



# Independence: The Best Park in History

## Independence NHP Celebrates the 4th of July 2012

Since 1776, the grounds around Independence Hall have witnessed revolutions, rallies and protests, many of which have taken place on various Fourth of July. From Frederick Douglass in 1844 to Susan B. Anthony in 1876 to the Avenging the Ancestors Coalition more recently, individuals and groups have used the symbolic power of this iconic place - and the power of this date - to make their point.



The July 4th Parade passes in front of Independence Hall

Freedom Week 2012 was a celebration of that tradition. Peter Nero and the Philly Pops rang in the holiday with another spectacular performance in front of Independence Hall on the evening of July 3 attended by thousands of visitors. This annual event is fast becoming the most popular Freedom Week event within the park.

The following morning, the City of Philadelphia joined the park in hosting the Celebration of Freedom Ceremony and the Fourth of July parade. Superintendent MacLeod reminded visitors of

pivotal anniversaries celebrated this year - the 225th of the Constitution, the 200th of the War of 1812, and the Sesquicentennial of the Civil War. She then introduced special guest actress Ellen Burstyn who read excerpts from the Declaration of Independence.

The afternoon celebration, Let Freedom Ring, welcomed Pennsylvania Governor Tom Corbett, and Michael DiYeso, CEO of the Freedom Foundation, along with the Pennsylvania Society Sons of the American Revolution and Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence. This year, the symbolic tapping of the Liberty Bell included not only the young descendants of the signers of the declaration, but also two new young United States citizens, formerly of India.



Let Freedom Ring

In the midst of Freedom Week celebrations, the park also managed numerous first amendment activities. Fifteen groups

submitted permits for public assemblies within the park, an unusually high number. In addition, the park was prepared for an unpermitted gatherings, as groups had indicated their intention to gather in the park without a permit. NPS staff, working closely with U.S. Park Police



Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod speaks to the crowd at Independence Mall

and the Philadelphia Police Department, successfully managed several large unpermitted gatherings within the park, all without significant interruption to park interpretive programs or planned events. Independence Hall once again stood as a symbol of liberty and freedom as groups peacefully gathered around the park.

Freedom Week activities wrapped up on July 8 with the annual re-enactment of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Standing behind Independence Hall, Park Ranger Paul Campbell, portraying Colonel John Nixon, roused the growing crowd to cheers (and traditional jeers) with his impassioned reading of the document.

# Flag Day 2012

To commemorate the birth of the United States Army along with the first flying of the American flag above Independence Hall, Independence National Historical Park played host to a Flag Day celebration honoring our nation's history.

The event was made possible through a combined effort of the National Park Service, National Constitution Center, Philadelphia Flag Day Association, United States Army, Pennsylvania National Guard, and the City of Philadelphia.

The celebration kicked off at the National Constitution Center with a ceremonial flag raising, followed by a march down Independence Mall by dignitaries and reenactors, as well as historical and modern Army units. Participants in the ceremony included a Medal of Honor Recipient, Tuskegee Airmen, and Pearl Harbor survivors.



First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry assembles in front of Independence Hall

Several guest speakers participated, including Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod, Michael Axelrod of the Philadelphia Flag Day Association, Vince Stango of the National Constitution Center, and Brigadier General (Reserves) Creighton Abrams.

Following the conclusion of the ceremony, Major General Lanza, Chief of U.S. Army Public Affairs, administered the Oath of Allegiance to new army recruits.

# INHP Welcomes New Staff

Independence National Historical Park welcomed a number of new additions to our staff over the past few months.

Paula Risell, formerly Chief of Law Enforcement Operations, is now the new Administrative Officer. INHP also welcomed Josh Heise as IPM Coordinator, Frank Dorsey as Carpenter, James Snell as Gardener, David Hamby as Facility Manager for Grounds, Motor Pool, and Custodial Operations, and Arnold Mapp as Supervisory Inventory Management Specialist.

# Employee Spotlight



Tonia Horton has joined Independence National Historical Park as the Supervisory Project Manager.

While she grew up in the mountains of Southwestern Virginia, Horton has quite the "traveling gene," having crisscrossed the country three times for education and work. Despite her nationwide experience, Horton is looking forward to settling into the fast-paced, urban lifestyle of Philadelphia and the park.

"After sitting in an office in the rural areas of Virginia, I am very happy to be in a city with so many layers of history and energy," said Horton. "Yes, it is fast-paced and complex, but I do like the challenges."

# Catch the Social Media Bug!

Stay up-to-date with all that's going on at Independence National Historical Park!

Follow us on Twitter at @IndependenceNHP

Like us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/IndependenceNHP](http://www.facebook.com/IndependenceNHP)

Toni, as she likes to be called, believes that working at INHP bears a significant amount of historical weight compared to other sites.

"The idea that our national legacy of public discourse, democracy, and governance is so intimately tied to this urban place we call a "park" gives us an opportunity to celebrate this inheritance at every scale, from landscapes, views, buildings, gardens, and down to the paths we maintain, even as we move forward with new layers of history," said Horton.

When out of the office, Horton can be found gardening, hiking, going to museums, and basking in the sun on the beaches of Hatteras Island. However, being new to the City of Brotherly Love, Horton is trying to take in all that Philadelphia has to offer.

"[I love] discovering the old churches in Society Hill and their wonderful graveyards, marveling at the Chinatown Gate, and wandering through the community gardens on South Street," said Horton. "I'm looking forward to more exploring!"

# Independence NHP Hosts Writing Enrichment Program

Monday, July 16, 2012, marked the beginning of an exciting new experience for 20 teens who gathered in one of Independence National Historical Park's interactive classrooms for the kick-off of a 2 week long summer writing enrichment program called Project Write.

The program's theme for the two weeks was "Inspire Me! The Power of Words" and operated under the motto: "Let us dare to read, think, speak, and write." Over the course of the program, eager students explored all types of writing, from blogs to academic essays to short stories, through interactive and engaging projects and activities that were deeply seeded in Philadelphia's rich history, stories, and current issues.

"We designed the writing enrichment program to focus on Philadelphia stories from the 18th century, like the yellow fever epidemic of 1793, as well as current issues still relevant to Philadelphians today, such as the Occupy Philly movement," said Park Ranger Renee Albertoli, leader of the program. "We covered the stories of Philadelphia's past and connected it to Philadelphia today."

Among other activities, students participated in a daily journaling session. Two entries were selected each day to be posted on the program's blog. Students also tweeted about their experiences every day and worked towards producing a complete literary magazine and several video postcards.

In addition, students visited Independence NHP sites including Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell Center and analyzed historical documents. On the first day, for example, students kicked off the program with a visit to the Franklin Court Printing Office. Through the program, they read and explored excerpts from some of our nation's most important documents, such as the Declaration of Independence, the US



Students gather on the first day for a photograph with resident history expert, Thomas Jefferson (portrayed by Stephen Edenbo)

Constitution, and Common Sense. Students also visited the Edgar Allan Poe House to learn about the author of *The Raven* and *The Tell-Tale Heart*. They used their visits and experiences for inspiration in their own writing.

Ranger Albertoli has high hopes for the students. "I hope the students become invested in the future of the park and the

city. They are talented writers who may one day put their skills to use in telling our stories or improving the park and the community," said Albertoli.

To learn more about the program, see the twitter feed at @ProjectWriteNPS or read the blog at <http://www.nps.gov/inde/blogs/Project-Write-blog.htm>

## History in the Making!

In honor of their 40th Anniversary, the Friends of Independence will enjoy a night of celebration, history, and reflection at a Gala Celebration on Thursday, October 11th.

Hosted in the heart of Historic Philadelphia, guests will have a rare opportunity to tour the First Bank of the United States. Guests will also see the future site of the American Revolution Center (the former Independence Living History Center) and enjoy the majesty of the historic Merchant's Exchange Building.

The Friends will welcome a variety of dignitaries and VIP guests at this celebration in America's most historic square mile.

The gala will honor Addie-Lou and Hobie Cawood. Addie-Lou was a founding member of the Friends in 1972, while her husband Hobie retired as the longest serving superintendent in the history of Independence National Historical Park. Their commitment to excellence and dedication to the visitor experience can still be seen in park operations today.

All proceeds raised by the Friends from the gala will be used to support the programs and activities of Independence National Historical Park. For more information and tickets, please visit [www.friendsof independence.org](http://www.friendsof independence.org) or call 215-861-4971.



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**Independence National Historical Park**

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## September Programs at Independence NHP

### Hours of Operation

Summer hours will continue through September 3rd. Starting September 4th, Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell Center will remain open until 6:00 PM on weekends (closing at 5:00 PM during the week). The Independence Visitor Center will be open until 6:00 PM daily.

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### Special Events

**"The 150th Anniversary of 'Camp Independence'"** – Celebrate the 150th anniversary of Camp Independence, a Civil War recruiting station established in the Fall of 1862. The commemoration will include a performance by a Civil War band and living history Civil War programs. 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM on the South side of Independence Hall, September 8th and 9th.

**"Constitution Weekend"** – Join INHP September 15 through September 17 to celebrate the 225th anniversary of the Constitution with a variety of interpretive programs and family activities. Details will be posted on the park website at [www.nps.gov/inde](http://www.nps.gov/inde). Want to follow along now as the Constitutional Convention makes history? Check out "This Day in Constitutional Convention History" at <http://www.nps.gov/inde/historyculture/stories.htm>.

**"The British Occupation of Philadelphia"** – Join a Park Ranger for this one-hour walking tour and explore what it was like when British forces occupied the city in late September for nine months. Meet at the arbor in the Franklin Court courtyard at 2:00 PM, September 22nd, 23rd, 29th, and 30th.