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National Park Service | Chesapeake Bay Office Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail



News and Updates about the Trail and the War of 1812
Bicentennial in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC

Winter 2010

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What is the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail?



Learn about the Trail and related initiatives in our latest [press release](#).

Chesapeake Gateways



Get to know the [Chesapeake Gateways](#) along the Trail and throughout the Bay while biking, fishing, paddling, or just relaxing.
Learn about the 2010 Gateways grants cycle [here](#).

John Smith Trail



The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail closely parallels the water routes of the Star-Spangled Banner National

Greetings and Welcome to the Inaugural Newsletter of all things Star-Spangled in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia!

Our inaugural newsletter provides updates and news from the [National Park Service](#) and the [Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission](#) on planning and activities associated with the National Historic Trail and forthcoming Bicentennial celebrations in 2012-2015 in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

We hope you will find this news informative and share with your colleagues, friends, and supporters. We welcome your comments and suggestions, and thanks for your support!

National Historic Trail interpretive planning workshops provide a strong foundation for Trail planning



The National Park Service, in coordination with local hosts in eight regions around the Chesapeake Bay, sponsored a series of workshops in November and December on the stories, resources and visitor experiences the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail should include. The workshops gathered over 120 residents,

site managers, historians, and federal, state and local government staff to help shape the contents of an interpretive plan for the Trail, which describes the broad themes and messages the Trail will interpret, and a range of interpretive services from signage to temporary and permanent programs and events that the NPS and its partners agree are most important to implement.

For more information, and to read the workshop proceedings, [click here](#).

Water Trail Planning Underway



The Maryland Division of Tourism, Film and the Arts (DTFA) has awarded a contract to develop a plan for the water portions of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. The consultant team, led by the Annapolis-based office of Environmental Resources Management, includes Toole Design Group, Ayers Saint Gross, EDSA, Inc., Frank Strategic Marketing, John Page

Historic Trail. By water or from land, you can retrace this 400-year-old history [right now](#).

Quick Links...

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[Bicentennial Commission](#)
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Williams (Chesapeake Bay Foundation), and Ralph Eshelman (author of *The War of 1812 in the Chesapeake: A Reference Guide to Historic Sites in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia*). Guided by an advisory committee of representatives of the National Park Service, the Maryland Departments of Natural Resources and Transportation, and DTFA, the consultants will produce an access, stewardship and interpretive opportunity plan for the water portions of the trail on the Chesapeake and its tributaries, including the Anacostia, Patapsco, Patuxent, and Potomac rivers. For more information, email info@starspangled200.org.

1812 stakeholders meet at the 'Head of the Bay'



The [Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission](#) hosted its third of six conferences for stakeholders linked to the upcoming bicentennial celebrations across the state. About 40 people attended the "Head of the Bay" conference, Dec. 10, in and around Havre de Grace. The conference started with a discussion led by historians Christopher George and Michael

Dixon. Attendees then toured [Concord Point Lighthouse](#), [Rodgers Tavern](#), [Principio Furnace](#) and [Elk Landing](#). The final three conferences - on the Eastern Shore, at North Point and in Baltimore City - will take place in 2010, with the Eastern Shore conference scheduled for April 1.

Trail, Byway Management Planning to begin in early 2010



The National Park Service will initiate development of a joint management plan for the Star-Spangled Banner Byway and the National Historic Trail in early 2010. The plan, to be completed by fall 2011, is intended for use by the NPS, state, regional, and local partners, non-profits and businesses to collaboratively implement resource protection, interpretation, and recreation projects and programs on land and in the water that sustain the legacy of the Bicentennial. The plan:

- Establishes how the trail will be developed and managed over 10-15 years
- Assesses potential impacts on natural and cultural resources
- Identifies the trail's significant places and stories and how to protect resources critical to the trail
- Crafts meaningful visitor experiences on land and water
- Defines management objectives and alternatives to meet those objectives
- Recommends a preferred alternative for managing the trail.

A series of public meetings is anticipated in locations throughout Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia in late spring 2010 to ensure that planning is progressing according to the ideas envisioned by local regions. For more information on Trail and Byway management planning, [click here](#).

Maryland awarded \$1.8 million for Star-Spangled Banner Byway

The Maryland Office of Tourism Development (OTD) will receive a \$1.8 million grant to enhance and market the Star-Spangled Banner Byway in time for the 2012 kick-off of the bicentennial commemorations. The project is part of a \$5.6 million grant to OTD for Maryland's Byways from the Federal Highway Administration's National Scenic Byways Program.

The Star-Spangled Banner Byway projects include:

- Completion of a Corridor Management Plan for the Byway,
- A system of interpretive waysides at locations along the Byway,
- A 60-minute Byway travel documentary,
- Four large-scale interpretive installations at key sites, and
- Full color, illustrated 100-150 page Byway map and guide.

Read the [press release](#).

Maryland 1812 Bicentennial Commission holds first meeting

Raymond A. "Chip" Mason, founder of Maryland-based Legg Mason, chaired the first meeting of the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission on Oct. 27. The commission approved its [action plan](#) for bicentennial activities. The meeting was hosted by Gov. Martin O'Malley at Government House in Annapolis. Former U.S. Sen. Paul S. Sarbanes will serve as vice-chair of the commission.

Maryland license plate will mark the Bicentennial

The design for a new standard Maryland license plate that marks the bicentennial will be available in June 2010. Visit www.starspangled200.org for more information.

Bicentennial planning in the District of Columbia

Dozens of historic sites and museums with a connection to the War of 1812 will be scheduling planning meetings in the coming weeks to develop DC and regional programs, marketing, and fundraising initiatives to commemorate the Bicentennial. Planning meetings will build on two preliminary gatherings in May at [Riversdale House Museum](#) and in September at [Dumbarton House](#). An informal group is exploring the viability of a sound and light show or other presentation to commemorate the Bicentennial in Washington, DC. For more information, or to assist, please contact [John Sower](#).

Bicentennial planning in Virginia

The Virginia legislature has established the War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission to identify priority projects and events to commemorate the Bicentennial. Several local initiatives are underway by the [Society of the War of 1812 in Virginia](#) and the Hampton Roads Historical Society. For more information on the Commission, [click here](#).

U.S. Navy Tall Ships to visit Baltimore in June 2012

The U.S. Navy is planning a series of major events in six U.S. and Canadian port cities in 2012 to commemorate the significant role of the Navy during the War of 1812. Tall ships, naval vessels and air shows will be among the attractions at Baltimore's Inner Harbor for a week-long bicentennial kick-off in June 2012. British, Canadian and other international naval forces are expected to participate. For more information, send an email to info@starspangled200.org.

National Historic Trail Advisory Council

Per the requirements of the National Trails System Act, the National Park Service is forming an Advisory Council of representatives from government, non-profits, businesses, historians and the public to advise on the development and implementation of the National Historic Trail. The Council will be seated in late spring 2010 and meet a few times a year on the Trail's progress and development. The Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission will collaborate with the Council through the committee work of both entities. For more information on the establishment of the Council, contact [Christine Lucero](#).

Thank you for your interest in and support of the Star-Spangled Banner Trail and the upcoming Bicentennial!

[Suzanne Copping](#), Project Manager, Star-Spangled Banner NHT

[Kate Marks](#), Outreach and Partnerships Coordinator, Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission

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