

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove
National Historical Park



Remembering *Cedar Creek* 151st Anniversary



Commemorative
Event Program

October 16 - 18, 2015

A Nation Remembers...

After stirring from the dense fog on the early morning of October 19, 1864, Confederate Lieutenant General Jubal Early's surprise attack was his last attempt to control the Shenandoah Valley. Union Major General Philip Sheridan's response forever sealed the Valley's fate and secured a victorious presidential re-election for Abraham Lincoln. The battlefield of Cedar Creek contains these memories along with the struggles and sacrifices of both citizens and soldiers.

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park welcomes you to the 151st anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Cedar Creek. During this anniversary weekend, take time to learn about the history, walk in the soldier's footsteps, and honor the memory of those who sacrificed everything on this hallowed ground.



...And Preserves a Special Place

Congress established Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National Historical Park in 2002 to commemorate the rich history of the Shenandoah Valley including a nationally significant Civil War landscape and antebellum plantation. The park is also embedded within the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Historic District.

The park encompasses approximately 3,700 acres across three counties and is administered as a public and private partnership with the National Park Service and five key land-owning partners. Private citizens, local non-profit organizations, and national entities have worked tirelessly to protect more than 1,500 acres of historic land for perpetuity including the 1797 Belle Grove Manor House and pristine Civil War battlefield land. The partner sites continue to be owned and operated independently.



BELLE GROVE
PLANTATION



Shenandoah County



"We create community through people, parks, and programs."

Parks and Recreation



National Trust *for*
Historic Preservation



Things to Know

A variety of activities have been planned to commemorate the anniversary of the Battle of Cedar Creek. Explore every corner of the park for new perspectives on this critical turning point in the Civil War.

Ticketed Event Grounds: Admission to this area includes the battle reenactments, living history demonstrations, lecture series, sutlers row, and much more.

Ranger Programs: National Park Service rangers will provide a wide range of programs throughout the weekend. Except for programs at Belle Grove, all ranger programs are free of charge.

What to Bring

Plan for a full day of outdoor activities. To make your experience more comfortable, please remember to bring:

- good walking shoes
- rain gear
- camp chair
- snacks and water
- sunscreen
- insect repellent



Questions?

Volunteers are available throughout the event to help with your visit, or stop by the information booth next to the main entrance gate.

For general event questions, please contact the National Park Service (540) 869-3051

Reenactors, please contact the Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation (540) 869-2064

Things to Know

More Information

*Ticketed Event Grounds
Saturday and Sunday*

A variety of food is for sale on the ticketed event grounds

More than 30 Civil War merchants are on site along Sutlers Row

Camps are closed to the public approximately 1 hour before each reenactment

Please turn off your car alarms as artillery fire can set them off

Pets, except for service animals, are not allowed within the ticketed event grounds

Tickets

All events on the ticketed event grounds are included under one admission.

Adults	\$12
Children ages 7 to 17	\$6
Students with ID	\$6
Retired or active military ID	\$6
Persons 65 or older	\$6
Children 6 and under	free

Each ticket provides admission for one day.

Proceeds go to support continued battlefield preservation efforts.

Tickets may be purchased ahead of time at www.ccbf.us or at the Route 11 gate or at the Belle Grove gate. Cash, Visa and Mastercard will be accepted.



Stay Connected!

Get the latest news from the field, or follow along at home!



CedarCreekNPS
BelleGrove
CedarCreekBattlefieldFoundation
ShenandoahAtWar

www.nps.gov/cebe • www.bellegrove.org
www.ccbf.us • www.shenandoahatwar.org

Facilities



Visitor Contact Station
7712 Main Street
Middletown, VA 22645
www.nps.gov/cebe
(540) 869-3051

Friday, Oct. 16
9am - 5pm
Saturday, Oct. 17
9am - 5pm
Sunday, Oct. 18
9am - 5pm



BELLE GROVE
PLANTATION

Belle Grove Plantation
336 Belle Grove Rd.
Middletown, VA 22645
www.bellegrove.org
(540) 869-2028

Friday, Oct. 16
10am - 4 pm
(regular admission)
Saturday, Oct. 17
9am - 4pm
Sunday, Oct. 18
9am - 4pm



Cedar Creek Battlefield
Foundation
Headquarters
8437 Valley Pike
Middletown, VA 22645
www.ccbf.us
(540) 869-2064

Friday, Oct. 16
9am - 5pm
Saturday, Oct. 17
9am - 5pm
Sunday, Oct. 18
9am - 5pm

Hupp's Hill Civil War
Park and Museum
33229 Old Valley Pike
Strasburg, VA 22641
(540) 465-5884

Friday, Oct. 16
9am - 5pm
Saturday, Oct. 17
9am - 5pm
Sunday, Oct. 18
9am - 5pm

Transportation

A wagon shuttle will be available during the weekend to points inside the main reenactment grounds. Please see the event map on pages 19-20 for stop locations.

The shuttle runs frequently on the following schedule:

Saturday, October 17	9am until 5pm
Sunday, October 18	9am until 4pm

Belle Grove Events

As part of the ticketed event, spectators may visit Belle Grove and have the chance to see demonstrations by the 10th Virginia Infantry and interact with a blacksmith at work. Belle Grove's Manor House will have living history interpreters in every room depicting hearth cooking, herbal remedies, women's handwork and fashions, and household management during the Civil War era. The Ordnance Detachment of the Civil War Dance Foundation will also present a display of Civil War weapons and flags on the lower level of the Manor House. On Sunday, John Tole of Evergreen Shade will perform Civil War music.



Family Activities

Calling All Kids!



There is a lot to explore during the anniversary weekend! Talk to a National Park Service Ranger or volunteer to learn how you can become a Junior Ranger. Complete an activity book to earn your Junior Ranger badge!



Interact with History

Experience the past through a variety of living history demonstrations. Belle Grove's Manor House will have interpreters in every room depicting the Civil War era. Explore the living history demonstrations on the reenactment field. Spectators are encouraged to tour the infantry camps and to do some Civil War shopping on Sutlers Row.



Military Demonstrations

Reenactors will provide a variety of military demonstrations throughout the anniversary weekend. From cavalry demonstrations to the firing of cannons, see history come alive on the Cedar Creek Battlefield.

Schedule of Events

Friday, October 16, 2015

1pm **Ranger Car-Caravan Program:
Cavalry at Cedar Creek** *(free 2 hour program)*

Join Ranger Kyle Rothemich for a special tour highlighting the role of both Union and Confederate cavalry at Cedar Creek. This car-caravan tour will take visitors to parts of the park that are rarely seen to explore the crucial role the mounted arm played in the battle. Meet at the National Park Service Visitor Contact Station (7712 Main Street, Middletown, VA).

4pm **History At Sunset** *(free 2 hour program)*
“...the destruction of Sheridan’s army was inevitable.”
The Confederate Advance on Cedar Creek

Follow Ranger Shannon Moeck for a car-caravan tour which details Early’s bold plan and then follows in the footsteps of the Confederate approach march. Meet at the Fisher’s Hill Battlefield (Ramseur’s Hill, 1864 Battlefield Road, Fisher’s Hill, VA).



Maj. Gen. John B. Gordon’s view from Signal Knob.

Schedule of Events

Saturday, October 17, 2015

- 9am** Event Gates and Belle Grove Open
- 9am - 4pm** **Belle Grove open** (see page 4)
LOCATION: 336 Belle Grove Road
- 11am** **Artillery Demonstration**
LOCATION: Ticketed Event Grounds
- 12:30pm** **Infantry Demonstration**
LOCATION: Ticketed Event Grounds
- 2:30pm** **Cavalry Demonstration**
LOCATION: Ticketed Event Grounds
- 3pm** **Reenactment: Battle of Second Kernstown**
LOCATION: Ticketed Event Grounds
- 4pm** Belle Grove Manor House closes
- 6:15pm** **Candlelight Tours of the Camps**
LOCATION: Meet at Symposium Tent (Admission \$5)
- 6:30pm** **Luminaries through Middletown**
- 7pm** **Night firing of Cannons and Signal Corps**
LOCATION: Ticketed Event Grounds

Symposium Presentations (Symposium Tent)

- | | | | |
|----------------|---|---------------|--|
| 10:00am | It is a Matter of Numbers
-Richard Kleese | 1:00pm | Battle of Second Kernstown
-Jonathan Noyalas |
| 11:00am | Jubal Early - Lee's Bad Old Man
-Benjamin Franklin Cooling | 2:00pm | The Horse that Saved the Union
-Bruce Slawter |
| 12:00pm | The Last Battle of Winchester
-Scott Patchan | 4:00pm | 46th Pennsylvania Regiment Band Concert |

Schedule of Events

NPS Ranger Programs

Except for programs at Belle Grove, all other programs are **free** of charge.

Signal Knob Interpretive Hike

10am - 2pm: Hike at your own pace and meet a National Park Service ranger at the top of Signal Knob to see the expansive Shenandoah Valley landscape and learn about the significance of the mountain during the Civil War.

TRAILHEAD: The Signal Knob Parking Lot along Route 678 is in the George Washington National Forest.

WARNING: The hike to the summit of Signal Knob is approximately 10.2 miles, roundtrip. The trail is considered strenuous and is steep and rocky. Please wear sturdy shoes and bring plenty of water and food. An alternative, less strenuous, 8 mile roundtrip hike can be made along the Signal Knob service road. See www.nps.gov/cebe or call 540-869-3051 for details and directions.

Ranger Programs and Living History

9-11am “...a perfect storm of lead...” Kershaw’s Early Morning Attack on Thoburn - Join Ranger Jeff Driscoll for a walking tour that covers the opening pre-dawn Confederate surprise assault against Col. Joseph Thoburn’s 8th Corps position.
LOCATION: Thoburn’s Redoubt, Bowman’s Mill Road, Warren County

11:30am
1pm
4pm **Battle of Cedar Creek in a Box**
LOCATION: Front Lawn of Belle Grove

10:30am
12pm
2pm **10th Virginia Infantry Demonstrations**
LOCATION: Front Lawn of Belle Grove

2-4pm **Car Caravan Tour Battle of Cedar Creek**
A ranger led car caravan tour that covers the battle chronologically.
LOCATION: NPS Visitor Contact Station

Schedule of Events

Sunday, October 18, 2015

- 9am** Event gates and Belle Grove open
- 9am - 4pm** **Belle Grove open** (see page 4)
LOCATION: 336 Belle Grove Road
- 9am** **Catholic Mass Service**
LOCATION: Battlefield Symposium Tent
- 10am** **Non-Denominational Gospel Service**
LOCATION: Battlefield Symposium Tent
- 12pm** **Artillery Demonstration**
LOCATION: Ticketed Event Grounds
- 1:30pm** **Reenactment: Battle of Cedar Creek**
LOCATION: Ticketed Event Grounds
- 4pm** Belle Grove Manor House closes

Symposium Presentations (Symposium Tent)

- 11am** Jubal Early and the 1864 Shenandoah Valley Campaign
-Benjamin Franklin Cooling
- 12:30 pm** Mosby's Rangers
-Eric Buckland



The Battle of Cedar Creek, by Julian Scott, Courtesy of the Vermont State Curator's Office

Schedule of Events

Sunday, October 18, 2015

NPS Ranger Programs and Living History

Except for programs at Belle Grove, all other programs are free of charge.

9-11am **“...he dashed onto the field of battle...”
Sheridan’s Ride**

Join Ranger Jeff Driscoll for a car caravan tour that follows in the footsteps of Sheridan’s Ride.

LOCATION: Meet at Kimberly’s 135 N. Braddock Street, Winchester, VA, 22601

10am
12pm
3pm **Battle of Cedar Creek in a Box**

LOCATION: Front Lawn of Belle Grove

10:45 am **10th Virginia Infantry Demonstrations**
12:45 pm

LOCATION: Front Lawn of Belle Grove

12:00pm-
1:30pm **“Recorded in Scriptured Stone”
The Monuments at Cedar Creek**

Join Ranger Eric Campbell for a car caravan tour that will examine the history and meaning behind the park’s Civil War Memorials.

LOCATION: NPS Visitor Contact Station

Schedule of Events

Monday, October 19, 2015

NPS Ranger Programs

11:30 am **Battle of Cedar Creek in a Box**
LOCATION: Front Lawn of Belle Grove

1 - 3 pm **151st Anniversary**
Battle of Cedar Creek Tour
A ranger led car caravan tour that covers the battle chronologically.
LOCATION: NPS Visitor Contact Station



Ranger Jeff Driscoll leading a tour, NPS

Plan your visit thoughtfully to ensure that you are comfortable, safe and well-prepared.



Please dial 911 or locate a first-aid tent in the event of an emergency.

Weather:

Check weather forecasts before departing. Most of the events take place outdoors. The Shenandoah Valley weather in the fall can vary and change. Fall days can be warm, foggy, rainy, or cold. Please dress accordingly - wear layers and choose comfortable, sturdy shoes for walking on uneven battlefield terrain. Bring and wear sunscreen.

Water and Food:

Water and food will be available for purchase at the battlefield, but please bring a water bottle and snacks with you. Please dispose of litter and recycling in the provided containers.

Roads and Trails:

Please stay on designated trails and note special event signs on roadways and trails.

Insects:

It is possible for mosquitoes to still be out on the battlefields in October. Protect yourself by wearing long sleeves and long pants.

Pets:

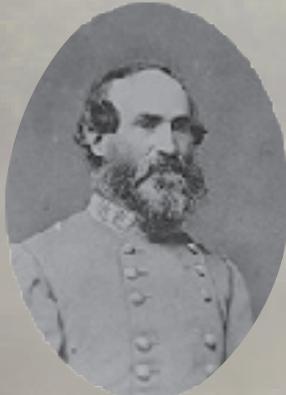
Due to Health Department regulations, pets are not allowed on the main battlefield event grounds. Service animals will be allowed. Leashed pets are welcome on ranger programs at locations outside the ticketed event grounds.

Seating:

If you are planning on being in the park for an extended period of time, consider bringing a blanket or chair that is easy to transport.

The Battle of Cedar Creek

Following his victories in September and October, 1864, Maj. Gen. Philip Sheridan and his 32,000 man Army of the Shenandoah conducted a systematic destruction of a 75 mile swath of the Shenandoah Valley. “The Burning” laid waste to the “Breadbasket of the Confederacy.” Confident the campaign was over Sheridan camped his army along Cedar Creek, with his headquarters at Belle Grove. Gen. Jubal Early’s poorly equipped and ill-fed Army of the Valley was reduced to approximately 12,000 men and seemed to pose little threat. Thus Sheridan traveled to Washington, D.C. on October 15th to confer with higher authorities about future movements.



General Jubal Early
Library of Congress

Little did Sheridan realize that on October 13th Early had received 3,000 reinforcements from Gen. Robert E. Lee, along with instructions to launch an offensive to regain the Valley. While the natural strength of the Union position ruled out a frontal assault, Gen. John Gordon devised an unexpected alternative. After toiling up the steep slopes of Massanutten Mountain on October 17th to Signal Knob, from where the entire Union army was visible, he returned with a bold plan. Despite the long odds, Early approved and put the plan into motion on the night of October 18th. It was one of the riskiest and most audacious assaults attempted during the entire Civil War. Early split his smaller army into three columns in order to place the bulk of his force against the Union left, held by the 8th Corps. It would take perfect coordination and absolute surprise to have any chance of success.

Following an all-night march along the base of the Massanutten Mountain, including two river crossings, the Confederates rolled out of a dense fog in the pre-dawn hours of October 19th. Most Northern soldiers were still in their tents and the few who managed to form a line were quickly overwhelmed. Within minutes the 8th Corps was routed and fleeing.

The Union 19th Corps was struck next and although given more warning, it was soon forced back. Belle Grove fell around 7:00 a.m. That left only the Union 6th Corps to face the Confederate advance.

Fighting stubbornly, the Northern line continued to withdraw. Brig. Gen. George Getty’s 6th Corps division made a determined stand on a prominent hill overlooking Middletown and where the town cemetery was located. For 90 minutes (8:00 to 9:30 a.m.) Getty repulsed three attacks and withstood a 30 minute artillery bombardment before finally

The Battle of Cedar Creek

being forced to withdraw. By 10:30 a.m. the Army of the Shenandoah was bloodied, battered and on the verge of a demoralizing defeat. Cedar Creek appeared to be a stunning Confederate victory.

Early assumed the Union army would conduct a full retreat and thus ordered his lines to halt just north of Middletown. Believing his own men were too exhausted, and his lines weakened by the loss of men plundering the Union camps, Early felt the best he could do was “hold what had been gained” (including over 1,000 prisoners and 24 cannon). Despite this success, Gordon urged his commander to continue the advance, later calling this delay the “fatal halt.” Early’s plan was to secure his captured spoils and hold on until darkness could cover his withdrawal. During this debate Early, Gordon and the rest of the Confederate army heard cheering from the Union lines. Although they did not know it, this celebration marked the arrival of Sheridan, and with him, a turning point in the battle.

Returning that morning from Winchester, Sheridan had no idea of the disaster that had befallen his army. Soon, however, the sounds of battle reached him, followed by fleeing Union soldiers spreading rumors of defeat. Riding hard, he arrived on the field around 10:30 a.m. “Sheridan’s Ride,” later celebrated in art and poetry, forever cemented his status in American history. Sheridan immediately rejected all suggestions to order a retreat, and instead began to plan for a counterattack.

At 4:00 p.m. Sheridan ordered this attack to begin. Initially met by determined resistance, the Union advance stalled. But the Confederate left was soon turned, followed by Union cavalry, which struck hard. The Confederate line unraveled and the retreat quickly turned into a rout.

By nightfall the Army of the Valley ceased to exist. Losses included over 1,200 prisoners and 48 cannon. Total casualties numbered approximately 8,600, making it the second bloodiest battle in the Valley.



Major General
Philip Sheridan
Library of Congress

Cedar Creek was a momentous Union victory which crushed further Confederate resistance in the Shenandoah Valley, and occurred on the eve of the presidential election. For the Confederacy, the campaign was a humiliating disaster, and one of a string of setbacks that fall and winter which ultimately lead to final defeat less than six months later.

Explore the Battlefield

Beyond the planned activities, visitors are encouraged to tour the entire battlefield and experience history on the landscape. Visitors can explore the park in several ways:

- **Self-Guided Auto Tour** - Free brochures are available at the Visitor Contact Station or the NPS Tent at the Ticketed Event Grounds. The auto tour consists of an 18 mile tour with 10 stops and followings the battle chronologically. An accompanying CD audio narrative can also be borrowed for free.
- **Civil War Trust Mobile App** - Download a free interactive mobile application that contains tours, maps, historic photographs, illustrations, and videos. Download at www.civilwar.org/battleapps (for both iPhone and Android devices).



Thoburn's Redoubt

Preserved by the Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation (SVBF), this property marks the location of the Union left flank, held by Col. Joseph Thoburn's 8th Corps division. It was here that the opening Confederate surprise attack began the battle. A self-guided walking trail, with interpretive brochure, will allow visitors to explore the site.

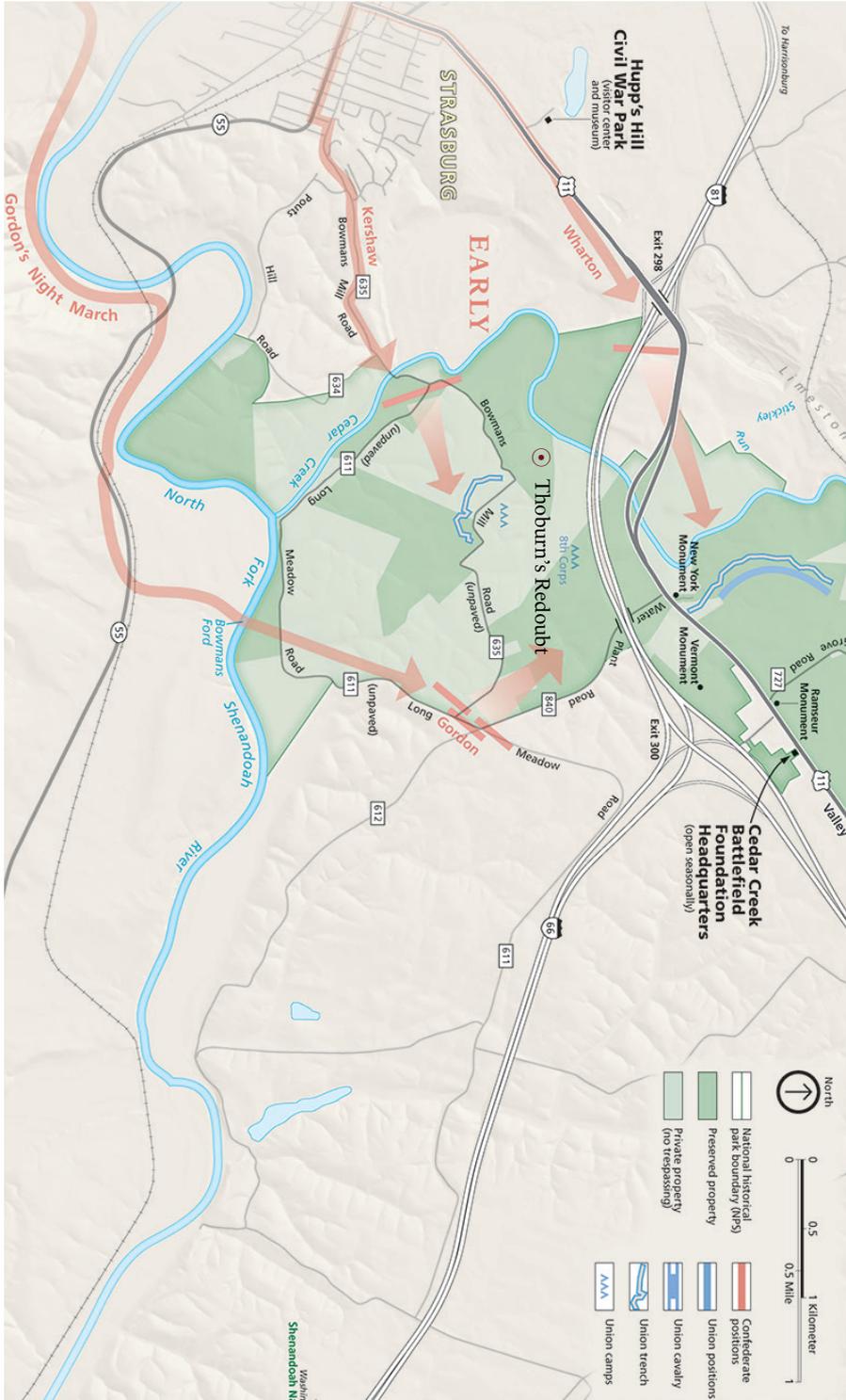
Although normally closed, this location will be open and accessible to the public over the anniversary weekend. SVBF staff will answer questions and discuss future plans for this site, including the construction of parking, signage and an interpretive trail.

Schedule:

- Saturday 9:00 am to 3:00 pm
- Sunday 10:00 am to 3:00 pm



Park Map



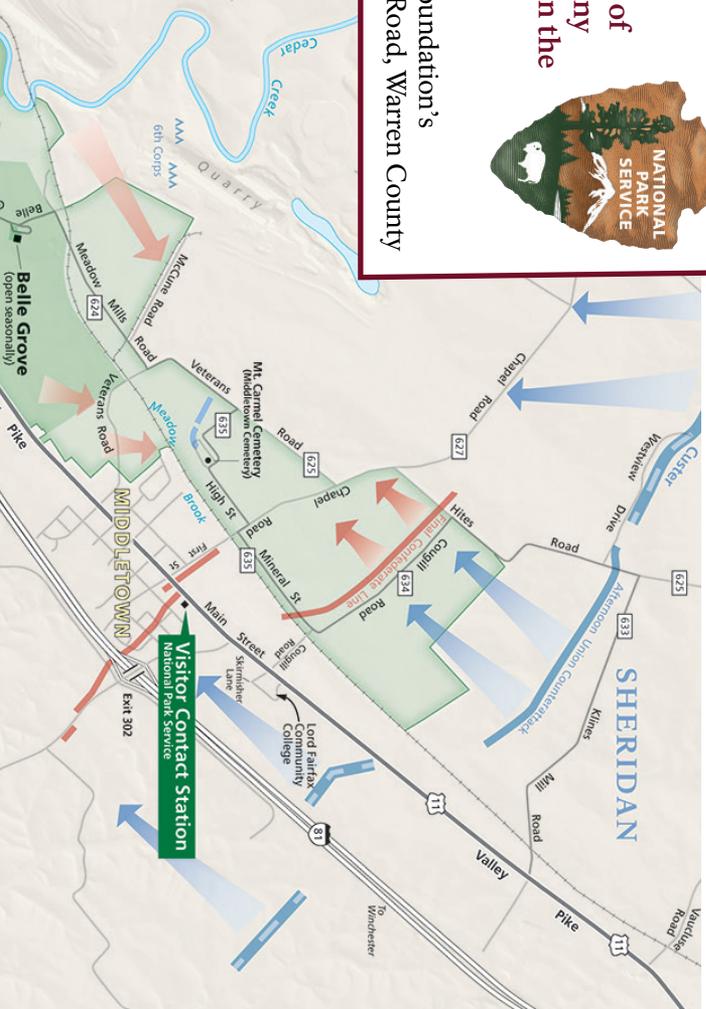
Visit the Cedar Creek and Belle Grove National
Historical Park Visitor Contact Station

Location: 7712 Main Street, Middletown, VA
Phone Number: 540-869-3051

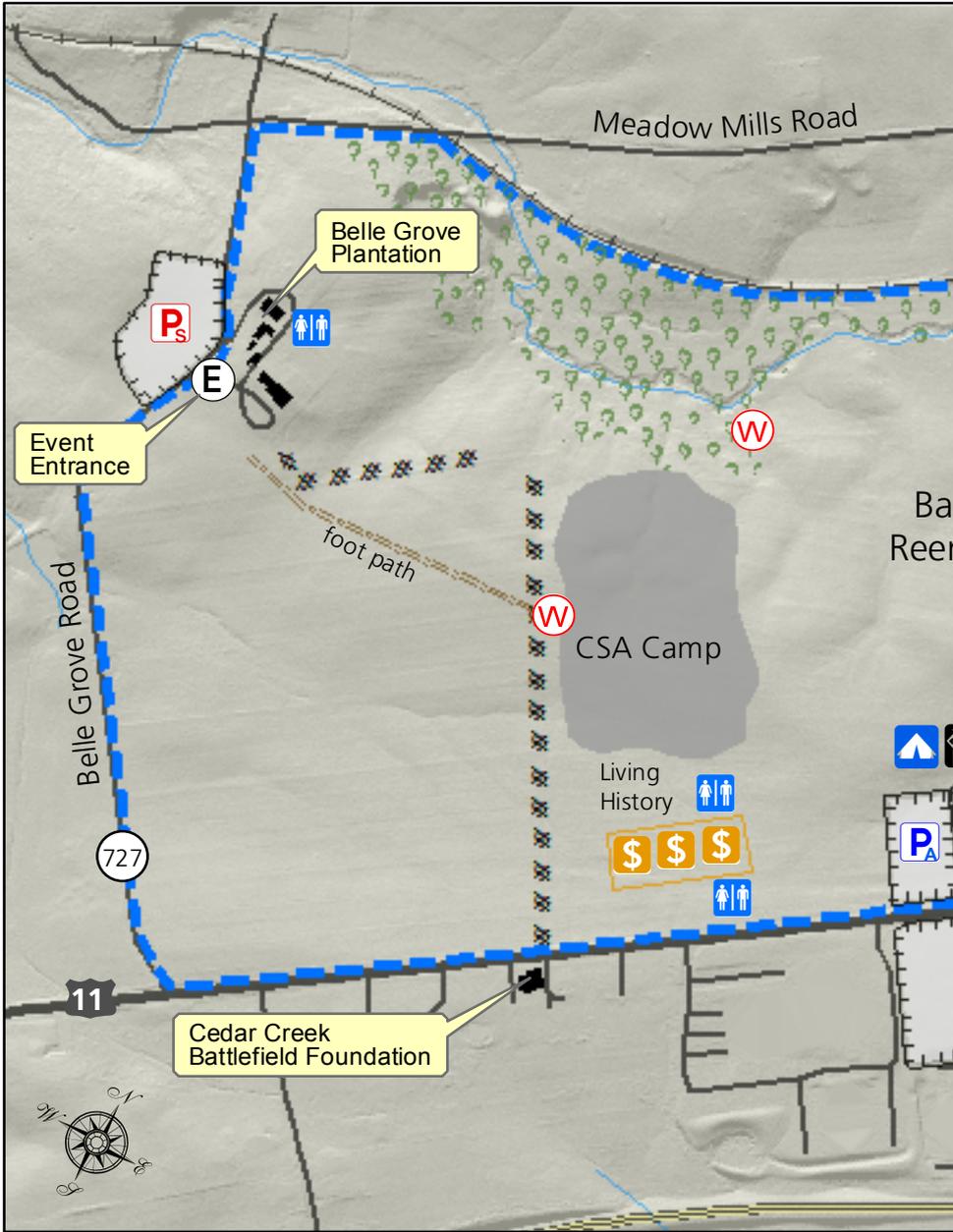


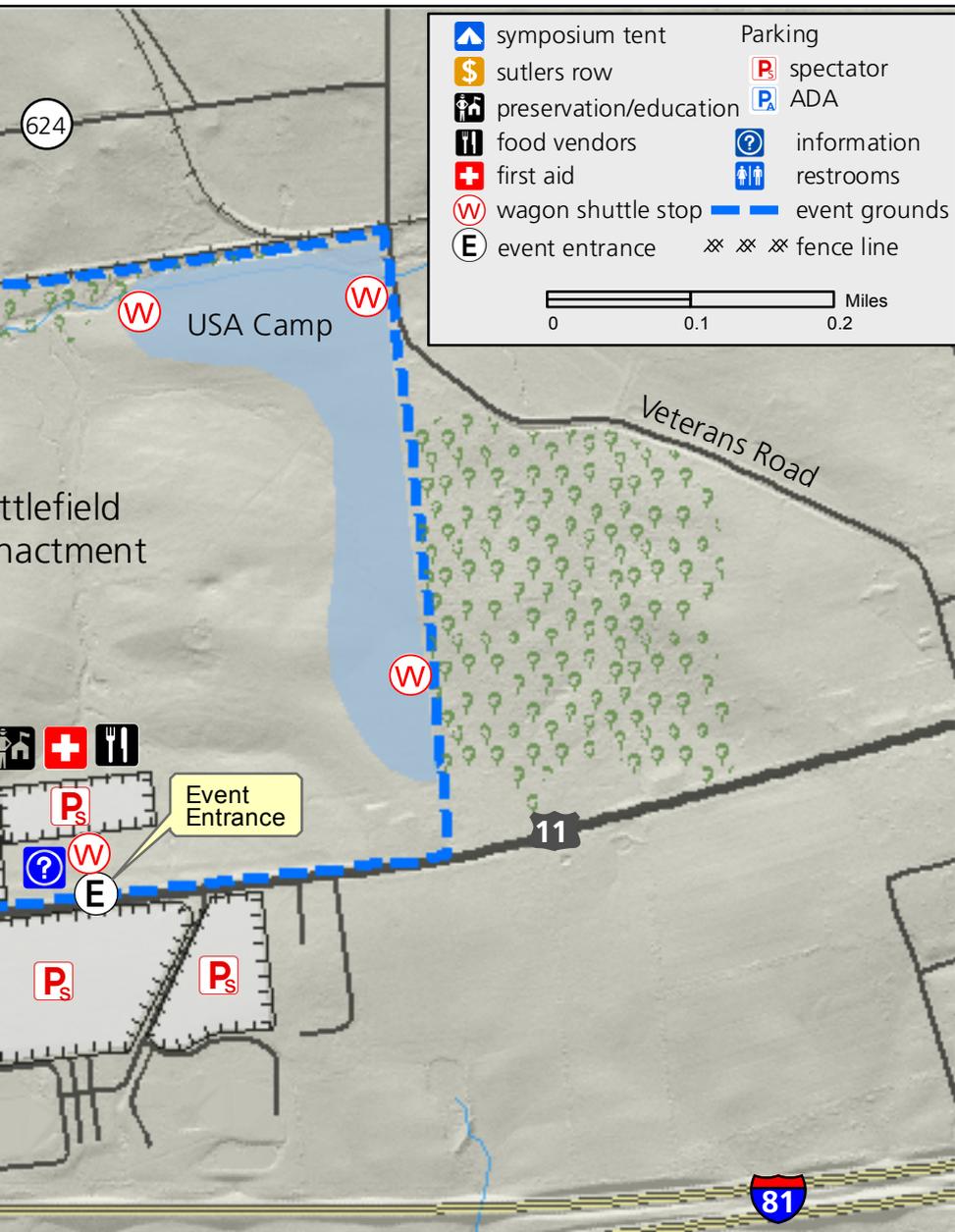
Come watch the fiber optic,
topographical map of the Battle of
Cedar Creek and explore the many
exhibits featuring the Civil War in the
Shenandoah Valley.

① Shenandoah Valley Battlefield Foundation's
Thoburn's Redoubt - Bowman's Mill Road, Warren County



Event Map







Middletown illuminated during the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Cedar Creek, 2014.

Cedar Creek and Belle Grove NHP, Belle Grove, Inc., Cedar Creek Battlefield Foundation, Shenandoah Valley Battlefields Foundation, Shenandoah County, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation would like to thank you for participating in the 151st Anniversary of the Battle of Cedar Creek. We look forward to seeing you next year for the 152nd Anniversary, which will coincide with the Centennial of the National Park Service.

**FIND YOUR
PARK**

[#FindYourPark](#)