



For Immediate Release
October 7, 2008
Contact: Olivia Edlund, VFCVB, 610.834.7991

Children Discover the Great Outdoors at Valley Forge Park

Two new programs explore forest, rocks

VALLEY FORGE, Pa. – Valley Forge National Historical Park is known for the history it holds about America. But two, new free programs for kids focus on the history the Park holds about the environment.

During “Into the Forest,” held the second Saturday of each month beginning in October, children will hike Mount Joy. As they trek through flora and fauna, they’ll learn forest structure and how to identify common trees and plants. Current threats to the forests at Valley Forge and their importance for a healthy environment will also be addressed.

Kids will learn that rocks can tell a lot, if you know how to listen, at “Stories in the Rocks,” held the third Saturday of each month. This hike will teach the children about the rocks and minerals right beneath their feet, including what rocks reveal about the past. Children will also see the mastodon and saber-tooth cat fossils found at Valley Forge, and try to make their own discoveries during a visit to an old quarry.

Park Ranger and facilitator Ajena Rogers said the Park created these programs to help children get outdoors and learn about the world around them.

“We hope to help kids have fun as they learn about the treasure trove of natural resources at Valley Forge, both living and non-living,” said Rogers. “If children can connect with and care about nature here and now, perhaps they will then help us continue to protect our natural environment in the future.”

The 90-minute programs, designed for children ages 6 to 12, will be held at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m., October through April. “Into the Forest” will meet at Artillery Park; “Stories in the Rocks” will meet at the Welcome Center. Pre-registration is required and program size is limited. Please call 610.783.1044 at least three days prior to the program to register. Scout troops can also participate in these programs and work toward badge requirements.

For more information about this and other programs or exhibits at Valley Forge National Historical Park, call 610.783.1099 or visit www.nps.gov/vafo. To get information about more attractions in the Valley Forge area and affordable “*Gas Is On Us*” hotel packages, go to www.valleyforge.org.

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.

About Valley Forge Convention and Visitors Bureau

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 serves visitors, residents, meeting planners and tour operators.

###