



Fort Pulaski News Release

For: Immediate Release
Contact: Gloria Lee, 912-786-5787

Celebrate America in Your National Parks

The National Park Service and Fort Pulaski National Monument will celebrate the Nation's 235th Birthday with special patriotic living history activities throughout Independence Day weekend. Highlights of the three-day weekend will include cannon firings, guided fort tours, and a Civil War baseball game using 19th-century rules and equipment.

Throughout the weekend, Fort Pulaski National Monument will offer cannon and musket demonstrations. These historic weapons demonstrations will be performed by park staff and volunteers dressed as Civil War soldiers and will feature a historically correct firing drill that is virtually copied from the Civil War artillery manuals.

This year, Fort Pulaski National Monument will partner with the Coastal Heritage Society, who operates Old Fort Jackson, in its annual "Blue vs. Gray" baseball game. Employees and volunteers from Fort Pulaski National Monument and Old Fort Jackson will portray Union and Confederate soldiers, respectively, in an authentic Civil War baseball game. The blue and gray teams represent the two sides of the Civil War, who both occupied Fort Pulaski during different time periods. The game will be played at 1:00 PM on Sunday, July 3.

During the Civil War, soldiers at Fort Pulaski often played America's pastime to overcome the boredom of garrison life. One of the earliest known photographs of a baseball game was of members of the 48th New York Volunteer Infantry at Fort Pulaski in 1862.

Following the Civil War baseball game, families and spectators will have the special opportunity to take bat to ball inside Fort Pulaski. This is a rare occasion to become a part of history.

The baseball games on Sunday, July 3, will feature vintage 1862 rules. The pitcher will throw underhand, baseball mitts will not be worn, and an out will be awarded by either catching the ball on the fly or after one bounce.

Fort Pulaski National Monument has been offering extended summer hours since Memorial Day weekend. Summer hours are as follows:

Visitor Center 8:45 AM – 6:45 PM
Fort 9:00 AM – 6:30 PM

The park grounds will close at 7:00 PM.

The Independence Day weekend schedule will be:

Saturday, July 2

10:00 AM Guided Fort Tour
11:00 Cannon Firing
12:00 PM Musket Firing
1:00 Cannon Firing
1:30 Guided Fort Tour
2:30 Musket Firing
3:00 Cannon Firing
4:00 Guided Fort Tour
5:00 Musket Firing

Sunday, July 3

10:00 AM Guided Fort Tour
11:00 Musket Firing
12:00 PM Cannon Firing
12:30 National Anthem, followed by “Blue vs. Gray” Civil War Baseball Game
2:00 Family Vintage Baseball Game
3:00 Cannon Firing
4:00 Guided Fort Tour
5:00 Musket Firing

Independence Day – Monday, July 4

10:00 AM Guided Fort Tour
11:30 Musket Firing
12:00 PM Guided Fort Tour
1:30 Musket Firing
2:00 Guided Fort Tour
3:30 Musket Firing
4:00 Guided Fort Tour
5:00 Musket Firing

Fort Pulaski National Monument is on U.S. Hwy 80, 15 miles east of Savannah. An entrance fee of \$5 per person is charged; ages 15 and under are free. Call the park at (912) 786-5787 for details, or visit the park’s official website at www.nps.gov/fopu

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