



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Capital Region
Rock Creek Park
3545 Williamsburg Lane, N.W.
Washington, D.C 20008-1207

9.D(NCR-ROCR)

March 17, 2014

Dear Visitors:

Since 2011, the National Park Service (NPS) and its Civil War themed parks and battlefields have been commemorating the Sesquicentennial of the Nation's Civil War. Here in the National Capital Region, comprising of Washington, D.C and surrounding areas, we have commemorated the anniversaries of the First and Second Battles of Manassas as well as the Battles of Antietam and Harper's Ferry. We now look forward to continuing the successful execution of commemorative programming, focusing on the 1864 Civil War battles.

This summer, over the first two weekends in July, we will be commemorating the Battle of Monocacy and the Battle of Fort Stevens. The NPS staff, partners, and volunteers of both Monocacy National Battlefield and Fort Stevens, a component of the Civil War Defenses of Washington, have collaborated on plans to commemorate with a diversity of programming that focuses on the significance of both conflicts. It is our objective to educate the public on the pivotal role each battle played, and to enlarge interest in the neighboring communities and the nation, as a whole.

We are delighted you have expressed an interest in volunteering here at Fort Stevens. As we continue finalizing plans to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Stevens, we know that you and your organization have much to contribute and play a critical role in the success of the commemoration. Here are our overall plans for the weekend of July 11- 13:

- A Civil War Historians' Roundtable will launch the weekend events on the evening of Friday, July 11th. Noted Civil War historians, authors and scholars will discuss the significance of the campaign that led to the Battle of Fort Stevens and the victory that ultimately saved the nation's capital, helped ensure Lincoln's re-election, and aided in the preservation of the Union.
- On Saturday, July 12, beginning at 10:00am, the National Park Service will host a commemorative program to include national, regional and local representatives, both federal and municipal. A noted Civil War history scholar has been invited to serve as the keynote speaker. After the commemorative program, many engaging and interactive activities have been scheduled for the day long commemoration to include living history

presentations; 19th century/Civil War era children's' activities; and music, encampments/re-enactments, and author briefings and book signings. We are also hopeful in securing the necessary clearances to fire Civil War replica artillery (as a demonstration) from the grounds of Fort Stevens...much like it was done on the same grounds 150 years ago. And lastly, on Sunday July 13, we will host a memorial program on the grounds of the Battleground National Cemetery from 2:00pm until 4:00 pm in honor of the thirty-eight soldiers, interred here as well as the others who made the ultimate sacrifice at Fort Stevens and other battlefields around and for our nation.

We have received specific inquiries from re-enactment groups portraying various CW troops, regiments and etc. who are interested in participating/volunteering over the weekend. We are especially interested in hosting re-enactors from the infantry regiments who were here at Fort Stevens on July 11 and 12, 1864 from New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and many others. For additional information on encampments and other CW soldiers re-enactments opportunities, please contact Bryan Cheeseboro on (301) 356-5311 and/or at bryanac625@yahoo.com

For general information on volunteering in many other areas (civil war-era social re-enactors, docents, clerical and logistics support and etc.), please contact Supervisor Park Ranger Kenya Finley on (202) 426-7723 ext 101 and/or at kenya_finley@nps.gov

Again, we thank you for your interest and look forward to speaking with you as soon as possible as well as seeing you, your organization, your families and friends on the grounds of Fort Stevens, the Battleground National Cemetery and other nearby locations as we commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Fort Stevens on July 11 through the 13, 2014.

Sincerely,

Kym Elder

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