

## **Valley Forge Park ready to kick-off its biggest summer ever**

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. – On Saturday, June 20, 2009, Valley Forge National Historical Park will kick-off its biggest summer season on record with a bang, literally. The Annual March-out of the Continental Army commemoration will take place from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. It was in June 1778, six months after first arriving at Valley Forge that a rejuvenated Continental Army marched out of the Valley Forge encampment in pursuit of the British Army, which had evacuated Philadelphia. This year commemorates the 231<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the event.

Re-enactors from the Oneida Indian Nation along with park rangers and volunteers will recreate an encampment at the park's Muhlenberg Brigade huts, including camp life and cooking demonstrations. Programs including musket and cannon firing demonstrations will take place at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. Guided walks to the Muhlenberg Brigade from the park's Welcome Center will take place at 10:20 a.m., 12:20 p.m. and 2:20 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Other free activities available daily this summer include storytelling benches at four locations in the park, guided walking tours, guided Washington's Headquarters tours, museum talks and living history programs. Through mid-June, visitors can experience an archeological dig taking place at Washington's Headquarters. New this summer is the Revolutionary Shuttle; free transportation around the park. Free Junior Ranger programs for kids ages 6 to 12 will be offered four times per week. Now in it's fourth season, the "History of Valley Forge" 90-minute guided trolley tour is available daily at a great value. Visitors can take a self-guided bike tour of the park by either bringing their own bike or renting one at Valley Forge Bikes Rentals. On Saturdays at 2:00 p.m., kids ages 8 to 12 can take on a new identity in the new, interactive "Secrets and Spies" tour. And, on Saturday evenings, visitors of all ages can enjoy updated Colonial fare and interact with General Washington, Martha Washington and General Lafayette during the "Valley Forge After Hours" tour. The experience concludes with a campfire and presentation of stories by colonial soldiers.

"The park's partnerships with the Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau, Once Upon A Nation, Friends of Valley Forge Park, the Encampment Store, and the Greater Valley Forge Transportation Association enable us to present a diverse selection of activities for every

age, taste and budget this summer. It's our way of anticipating and exceeding visitor expectations." said Valley Forge National Historical Park Superintendent, Mike Caldwell.

For more information about summer programs at Valley Forge National Historical Park , call 610.783.1099 or visit