2016
Spring Program Schedule

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Cumberland Gap National Historical Park

An American Memoir

From the Hearts of Our Ancestors…
Into the Hands of Our Children

April 9th, 10th & 11th, 2016

Hear the echoes of 18th Century Colonial America…speak with Native Americans and oncoming Europeans as they whisper to us their values and dreams.

This is your moment to witness why our ancestors made decisions that would alter the course of American history.

Guarding against the death of our cultural heritage and natural treasures, this event recognizes the value in remembering the past and its connection to the present. Then, reflect upon *your* role in the future of America, and the legacies that we will leave to our grandchildren.

The true questions are: "What will we preserve?" "What do we most value?" For the answers to these questions will fuel the passion required to defend them.

Join us on Monday, April 11th at 11:00 a.m. for the Official Launch Ceremony of the "Cumberland Gap" Quarter.

Saturday - Sunday: 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Monday: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

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2016 National Park Service CENTENNIAL

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Gap Cave

A two-hour adventure awaits as you explore Gap Cave with its majestic stalagmites, striking stalactites, and shimmering flowstone. Step into the music room and listen for the whispers of a Civil War soldier. Catch a glimpse of a little brown bat or a cave salamander. **Reservations are recommended and can be made up to one month in advance of the trip date.** Tour departs from the Daniel Boone parking area.

This tour involves a 1.5-mile walk; 183 steps must be negotiated within the cave. For the safety of all, no children under the age of five are permitted on the cave tour. Wearing of beach/flip flop sandals, crocs or high heeled dress shoes in the cave is not allowed.

April 17 - May 28
Weekdays at 10:00 a.m.
Weekends at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

May 29 - September 3
Daily at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

September 4 - December 3
Weekdays at 10:00 a.m.
Weekends at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

Hensley Settlement

Visit historic Hensley Settlement for a nostalgic look into early 20th century Appalachia. Meander down fence lined lanes, peek into the blacksmith's shop, look into the springhouse or sit in the one room school. In 1903, Sherman Hensley and Willie Gibbons joined forces to establish a homestead on the mountaintop. Using hand tools to split chestnut logs, the settlers began to build homes. A thriving community soon emerged. The land, suitable for raising livestock and growing crops for liquid spirits, supported the community of twelve farmsteads for more than forty years. **Reservations are recommended and can be made up to one month in advance of the trip date.** Tour departs from the park visitor center.

Visitors must be able to walk one mile through the settlement; comfortable clothing and walking shoes are a must. Bring a light snack and drink for the four-hour tour. Service animals only; no other pets allowed on shuttle.

Adults - $10.00
Seniors with Interagency Senior Pass - $5.00
Visitors with Interagency Access Pass - $5.00
Children twelve and under - $5.00

May 15 - October 31 (No shuttle offered August 13 - 14)

Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday
Depart 12:30 p.m.; return 4:30 p.m.

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday
Depart 9:00 a.m.; return 1:00 p.m.

First Thursday of Each Month
Cumberland Mountain Photography Club
Join fellow photo enthusiasts for an evening of photography demonstrations, techniques, and tips designed to capture that perfect photo!

Photographers of all ability levels are welcome.

Visitor center at 6:30 p.m.

February 27
Tri-State Peak Hike
Looking for the perfect primer on Cumberland Gap's rich chapters of history? This 3 mile loop fits the bill as we take a peek at the Native Americans, pioneers, industrialization, and the Civil War. We'll gather at the Iron Furnace parking area, meander along the Tennessee Road Trail, link into the Wilderness Road Trail and eventually summit the Tri-State Peak for a grand vista. We'll retrace most of our footsteps and then continue to the Daniel Boone parking area to access the boardwalk leading into the charming town of Cumberland Gap, TN.

Iron Furnace parking area at 10:00 a.m.

March 11
Meet and Greet
We're hyped about the April 9th – 11th ***An American Memoir*** and want to provide a preview. Ask your questions in this very informal setting. In prep for the June Meet and Greet, keep writing down your suggestions for the vacant area adjacent to the visitor center's upper lobby where Cumberland Crafts was located.

Visitor center from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

March 23
Sap Full Moon Hike
Immerse yourself in this celestial celebration of the earth's reawakening as the script of life - daffodils emerging, frogs and salamanders laying their eggs, and maple sap is flowing - begins moving with zest. Share your favorite springtime joy during this 1.2 mile round trip hike.

Thomas Walker parking area at 6:15 p.m.

March 26
Sugar Run, Ridge Trail Western End and Harlan Road Medley
This 6 mile moderate to strenuous medley of trails leads through spectacular hemlock groves, along a lovely mountain stream and over several wooden bridges. With park volunteer David Earle at the helm, we'll triumph over completing the most difficult section (up Sugar Run) at the on-set. Learn about the 1870's Harvard Geology Summer Camp located near Ft McCook.

Dark Ridge parking area on Hwy 988 (Sugar Run Road) at 9:00 a.m.

April 23
Virtual Wildflower Walk
In but one hour, renowned photographer and park volunteer Harold Jerrell will guide you along the park's almost 85 miles of trails, pointing out and identifying many spectacular wildflowers. You can even wear your moccasins on this "walk!" Might they be as colorful as the moccasin flower which Harold will share?

Visitor center auditorium 11:00 a.m.

April 30
Reading the Landscape of Cumberland Gap

The landscape of Cumberland Gap provides vivid and sometimes hidden clues revealing its fascinating cultural and natural history. Park Historian Martha Wiley and park volunteer Steve Roark invite you to walk with them along the Boone Trail, the route of old Hwy 58, to read the stories in old homesites, a graveyard, stone walls and even domesticated plants. "Reading glasses," in the form of fresh eyes, are required on this day.

Campground entrance parking area at 10:00 a.m.

May 11 - May 15
Cumberland Gap Dulcimer Gathering
The 10th Annual Cumberland Gap Dulcimer Gathering will include bowed psaltry, bowed saw, claw hammer banjo, spoons and upright bass. Tap your feet to the invigorating rhythm as the ***Wilderness Road Dulcimer Club*** shares songs of long ago.

Classes begin each day at 10:00 a.m. at various sites throughout the Wilderness Road Campground. On Friday, a jam begins at 6:30 p.m. at the "gathering" site. On Saturday, a concert will be offered at 7:00 p.m. at the campground amphitheater.

May 14
Behind the Scenes at Hensley Settlement
Many have strolled amongst the rustic cabins and along the fence lined lanes at Hensley Settlement. But, hidden in the woods surrounding the cleared area are other remnants of life a century ago including the homesite of patriarch Sherman Hensley. Join rangers as they tour some of these lesser-known sites and learn what it takes to maintain this isolated landscape.

Reservations are required as van space is limited and can be made up to one month in advance!
Please refer to the Hensley Settlement tour description for price.

Depart visitor center 9:00 a.m.; return 3:00 p.m.

May 28
Newgrass and Bluegrass!
Get ready to go 90 miles an hour as Wild Blue Yonder takes to the stage. This highly respected east Tennessee band has a tasty mix of Americana-flavored originals, old-time mountain tunes, and foot-stomping hoe-downs in folky harmony backed by spicy twin fiddles, smokin' mandolin, groovy percussion, guitar, and bass.

Wilderness Road Campground amphitheater located at the end of loop C where parking is available. 8:00 p.m.

In case of rain, concert will be held in the park visitor center auditorium.

Additional programs may be added.

Cumberland Gap National Historical Park
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