

Something for Everybody: Army Heritage Weekend at Governors Island *Former Military Base Relives History with Demonstrations, Programs*



Firing Demonstration

Governors Island, NY (June 11, 2008) - Revolutionary and Civil War reenactments, musical demonstrations and children's programming are some of the family-friendly activities taking place at Governors Island National Monument during Army Heritage Weekend. Visitors can enjoy history presentations and a book signing as well.

On June 21 and 22, visitors are welcome to join Governors Island in reliving its history as a U.S. Army base for nearly 200 years. Now celebrating its third Army Heritage Weekend, the National Park Service (NPS) along with several living history groups will reanimate historic army life with historic weapons demonstrations, lectures and toys from the 18th century. Participating living history groups include the 119th New York Volunteers Historical Association, Colonel Albert Pawling's Levies and the 5th New York Regiment.



A Civil War Re-enactor Plays the Drum in Front of Fort Jay

National Park Rangers and re-enactors provide interactive programs which explore army life on Governors Island. Children and adults alike can learn to march like a soldier, and young visitors can earn a Junior Ranger badge. On both days, visitors can meet the mascots of the Military Academy at West Point. The 319th Army Reserve Band of Fort Totten will perform patriotic music on Saturday at 3:00 P.M. Children's programs about Revolutionary and Civil War soldiers are available all weekend.

Other National Park Ranger programs focus on specific topics such as the life of a Confederate prisoner, and the non-traditional roles of women during the Civil War.

West Point English Professor Elizabeth D. Samet discusses her book, *Soldier's Heart: Reading Literature at West Point*, on Saturday, June 21. In her latest book, Samet, a civilian instructor in a military environment, reflects on military connections to classical literature and authors such as Milton and Shakespeare. Her lecture, followed by a book signing, takes place at 2:30 P.M. in Pershing Hall.



A Park Ranger Gives a Guided Program

There is no charge for the ferry to Governors Island or for participation in NPS programs. Activities begin at 10:30 A.M. and end at 4:00 P. M. on both days. For a detailed schedule and directions to Governors Island, please visit nps.gov/gois or call (212) 825-3045.

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