parking along the curbside of the Parkway is not allowed.

Washington, DC

National Mall

America's 2009 Independence Day Celebration with a Parade, Activities, Concerts, and Fireworks in the Nation's Capital: The National Park Service announces the **2009** annual **Independence Day** celebration of our nation's founding, continuing the tradition of daylong activities on **July 4** 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. The U.S. Capitol grounds open at 5:00 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-third 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 7th and 14th Streets from June 24-June 28 and July 1-5, 2009. Evening events begin at 5:30 p.m. Admission is free. During the Festival, you may call (202) 633-7484 to hear a recorded description of daily events. The Folklife Festival includes daily and evening music and dance performances, crafts and cooking demonstrations, storytelling and discussions of cultural issues. The themes of the 2009 program will be: Giving Voice: The Power of Words in African American Culture, The Americas: A Musical World and Wales Smithsonian Cymra. For more information, please visit www.folklife.si.edu/center/festival_2009.html or call (202) 633-1000.

The National Park Service's "**America's 2009 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 7th Street to 17th 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. The National Park Service, with the assistance of many individual volunteers and the Environmental Protection Agency, will monitor the grounds and maintain recycling locations along the Washington monument grounds to collect recyclable, including 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 17th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W. with the United States Army Band and special guest Country Music Artist, Mark Wills. 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.

Emmy and Golden Globe Award-winning actor Jimmy Smits returns to host the biggest and brightest birthday party in the country, A Capitol Fourth, featuring for the first time ever, Barry Manilow, who will both open and close the concert broadcast with a stirring medley of hits and patriotic classics along with the National Symphony Orchestra and the Choral Arts Society of Washington. He will be joined by the Queen of Soul Aretha Franklin, international pop sensation Natasha Bedingfield, the Tony and Grammy Award-winning cast of Jersey Boys, multi Grammy Award-nominee Michael Feinstein and acclaimed classical pianist Andrew von Oeyen.

This star-studded cast will light up the stage on the West Lawn of the United States Capitol for the 29th annual A Capitol Fourth celebration featuring unrivaled musical performances with the National Symphony Orchestra under the direction of America's prince of pops Erich Kunzel. As a special treat for the entire family, Elmo, Big Bird, Cookie Monster, Oscar the Grouch and more of the SESAME STREET gang will be on hand to celebrate America's 233rd birthday. The Muppets will perform a musical medley of patriotic favorites as well as iconic songs that we all know and love from this breakthrough children's television series that is celebrating 40 years of fun and learning. 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 9:28 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 Sunday, 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_2009.

West Virginia

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park

America's Picnic: Celebrating The Glorious Fourth: July 4, 2009 from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm in the Lower Town District - Americans celebrated the nation's birthday with picnics, band concerts, and patriotic speeches honoring the founding fathers and the glorious republic. Visitors are invited to see special displays of discoveries, inventions, and natural amusements in the "*Wonders of the Modern World 1860!*" exhibition or join a special guided living history program featuring the town's famous July 4ths during the turbulent years at mid century. Visitors can compete in the hometown militia games of tug-of-war and fire engine house water bucket brigade. On Saturday, visitors are invited to experience the patriotic passion of a traditional hometown band concert with the Wildcat Regiment Band, the Regimental Band of the 105th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry. For more information about this program, contact the park at (304) 535-6298 or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/hafe/>

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, 2009**, at 9:30 a.m. with a military flag raising ceremony and cannon firing. The popular 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 the 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, noted Plains Indian Warrior living Historian, will be present throughout the day and will give a formal program at 12:45 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 3:30 p.m. National Park living history interpreters will present a historic weapons demonstration, including small arms and artillery.

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 end with a "final bang" as park staff recreates an 1876 period retreat parade and cannon firing for the lowering of our national colors at 5:15 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 or visit the park website at <http://www.nps.gov/foia/>

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

06.12.09