

**VALLEY FORGE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK
KICKS OFF NATIONAL PARK WEEK WITH INAUGURAL REVOLUTIONARY 5-MILE RUN**

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Valley Forge National Historical Park hosted more than 1,300 people in Sunday's Valley Forge Revolutionary 5-Mile Run, sponsored by the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau. The event raised approximately \$15,000, which will be turned over to the Friends of Valley Forge to support maintenance of the park's 27 miles of trails. This was the first race ever run in the park, and is likely to become an annual event.

"This event marked the start of National Park Week and connected specifically with this year's theme of connecting children to national parks," said Superintendent Mike Caldwell. Fifty kids under age 14 ran the 1-mile Fun Run. Twelve-year-old Juliana Swaren of Paoli, a student at the Agnes Irwin School, was the winner. A highlight of the event was a Family Expo where displays and interactive exhibits gave another medium to welcome families. "This event gives us the ability to further connect the park and its interpretive message to a new audience," said Caldwell.

The Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau jumped at the opportunity to sponsor the race. Paul Decker, Bureau President said, "we wanted to create a truly Valley Forge-unique event that also strengthened our ties with and benefited the park."