



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Governors Island National Monument *News*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

War Weekends at Governors Island

New York, NY – History comes to life at Governors Island National Monument for three weekends in August. Re-enactors and National Park Service Rangers will conduct family friendly programs and demonstrations examining life on and off the island during the Revolutionary and Civil wars.

See Revolutionary war soldiers drill with and fire muskets. Smell the food cooking in an 18th Century army encampment. Talk to Confederate prisoners of war and learn what life was like for them on Governors Island as the Civil War raged. Kids can also take part in the Junior Ranger program, a series of self-guided educational activities leading to the Governors Island Junior Ranger badge.

Linda Neal, superintendent of Governors Island National Monument, said “These weekends are among our favorite programs because they allow visitors the chance to experience the sights and sounds of the Revolutionary War and the Civil War in a personal way and really understand the role Fort Jay and Castle Williams played in those wars.”

Revolutionary Weekend – August 2, 3

Join the National Park Service and the 5th New York Regiment as they explore the events leading up to the Battle of Brooklyn with an array of activities suitable for all ages.

Civil War Weekend – August 8, 9

The National Park Service, 119th New York Volunteer Infantry Regiment, Battery G of the First Pennsylvania Light Artillery (Union) and The GawdAwful Mess (Confederate) will provide living history demonstrations, music, cannon firing and other programs designed to introduce visitors to the Union soldiers of the Governors Island Garrison and the Confederate soldiers imprisoned on the island.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Battle of Brooklyn Weekend – August 23, 24

The Battle of Brooklyn, also known as the Battle of Long Island, was fought on August 27, 1776. During this battle, Governors Island's Fort Jay covered General George Washington's retreat from New York City. Explore the pivotal role that the island and its fort played during the Battle of Brooklyn by joining National Park Service Rangers and members of the 5th New York Regiment for special programs throughout the day.

There is no charge for the ferry to Governors Island or for participation in National Park Service programs.

What: War Weekends

Where: Governors Island National Monument

When: August 2 & 3; August 8 & 9; and August 23 & 24
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Ages: All

How: Governors Island Ferry departs from the Battery Maritime Building at South and Whitehall Streets, next door to the Staten Island Ferry Terminal. The ferry leaves from Manhattan every hour on the hour from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday and 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

Web: www.nps.gov/gois

About Governors Island National Monument

Governors Island National Monument was established to preserve the island's historically significant military fortifications, Castle Williams and Fort Jay. Governors Island is a 172-acre island, of which the National Park Service administers the 22-acre Governors Island National Monument. The remaining 150 acres is administered by the Governors Island Preservation and Education Corporation whose goal is to redevelop the island as one of New York City's great destinations. The island is open to the public during the summer and early fall, providing opportunities to experience the visual and performing arts as well as to learn about the island's role in national and international events and its place as part of New York Harbor's rich history and ecology.

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