

Saratoga

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Saratoga National Historical Park

2016 Calendar of Events



Centennial Celebration!

1916 ~ National Park Service ~ 2016

Enjoying the Park

Welcome to Saratoga National Historical Park! The epic Battles of Saratoga and the heroic events which took place here in the autumn of 1777 formed the turning point in America's Revolutionary War and were key to winning American independence.

Saratoga National Historical Park preserves, protects, and interprets four separate sites associated with this military campaign: Saratoga Battlefield (Stillwater, NY), Schuyler House (Schuylerville, NY), Victory Woods and Saratoga Monument (Victory, NY). Schuyler House, Victory Woods, and Saratoga Monument are located about 8 miles north of the Battlefield.



Visitor Center

Offers ranger programs, park brochures, 20-minute orientation film, fiber-optic light map, artifact displays, seasonal exhibits, museum dioramas, and a museum store.

Hours/Season: 9am to 5pm daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Days



Battlefield

Accessible by foot, vehicle, bicycle, or horse, with 7+ miles of hiking trails, a 5½-mile horse trail, and a 10-mile self-guided driving tour road with a bicycle/pedestrian lane. *Park has no bicycle or horse rentals.*

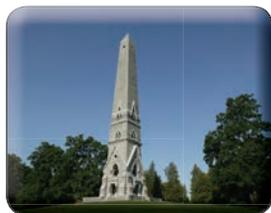
Hours/Season: Grounds open daily to pedestrian use during daylight hours
Tour road open to vehicles April 1 – November 30 (closed Thanksgiving Day)
Inclement weather may shorten tour road open season



Schuyler House

1777 country estate of American General Philip Schuyler. Guided tours share the enduring charm and simple elegance of this historic house.

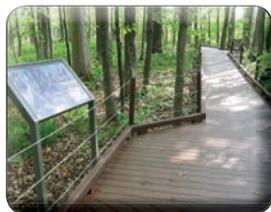
Hours/Season: Open seasonally, call for details, 518-670-2985



Saratoga Monument

155' granite obelisk commemorating the American victory on October 17, 1777

Hours/Season: Open seasonally, call for details, 518-670-2985



Victory Woods

A 22-acre parcel where forlorn British forces were surrounded during the week before their October 17, 1777 surrender to the American army. The trail is self-guided and offers a raised, accessible 1/2-mile pathway with interpretive signs.

Hours/Season: Grounds open daily to pedestrian use during daylight hours
Trail is not maintained during the winter

Park Fees



Entrance fees are charged for the Battlefield from May 1 to October 31. *Passes are valid for 7 days.*

- \$5 for vehicles
- \$3 per adult (age 16 and over) for hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding
- \$10 for a Saratoga National Historical Park annual pass

“America the Beautiful” Federal Interagency Annual, Senior, Access, Military, and Every Kid in a Park passes are honored, and available for purchase at the Visitor Center.

Valid Golden Age and Golden Access Passes are honored.

There are no entrance fees for Schuyler House, Saratoga Monument, or Victory Woods.

2016 Events

Saratoga National Historical Park celebrates the National Park Service Centennial through arts, music, natural, and cultural experiences.

All events are free unless otherwise noted.

Fee-Free Days

The following will be fee-free days in ALL National Parks in 2016!

- January 18 – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- April 16 through 24 – National Park Week
- August 25 through 28 – National Park Service Birthday (and following weekend)
- September 24 – National Public Lands Day
- November 11 – Veterans Day



Frost Faire Visitor Center

Saturday, January 23

Frost Faires were hugely popular in the 1700s—help us carry on the tradition at the 21st annual Frost Faire at the Battlefield!

- With snow, bring your snow tube or plastic sled and enjoy the NEW sledding area behind the visitor center!
- Enjoy horse-drawn wagon rides to Tour Stop 1 and back.
- Join a noontime wildlife tracking and scavenger hunt with an Adirondack Guide, see winter soldiers fire muskets and cannons, and enjoy a bonfire and hot cocoa in the warm-up hut. Indoor activities include crafts, games, dancing, and music!

11am – 3pm



Black History Month Visitor Center

Sunday, February 7

Men of African Descent in the Battles of Saratoga

A number of remarkable African American men served in the Battles of Saratoga. Hear stories about a few of the many hundreds of free and enslaved black men who fought here!

Snow date: Sunday, February 14

2pm – 3pm



Guided Winter Hikes Battlefield

Sunday, February 21
& Saturday, March 12

Snow or no snow, get outside and take a hike! Join park rangers for a guided hike through the battlefield, get in touch with the natural surroundings, and learn a few survival skills—all while walking in the footsteps of history!

1pm – 2:30pm



Women's History Month Visitor Center

Saturday, March 19

In Their Own Words: Girls and Women in the Revolution

Artist and colonial-period educator Jennifer Morrow will inspire women of all ages as she presents readings from original letters and diaries of girls and women who lived at the time of the Battles of Saratoga and Revolutionary War. Enjoy English tea while Jennifer shares heartfelt stories of how women and girls lived and loved during the 18th century.

Snow date: Saturday, March 26

2pm – 3pm



Old World Meets New World Visitor Center

Sunday, April 3

Historian Dr. Robert Selig illuminates what Germans, French, and Americans thought of each other during the Revolutionary War! He will discuss how mutual preconceptions changed, or were re-enforced, through actual contact.

2pm – 3pm

2016 Events



National Park Week Raptors Rock! Visitor Center

April 16 – 24
Saturday, April 23

Designated by the Audubon Society as an “Important Birding Area” in NY, Saratoga Battlefield offers awesome bird watching opportunities! Wildlife educator and rehabilitator Trish Marki will bring a selection of raptors—owls, hawks, falcons—for you to meet up close and to hear about where they live and how they survive in their habitat.

1:30pm – 3pm

Sunset Walk: Woodcock Aerial Displays Battlefield

Saturday, April 23

Join park naturalist Linda White by the flagpole in the visitor center parking lot at 6pm and walk to Tour Stop 5 and back (1.5 miles each way). See amazing dusk-time aerial displays by woodcocks, listen for owls, and look for deer or foxes too! Please bring a flashlight, water, insect repellent, and wear sturdy shoes.

Event cancelled if raining.

6pm – 7:30pm



Birding and Nature Walks Battlefield

**Saturdays, May 14
& June 11**

Join park naturalist Linda White by the flagpole in the visitor center parking lot at 10am and caravan to special places in the park to see blooming flowers, plants, and migratory birds. Please bring water and insect repellent and wear sturdy shoes.

Event cancelled if raining.

10am – 11:30am



Bike Summit Visitor Center / Battlefield

Saturday, May 14

May is National Bike Month, so get your bikes out of winter storage and bring them to Saratoga National Historical Park! Join Saratoga NHP staff, national and local bike outfitters, and local bike clubs to prep your gear for the 2016 biking season. Events to include bike tune-ups, safety checks, and a 5-mile ranger-guided bike tour!

Rain date: Sunday, May 15

11am – 4pm



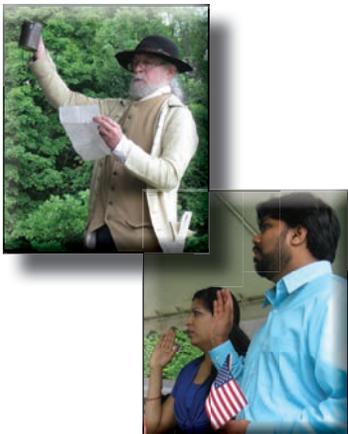
Living History Day Battlefield

Monday, May 30

A single-day event with “living history” demonstrations—presentations of several examples from everyday civilian and military life in 1770s America.

Event is free, but battlefield entrance fees apply.

10am – 4pm



Independence Day Visitor Center

Monday, July 4

Celebrate and give cheers as 20 immigrants become citizens of the USA! Enjoy live fife and drum music by Rural Felicity, and hear the crack of musket fire and booming cannons. Join in 13 lemonade toasts to the “new” United States.

10am – 11am

Join Park Ranger Joe Craig as he portrays a town crier declaring America’s Independence and leads a rousing 13 celebratory toasts. Cannon and musket firing demonstrations all day!

2pm – 2:30pm

2016 Events



Children's Program Series Visitor Center

Wednesdays, July 6, 13, 20 & 27

Educator Shari Crawford delights children while teaching them about the lives of youngsters in 18th-century America.

1pm – 3pm

July 6: Open Fire Cooking – ash cakes, johnny cakes, fruits, and more
July 13: Toys and Games – playing was fun in the 18th century too!
July 20: English Country Dancing – dance, play, and learn proper etiquette
July 27: Laundry and Dress Up – wash, splash, and dress up 18th-century style



Evening Bike Tours Battlefield

Wednesdays, July 6, 13, 20 & 27;
August 3, 10, 17, 24 & 31

Join a park ranger for gentle rides along 5-mile sections of the park while hearing a variety of park stories. Meet by the flagpole in the visitor center parking lot. Please bring your bike, water, and insect repellent. **Helmets required.**

Event cancelled if raining.

6pm – 8pm



Early Morning History Strolls Battlefield

July 12 & 13;
August 10 & 11

Meet at the visitor center to join Park Volunteers Ray Palmer and Jerry Parker on a series of leisurely guided tours exploring the first and second Battles of Saratoga. Caravan to various locations, then walk up to 1 mile over uneven ground. Please bring water and insect repellent and wear sturdy shoes.

Event cancelled if raining.

9am – 10:30am

Tuesday, July 12: The Battle of Freeman's Farm, 19 September 1777
Wednesday, July 13: The Battle of Bemus Heights, 7 October 1777
Wednesday, August 10: The Battle of Freeman's Farm, 19 September 1777
Thursday, August 11: The Battle of Bemus Heights, 7 October 1777



Army Trades Weekend Battlefield

Saturday & Sunday,
July 16 & 17

Armies in the American Revolution were towns on the move and included important craftsmen like blacksmiths, carpenters, tailors, shoemakers, and tinsmith. Chat with demonstrators and learn "How it's Made" 18th-century style!

Event is free, but battlefield entrance fees apply.

10am – 4pm



Noontime August Music Series Visitor Center

Tuesdays, August 2, 9, 16 & 23

The track is closed but music echoes through the Hudson River Valley. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy the views while listening to noontime concerts every Tuesday. **Sponsored by the Friends of Saratoga Battlefield.**

12 noon

August 2: Elizabeth Huntley performs 18th-century harp music
August 9: Rich Bala explores the Revolutionary War in NY through songs and ballads
August 16: Linda Russell takes a musical tour through the National Parks
August 23: Fort Ticonderoga Fife & Drum Corps serves up martial music of the Revolutionary War

2016 Events



18th-Century Day Schuyler House, Schuylerville

Sunday, August 14

Step back in time at the historic Schuyler House as the grounds come alive with 18th-century activities. Listen to music, see puppet shows, chair caning, candle dipping, rope making, beer brewing, spinning, dyeing, quilting, tinsmithing, broom making, and more! Hosted by the Old Saratoga Historical Association.

12 noon – 5pm



Centennial Signature Event: FDR Returns Visitor Center

Thursday, August 25

On *the* 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service's creation, historian and actor Gary Stamm presents a remarkable performance as Franklin Delano Roosevelt. FDR was personally responsible for establishing Saratoga National Historical Park. In fact, an entire road was built in one day to get him to the top of Fraser Hill, where today's visitor center stands.

In the fashion of his famous "fireside chats," FDR will visit with the park's audience around a bonfire where kids and adults may roast marshmallows while listening to stories of one of America's most inspiring presidents.

6pm – 7:30pm



Anniversary Encampment Battlefield

Saturday & Sunday,
September 17 & 18

Marking the 239th anniversary of the Battles of Saratoga, come explore the lives of men, women, and children of the Revolutionary War! Learn the soldiers' musket drill, hear cannon and musket firings, smell the aromas of open-fire cooking, take part in a special guided tour of Freeman's Farm, or help decide a court martial! Kids get to have their own "mini-encampment" this year! *Event is free, but battlefield entrance fees apply.*

- Camps open
- Wreath laying by Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution. All are welcome!

Saturday, 10am – 4pm;
Sunday, 10am – 3pm

Sunday, 2pm



Birding and Nature Walks Battlefield

Saturdays, September 24
& October 15

Join park naturalist Linda White by the flagpole in the visitor center parking lot at 10am and caravan to special places in the park to see blooming flowers, plants, and migratory birds. Please bring water and insect repellent and wear sturdy shoes.

Event cancelled if raining.

10am – 11:30am



Living History Day Battlefield

Saturday, October 1

A single-day event with "living history" demonstrations—presentations of several examples from everyday civilian and military life in 1770s America.

Event is free, but battlefield entrance fees apply.

10am – 4pm

2016 Events



Art in the Park Visitor Center / Battlefield

Saturdays, October 8 & 15

Meet at the visitor center for basic historical background, then head onto the Battlefield to capture the colors of autumn in paint, pencil, pastel, or pixel! Let the rangers at the front desk know you are coming as an artist and they will give you a **FREE** day pass. If you wish to share your art with the park, post it on our social media outlets (@SaratogaNHP)! **10am – 4pm**



Candlelight Tour Schuyler House, Schuylerville

Saturday, October 15

Step back in time and experience General Philip Schuyler's 1777 country home in a whole new light! Candlelit tours of the house are offered throughout the evening with light refreshments, period music, and a campfire following the tour. Hosted by the Old Saratoga Historical Association. **6pm – 9pm**



Surrender Day Special location: Fort Hardy Park, Schuylerville

Monday, October 17

Witness the recreated surrender of British General Burgoyne to American General Gates, sing patriotic songs with Schuylerville and Salem school children, and drink 13 original toasts to the American Victory! Sponsored by the Village of Schuylerville and Town of Saratoga.

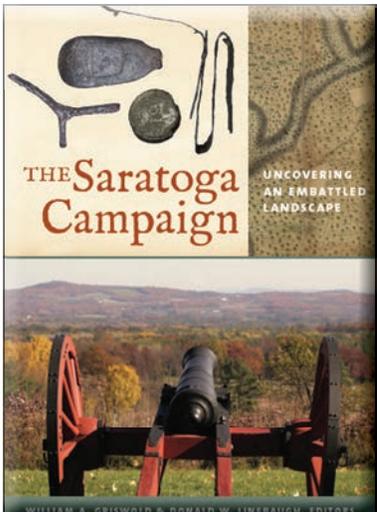
10am – 11am



Veterans Day Visitor Center

Friday, November 11

Join Saratoga National Historical Park in honoring all those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, including the Continental soldiers and militiamen who served here at Saratoga in 1777. Musket firing demonstrations and discussions about Revolutionary War American soldiers will take place throughout the day. **10am – 3pm**



Embattled Landscape - Speaker Series

Dates TBA

Some 4 years in the making, this new volume edited by archeologists Bill Griswold and Don Linebaugh tells the story of wide-ranging investigations into the locations, layouts, and organizations of camps and battle lines of both American and British forces in the Battles of Saratoga. Several contributing authors will present based on their respective professional disciplines.

- **Bill Griswold and Don Linebaugh** – general background on this project, their goals, and their inspirations to study the topic
- **Eric Schnitzer**, park ranger and military historian – providing a tactical account to place the story in context
- **Christine Valosin**, park curator – “the battles in 50 objects,” a brief virtual tour of the park’s collections with a focus on the battles

Displays and Exploring the Park



“Something More at Stake”

Produced in partnership with Friends of Saratoga Battlefield and Skidmore College, this film tells the compelling story of the battles here which helped form a nation and change the world.



Fiber-Optic Light Map

Get a bird's-eye view of the battlefield's four square miles of streams, ravines, and rolling hills on the Hudson River's western bank. During the narration, trails of blue (American) and red (British) lights travel the landscape, interjected with cannon fire (green) and battle action (white).



“Saratoga: By Choice or by Chance”

Learn about some of the lesser-known stories behind the Battles of Saratoga from the perspectives of several groups of people who served here: German soldiers, women followers, African-American soldiers, children, and Oneida warriors.



Timeline of the Revolutionary War

Walk through each year of the War for American Independence while seeing highlights of key events and themes. The exhibit also introduces the impact Saratoga had on spreading the war internationally, as this was by no means only a local affair. Artifacts and artwork help tell the human stories and illustrate what was in many ways a “war of ideas.”



Special Exhibit: National Park Service Centennial

With the stroke of a pen, President Woodrow Wilson instituted legislation for what has been called the “Organic Act” that created the National Park Service. Today some 22,000 employees care for more than 400 park sites that make up the National Parks. This special exhibit looks at the “who,” the “how,” and the “why!”



Orientation Talks

Given on request in the visitor center, these informal talks employ a diorama and give visitors an overview of the Battlefield as it looked in October 1777. The programs highlight the crucial role of geography in determining where the fighting happened and how the American defenders used it to their advantage.



Official Saratoga Battlefield Guides

Customized, personally guided caravan tours of Saratoga Battlefield with trained, knowledgeable, and courteous guides.

Guided tours are provided by independent contractors with advance reservation only. For scheduling information, please call **518-670-2985** or e-mail **SARA_info@nps.gov**

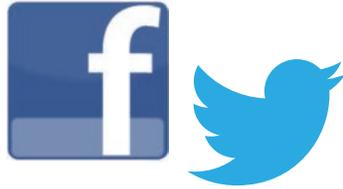
Displays and Exploring the Park



Touring with Technology

Enhance your battlefield tour experience with your own smart device, cell phone, or MP3 player! Informational rack cards available at the visitor center front desk.

- **Mobile App:** this mobile website is available through your smart device's web browser at: <http://sara.toursphere.com>
- **Cell Phone Tours:** call **518-665-8185** at each tour stop or hike station you visit and follow the audio prompts. *Your regular service provider's rates apply.*
- **MP3 Tours:** audio files are also available for both our Tour Road (driving) and the Wilkinson Trail (hiking) as website downloads "www.nps.gov/sara" through the "Cell Phone / MP3 Tours" link.



Saratoga is Social!

Join the conversation and share your thoughts, opinions, photos, and park experiences on Facebook and Twitter (@SaratogaNHP).

For Kids!

Junior Ranger Program

Younger visitors can learn about the park and its resources through fun games and activities. This **FREE** program is designed for students grades K-8.

Junior Ranger Station

Younger visitors can work on their Junior Ranger activity books or learn about the Revolutionary War by reading from a selection of books provided by the Eastern National Museum Store.

Try-On Tent

Especially for our younger visitors, here's a unique way to experience history. Replicas of soldiers' uniforms and a tent provide a unique chance to experience a little of what life was like for soldiers during the Revolutionary War, in a "kid-friendly" way.

Wilkinson Trail Hike – Kids' Version

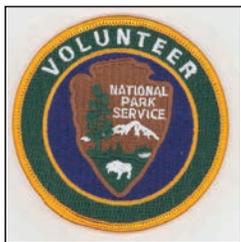
A shorter, 2½ mile hike using your very own audio tour narrated entirely by students! TO USE: See "Mobile App" and "Cell Phone Tour" info above.



Education Programs

Area schools can take advantage of these **FREE** ranger-presented programs throughout the year. They are most popular in the autumn and spring.

More information about these programs can be obtained by calling the visitor center at **518-670-2985**.



Volunteers in Parks

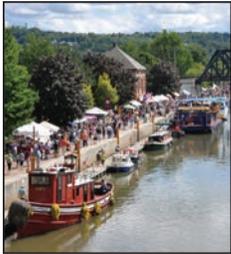
Many park programs call on the time, talent, enthusiasm, and dedication of people of many ages to help provide visitors with historical programs, trail safety, nature walks, site information, area directions, and more.

Area residents interested in learning more about volunteering at Saratoga National Historical Park can call the park volunteer coordinator at **518-670-2983**.



Friends of Saratoga Battlefield: for over 25 years, this enthusiastic and dedicated nonprofit, volunteer organization has generously sponsored many of the events and programs offered annually at Saratoga National Historical Park. To learn more about their work or to join, visit their website at www.friendsofsaratogabattlefield.org

Nearby Areas of Interest



Erie Canalway National Heritage Corridor

www.nps.gov/erie

www.eriecanalway.org

Albany to Buffalo, NY. A National Heritage Corridor that helps preserve and interpret the many historical, natural, scenic, and cultural resources of upstate New York's canal systems.

Saratoga National Historical Park is within Erie Canalway; drive times vary with destination.



Stillwater Blockhouse Museum

518-664-1847 ext. 39

Stillwater, NY. Built in 1927, this replica blockhouse serves as a town historical center.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 10 minutes



Hudson Crossing Park

518-796-6832

www.hudsoncrossingpark.org

Schuylerville, NY. An environmental-based play and exploration park located in the area where British forces crossed the Hudson River en route to Albany in September 1777.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 15 minutes



New York State Military Museum

518-581-5100

dmna.ny.gov/historic/mil-hist.htm

Saratoga Springs, NY. The museum preserves, interprets, and shares the story, history, and records of New York State's military forces and veterans. Features include a special Revolutionary War exhibit.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 25 minutes



Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site

518-279-1155

Hoosick Falls, NY. British forces from General Burgoyne's army met and were defeated here by American militia troops on August 16, 1777.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 1 hour



Crailo State Historic Site

518-463-8738

Rensselaer, NY. The childhood home of Catherine Van Rensselaer, later Catherine Schuyler, wife of American General Philip Schuyler.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 1 hour



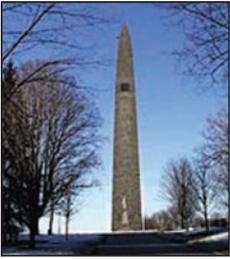
Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site

518-434-0834

Albany, NY. The primary residence of American General Philip Schuyler.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 1 hour

Nearby Areas of Interest



Bennington Battle Monument State Historic Site

802-447-0550

Bennington, VT. A 306-foot obelisk marks the location of the storehouse sought by the British in August 1777.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 1¼ hour



Fort Ticonderoga

518-585-2821

www.fort-ticonderoga.org

Ticonderoga, NY. Captured by General Burgoyne's army from American forces after a short siege in July 1777.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 1¾ hours



Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site

802-273-2282

Hubbardton, VT. Retreating American soldiers fleeing Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Independence were attacked here by pursuing British redcoats on July 7, 1777.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 2 hours



Lake Champlain Maritime Museum

802-475-2022

www.lcmm.org

Vergennes, VT. A non-profit museum dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of Lake Champlain.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 2 hours



Springfield Armory National Historical Site

413-734-8551

www.nps.gov/spar

Springfield, MA. The site commemorates the critical role of the nation's first armory by preserving and interpreting the world's largest historic US military small arms collection, along with historic archives, buildings, and landscapes.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 2 hours



Mount Independence State Historic Site

802-948-2000

Orwell, VT. American fortifications on Mount Independence, across the lake from Fort Ticonderoga, captured by the British in 1777.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 2¼ hours



Fort Stanwix National Monument

315-338-7730

www.nps.gov/fost

Rome, NY. American fort defending the headwaters of the Mohawk River where a British expeditionary force was repelled in August 1777.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 2½ hours

Saratoga National Historical Park
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postage

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**For More
Information**

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**FIND YOUR
PARK**

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