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## **Family-friendly activities to celebrate George Washington's Birthday at Valley Forge National Historical Park**

*Includes the oldest, continuous, annual  
"Boy Scouts of America" gathering in the world*

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. – This year, to celebrate George Washington's 277th birthday, Valley Forge National Historical Park will host more than 2,000 Boy Scouts, welcome Continental Army re-enactors from the 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment and present a period birthday cake.

Throughout Presidents' Day weekend (Feb. 14-16) visitors to the Park can enjoy hands-on activities commemorating the birth of George Washington at the place where it was first celebrated, in 1778. At that time, a group of soldiers serenaded the then-46-year old General for his birthday outside his headquarters.

A "History of Scouting" exhibit will also be displayed in the Park's Welcome Center over the weekend, celebrating 100 years of Scouting. It includes artifacts from the annual Boy Scout Jamborees that took place at Valley Forge from the 1930s to the 1960s.

On Saturday, Feb. 14, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Boy Scouts from six neighboring states will descend on the Valley Forge encampment site for the Boy Scouts of America 97th Anniversary "Washington's Birthday Encampment and Pilgrimage" – the oldest continuous annual scouting event in the world.

The scouts will march to themed vignettes of the life and military career of Johann de Kalb, a German who served as a Continental Army major general under Gen. Washington. Each stop along the march illustrates a different aspect of 18th century army life, including cooking, artillery and musket firing.

On Sunday, Feb. 15, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., visitors can see the 2nd Pennsylvania Regiment at the Park's Muhlenberg Brigade demonstrating musket-firing and cooking. Ranger-led walks to the Muhlenberg Brigade will take place at 10:20 a.m., 12:50 p.m. and 2:20 p.m. Musket and artillery programs are set for 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3 p.m.

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On Monday, Feb.16, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., visitors can meet George and Martha Washington interpreters in the Welcome Center while listening to period music by the "Colonial Revelers." Children may design birthday cards for Gen. Washington at the Encampment Store's "Kids Corner" from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and Mrs. Washington will present a birthday cake, baked from her own original recipe, to the General. Visitors are invited to sample the goodies.

At 11 a.m., children, ages 6 to 12, can enlist in the Continental Army and participate in the same marching and maneuvering drills executed according to Gen. Friedrich Von Steuben's "Manual of Arms," created during the Army's encampment at Valley Forge. Gen. Washington will review and lead the newly-trained young 'troops.' At 1:30 p.m., a 40-minute lecture on Washington's leadership, geared to older visitors, will be presented in the Education Center and followed by a ranger-led walk to the Muhlenberg Brigade.

All events are free and open to the public and more information may be found at [www.nps.gov/vafo](http://www.nps.gov/vafo). Scouts groups interested in participating in the Annual Pilgrimage can register at [www.colbsa.org](http://www.colbsa.org). For visitor information about making it a weekend in Valley Forge, log on to [www.valleyforge.org](http://www.valleyforge.org) to find affordable hotel packages, restaurants, shopping and a wealth of area attractions.

*About Valley Forge National Historical Park*

Valley Forge National Historical Park is a national icon of the American Revolution that serves as a place where visitors enjoy, understand, care for, and preserve America's history and natural heritage. The Park offers an engaging, complete educational and recreational experience, providing an important piece of the American story in a beautiful, historical, preserved landscape.

The Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau, Ltd. is a nonprofit, membership-based sales and marketing organization that aggressively promotes the Valley Forge area and Montgomery County as a convention site and leisure visitor destination by encouraging patronage of its 500-plus member hotels, restaurants, attractions and services. The Bureau's Web site, at [www.valleyforge.org](http://www.valleyforge.org), serves visitors, meeting planners, tour operators and residents.

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