



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National
Historical Park

143 S. Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Affairs Office

215-597-0060 phone
215-597-0042 fax

Independence National Historical Park

June 16, 2010

For Immediate Release

For more information contact:

Jane Cowley, 215- 597- 0060

Independence National Historical Park Commemorates First Public Reading of the Declaration of Independence

Philadelphia – Visitors to Independence National Historical Park are invited to experience a public reading of the Declaration of Independence the way our nation’s first citizens did! At **11:45 am on Thursday, July 8**, park rangers at Independence NHP will commemorate the 1776 public reading of the Declaration of Independence at the very location where Colonel John Nixon first read this great document to the public. Join us for the best way to see Independence Hall tower one last time before it goes behind scaffolding on July 12 for a 14-month rehabilitation project!

What: Reenactment of first public reading of Declaration of Independence
Where: Independence Square
When: Thursday, July 8, 11:45 am (reading at noon)

This free event begins at 11:45 am with an introduction by a park ranger and will be held on Independence Square. Visitors may enter through the security screening tent at 5th and Chestnut Streets or participate from beyond the security fence on the southern half of Independence Square (entering from Walnut Street). Those wishing to be on the Square should arrive by 11:15 am to ensure completion of security screening. An American Sign Language interpreter will be interpreting the event for our deaf visitors.

On July 4, 1776, the Second Continental Congress voted to approve the Declaration of Independence inside the Pennsylvania State House (now Independence Hall). Four days later, on July 8, 1776, the citizens of Philadelphia were summoned to the State House Yard by the bells of the city. At noon, Colonel John Nixon publicly read the Declaration of Independence for the first time. Following the event and continuing long into the night the bells of the city rang in celebration.

Visitors are invited to experience the sights and sounds of that dramatic day in 1776. Put on your tri-cornered hat and come prepared to cheer or jeer! Costumed National Park Service rangers will mingle with the crowds and distribute free copies of the Declaration of Independence. Following the event, both uniformed and costumed park rangers will be available for interviews and photographs. The rain location will be Congress Hall (seating limited to 150), located just next to Independence Hall. For more information visit the park’s website, <http://www.nps.gov/inde>.

- NPS -

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

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