



When We Held Each Other Prisoner

150th Anniversary Commemoration

January 2014 – December 2015



NPS/C. Bairr

Commemorating the story of the Andersonville prison presents a unique challenge. As opposed to a military action conducted over days or weeks, the Civil War prisoner of war story is a longer, more complicated tragedy measured, in the words of one prisoner, “by inches.”

Taking a Long View

The fourteen-month long operation of the Camp Sumter Military Prison, commonly known as Andersonville, is an entry point to a tragic story of the consequences of war. In a war that divided not only states, but families, the experience of prisoners of war touched almost every American home.

In addition to exploring Andersonville prison and the stories of the men held here, Andersonville National Historic Site is charged with providing “an understanding of the overall prisoner of war story of the Civil War,” and to acknowledge the shared experiences of prisoners in the North and South.

Commemorating Sacrifice and Loss: Programs and Events

The programs and activities described here represent a basic framework for commemorating the sesquicentennial, but are not limited to these items.

“First Saturdays”

Every two months, the park will focus on a single word or theme that represents the events, conditions, or emotions of prisoners during the war. To expand the prisoner story, the park will also feature other Civil War prisons and draw on their stories to present a fuller picture of a soldier’s life beyond the battlefield. These programs will be held on the first Saturday of each month.

Night Museum

Explore the prison site by lantern light during this night-time living history event in January and November.

Living History Weekend

Experience what life was like at Andersonville as living historians portray prisoners, guards, and civilians. The second weekend of March annually; a second event will be held in October 2014.

Park Day

Join volunteers to rebuild replica prisoner shelters at the prison site in early April.

Memorial Day Observance

Remember America’s fallen soldiers in a series of activities during the Memorial Day holiday. The annual service occurs at 2:00 p.m. on the Sunday of the holiday weekend.

Wreaths Across America

Remember and honor veterans by placing wreaths in the national cemetery at this memorial service on the second Saturday of December.

Memorial Illumination

On September 18 & 19, 2015, volunteers will place nearly 13,000 candle luminaries on the prison site; each representing the death of a United States soldier during the fourteen-month operation of the prison. On those evenings, the luminaries will be viewable by driving the prison loop road after dark.

Funeral for Thirteen Thousand

On September 19, 2015 Andersonville National Cemetery will host a ceremony to remember the nearly 13,000 American soldiers who died while held captive at Andersonville prison, part of the 56,000 Americans who died as prisoners of war during the Civil War. This service will be the funeral they never received.



Union prisoner of war
NPS/Keith Rocco

Bimonthly Themes

Month/Year	Theme	Highlighted Prison
January/February 2014	Creation	Richmond Complex
March/April 2014	Arrival	Rock Island, IL
May/June 2014	Confinement	Camp Ford, TX
July/August 2014	Desperation	Fort Delaware
September/October 2014	Evacuation	Camp Lawton, GA
November/December 2014	Conversion	Temporary Camps
January/February 2015	Negotiation	Camp Douglas, IL
March/April 2015	Departure	Florence, SC
May/June 2015	Apprehension	Coastal Fortifications
July/August 2015	Accountability	Elmira, NY
September/October 2015	Sacrifice	Salisbury, NC
November/December 2015	Dedication	Fort Lafayette, NY

Schedule of events 2014-2015



Confederate prisoner of war
NPS/Keith Rocco

2014

January 25: Night Museum
February 1: First Saturday Programs
March 1: First Saturday Programs
March 8-9 : Living History Weekend
April 5: First Saturday Programs
April 9: National Former POW
 Recognition Day
April 12: Park Day
May 3: First Saturday Programs
May 25: Memorial Day Observance
June 7: First Saturday Programs
July 5: First Saturday Programs
August 2: First Saturday Programs
September 6: First Saturday Programs
September 19: National POW/MIA
 Recognition Day
October 25-26: Living History Weekend
November 1: First Saturday Programs
November 15: Night Museum
December 6: First Saturday Programs
December 13 : Wreaths Across America

2015

January 3: First Saturday Programs
January 24: Night Museum
February 7: First Saturday Programs
March 7: First Saturday Programs
March 14-15: Living History Weekend
April 4: First Saturday Programs
April 9: National Former POW
 Recognition Day
April 11: Park Day
May 2: First Saturday Programs
May 24: Memorial Day Observance
June 6: First Saturday Programs
July 4: First Saturday Programs
August 1: First Saturday Programs
September 5: First Saturday Programs
September 18: National POW/MIA
 Recognition Day
September 18-19: Memorial Illumination
September 19: Funeral for Thirteen
 Thousand
November 7: First Saturday Programs
November 14: Night Museum
December 5: First Saturday Programs
December 12: Wreaths Across America

All event dates and details are subject to change

Get Involved

Volunteer

These programs and events depend on the support of volunteers. Volunteers can assist with special events, lead tours, work in the museum, and serve as living historians.

Living History volunteers assist visitors in better understanding the prisoner of war experience by portraying individuals present at Andersonville during the Civil War. Learn more at: go.nps.gov/livinghistoryprisoners

To find out how you can help, please contact the Chief of Interpretation and Education at 229 924-0343, ext. 201.

Visit, Interact, and Learn More

To plan your visit to Andersonville, please review the park website: www.nps.gov/ande or call 229 924-0343 for more information.

More information on 150th anniversary events and programs can be found at: <http://go.nps.gov/cwprisons>

Follow Andersonville on social media to get news and updates about events, and more: www.facebook.com/AndersonvilleNPS and www.twitter.com/andeNHS