



National Park Service  
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## Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park News Release

Release Date: April 20, 2012

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### **Drummer Boys in the Civil War** *“Drummer Boys – Fact or Fiction”*

Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia: Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park invites the public to attend a special 45 minute program at the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center Theater on Sunday, April 29, 2012, at 2 p.m. *“Drummer Boys – Fact or Fiction.”* This interpretive program will address the subject of “drummer boys” and the numerous stories that revolve around their part in the Civil War. From the tales of “The Drummer Boy of Chickamauga” to the legendary “Red Cap,” stories of these young boys and their adventures have captivated readers’ imaginations for a century and a half.

From the beginning of the war, music played a major factor in the morale of the troops. In addition to this important role, individual instruments, such as drums, bugles, and fifes, were used as communication devices before, during, and after a battle. Young men who were too young to carry a rifle were allowed to enlist as musicians and drummers, with the assumption that they would not be involved with actual combat. This assumption proved to be incorrect as the war progressed.

Join a Ranger to explore the history of these juvenile soldiers, civil war musicians, regimental bands, and the place of music in the Civil War.

For more information about programs at Chickamauga and Chattanooga National Military Park, contact the Chickamauga Battlefield Visitor Center at (706) 866-9241, the Lookout Mountain Battlefield Visitor Center at (423) 821-7786, or visit the park’s website at [www.nps.gov/chch](http://www.nps.gov/chch).

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*About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 395 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at [www.nps.gov](http://www.nps.gov).*

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