



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

George Washington Birthplace National Monument  
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## George Washington Birthplace - News Release

Release date: Immediate  
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Date: October 10, 2012

### Living History Showcase Presented by George Washington Birthplace 4-H Heritage Club at Harvest Festival

The tobacco is hung and the crops are gathered; now the real work begins. On Saturday October 20 George Washington Birthplace will be full of the activities typical of a 1732 plantation getting ready for winter during its annual Harvest Festival. The event is being hosted by the George Washington Birthplace National Monument 4-H Heritage Club and will be held from 10-4. Costumed demonstrations will include blacksmithing, hearth cooking, spinning and weaving.

The 4-H club was established in the spring of 2008 through special funding by the National Park Service. The purpose of the club is to learn and share 18<sup>th</sup> century crafts and lifestyles.

"We have about 40 members aged 9-17 and over a dozen leaders," said club founder Park Ranger Dick Lahey. "We have room for more people to join us," he added.

The slogan of 4-H is *Learning by Doing*, and the staff of George Washington Birthplace National Monument feel that a group of enthusiastic **doers** is a great way to reinvigorate of the popular living history that programs that were common to the park 25 years ago. "The types of demonstration that these skilled and personable young people can do is limited only by their creativity and dedication," said Superintendent Lucy Lawliss. Two members of the club have gone on to be part time living history demonstrators at George Washington Birthplace National Monument.



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The next project for the 4-H Heritage club will be to participate in the George Washington Birthplace reunion and footbridge dedication on November 10.

For information on how to become a leader for or a member of the George Washington Birthplace National Monument 4-H Heritage Club, contact Park Ranger Dick Lahey at (804) 224-1732, extension 235 or [richard\\_lahey@nps.gov](mailto:richard_lahey@nps.gov). Membership information and applications will be available during the event on October 20.



George Washington Birthplace National Monument is located on Route 204, 2 miles off of Route 3, 38 miles east of Fredericksburg, VA and 11 miles west of Montross, VA. Admission to the park is always free. Additional information about George Washington Birthplace National Monument is available by phone at (804) 224-1732 or on the web at [www.nps.gov/gewa](http://www.nps.gov/gewa) or on Facebook or Twitter.

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