

# Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

within the Vancouver National Historic Reserve



## 2008 Special Programs and Events Calendar

All special programs and events take place at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site unless otherwise stated and are subject to change. Fort Entrance Fees: \$3/adult, \$5/family, & free for children 15 years and under. For additional information about these and the many other programs offered by the National Park Service at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, visit our website at [www.nps.gov/fova](http://www.nps.gov/fova) or call the Vancouver National Historic Visitor Center at 360.816.6230

### January

#### 2008: 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

Fort Vancouver is the heart of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve and is the gateway national park to the northwest national parks. A site rich in history, the park was established 60 years this year. Stay tuned for upcoming programs and events in celebration of this special year for Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

#### Saturday, January 12 & 26 (7:00 p.m.): Lantern Tours

Join in a wonderful opportunity to tour the Fort at night. Each adult attending the program will carry their own lantern and tour with the Park Ranger through the Fur Store, the Counting House, and Bake House. You will learn what activities would have occurred once the sun set at Fort Vancouver. The 1 ½ hour tour meets at the Fort. The cost is \$10 for adults and \$7 for children under 15 years of age. Reservations required by calling the Vancouver National Historic Reserve Visitor Center at 360.816.6230.

### February

#### Saturdays, February 9 & 23 (7:00 p.m.): Lantern Tours

Refer to January description

### March

#### Saturday, March 8 (12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.): Cultural Demonstration- *Embroidery* at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City

Embroidery was basic education for many Victorian girls. It was used for everything from marking household linens to decorating clothing to creating elaborate works of art. Come and learn how to stitch like a Victorian lady!

### April

#### April 5-June 22: Public History Field School

A hands-on immersion into how history is incorporated into the National Park Service mission and shared with the public. Through actively applying the knowledge gained through group discussion, directed readings, research, practical exercises, peer review, and class instruction, students will develop and present a special public program for the annual Brigade Encampment in June.

**Saturday, April 12 (12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.): Cultural Demonstration- *Crochet* at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City**

Crochet was all the rage in the 1840s and 1850s. Ladies' magazines of the era included patterns for all sorts of fashion and home décor items. Join us for an afternoon of fashionable fun and learn to crochet!

**Saturday, April 19: Nez Perce Chief Redheart Memorial Ceremony (To be confirmed)**

A traditional memorial to remember Chief Redheart's Band, including singing to honor of their ancestors, the Riderless Horse (Empty Saddle) Ceremony, and the Sacred Pipe Ceremony, and recognition of veterans. Ceremony takes place on the lower Parade Ground, across the street from the Fort. Time to be determined. Free of charge.

**Saturday-Sunday, April 19-27: National Park Week**

National Park Week is an annual Presidentially proclaimed week for celebration and recognition of Your National Parks. Your National Parks are living examples of the best this Nation has to offer - our magnificent natural landscapes and our varied yet interrelated heritage. Parks provide recreational experiences, opportunities to learn and grow, and places of quiet refuge.

- National Park Family Day
- Junior Ranger Day- Explore, Learn, Protect: Be a Junior Ranger

**Friday-Sunday, April 25-27: Discovery Walk**

The City of Vancouver will be hosting the tenth annual Discovery Walk Festival. The festival celebrates fitness and promotes international friendships. A portion of the walk takes place at Fort Vancouver, where participants will be greeted by costumed interpreters as they continue on walking the inside perimeter of the Fort.

**Friday, April 25 (9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.): 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Children's Cultural Parade**

Celebrating the diversity of Vancouver, this event combines classroom instruction where children study cultures from around the world and share what they have learned in a parade. The parade provides an opportunity for each child to share with the community his or her own unique culture. The parade begins along 5<sup>th</sup> street in front of Pearson Air Museum and ends inside the Fort. Free of charge.

**Saturday, April 26: National Park Family Day**

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site is the gateway to the Pacific Northwest national parks and the only national park in the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area. In the heart of the Vancouver National Historic Reserve, the National Park Service at Fort Vancouver invites its community to Family Day. Family Day participants have the opportunity to meet park rangers, and learn about park wildlife, and natural and cultural history. Educational activities and entertainment are designed to create an awareness and interest in the national parks.

**May**

**Saturday, May 10 (12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.): Cultural Demonstration- *Tatting* at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City**

Have you always wondered how dainty tatted lace is made? Mrs. McLoughlin knew, and now you can learn, too! Come and try your hand at a delightful craft that was very popular in the Victorian era.

**Monday, May 26 (1:30 p.m.): Memorial Day 1860's Cannon Salute**

Memorial Day was established to honor our nation's war dead. A military salute of arms is a tradition. Come view this 1860's weapons salute. The Black Powder demonstration will take place on the Parade Ground across from the Howard House. Free of charge.

**Saturday, May 31 (8:30 p.m.): Portland Rose Festival- Starlight Parade**

Fort Vancouver National Historic will be celebrating its 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary as the only national park in the Portland/Vancouver metropolitan area by participating in this Portland's Rose Festival. The festival spotlights the riches of our Pacific Northwest heritage and environment while highlighting examples of the

many international cultures of the area. One of most popular events of the Rose Festival, the Starlight Parade draws more than 250,000 spectators. Fort Vancouver National Historic Site will offer a display that shares the history of the Pacific Northwest.

## June

### **June 17-August 2: Archaeological Field School**

To share the "underground" legacy of this site, we have developed a Public Archaeology Program which includes educational opportunities, special tours, and lectures. These activities help to share the site in a new way, and involve our visitors in the process of learning from, and working to preserve cultural resources. Lectures vary from 30 minutes to 1-hour. Free of charge.

### **Archaeology Lecture Series: Dates to be announced.**

The Lecture Series ties into the Archaeological Field School providing students and the public a more in depth look at the field of archaeology.

### **Saturday, June 14 (12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.): Cultural Demonstration- *Paper Rosettes* at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City**

The Victorians loved paper crafts, and used paper in many creative ways. In 1834, the "*Girl's Own Book*" included instructions for making paper rosettes. Come and learn how to transform paper strips into charming little stars!

### **Saturday, June 14: Flag Day**

Join us for Celebrate Freedom's patriotic Flag Day Ceremony held at the Bandstand on the Historic Reserve Parade Ground. During this ceremony the community gathers to participate in the Annual National Pause for the Pledge and pay their respect to our country's national symbol. This youth focused event draws participation from local 5th grade classes who write essays, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, school bands, military personnel, elected officials and community members. Time to be determined. Free of charge.

### **Saturday and Sunday, June 21 -22 (10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.): Brigade Encampment**

Again the brigades of fur trappers return to Fort Vancouver. They will share their stories of adventure and life in the wilds with those they have not seen in close to a year and this time you are invited. Encampment takes place outside the fort. Event is free of charge. Entrance Fees to visit the fort apply.

### **Saturdays-Parade Ground and Sundays-Fort, June 28- September 1 (1:30 p.m.): Historic Weapons Program (Small Arms and Cannon)**

Learn more about the weapons in use at both the Hudson's Bay Company's Fort Vancouver and the U. S. Army's Vancouver Barracks. On Saturdays meet on the parade ground for historic weapons firing demonstrations using military arms; on Sundays meet in the courtyard of Fort Vancouver for historic weapons demonstrations of the weapons of the Hudson's Bay Company. Black Powder programs on the parade ground are free of charge. Entrance fees to visit the fort apply.

### **Saturday, June 28 (11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.): Kids Dig**

Children ages 8-12 are introduced to archaeology by participating in a "mock dig", mapping their artifact finds, and recording their data. As they excavate and screen with the help of park staff and volunteers, participants will discuss how we learn from archaeology, and why we should preserve these pieces of our past. Each two-hour session is limited to 20 children, on a first-come, first-served basis. Entrance Fees to visit the fort apply. Program is free.

## July

### **Saturday & Sunday, July 12-13: Environmental Living Program- Crossroads and Conflict**

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site first ever Environmental Living Program, an immersion program where participants live as a group in a particular time in history at a particular place. Participants often study a person/groups of people from that time, and try their best to live their life for a short time as that person would. The program at Fort Vancouver will expose the group to life on the frontier before the American Civil War. They will use tools, perform duties, work, cook, and bake as if they were here in 1849.

Reservations required for the is overnight program and limited to one group of 15 people. Fee based program.

**Thursday, July 3 (9:00 p.m.): Movie Night On the Reserve**

Families are invited to make history on Friday nights. Historically a community social meeting place, Fort Vancouver's Parade Ground continues to provide this opportunity by offering a series of Movies on the Reserve. Free of charge.

**Friday, July 4 (8:00 a.m.-11:00 p.m.): 4th of July Celebration**

Vancouver's famous fireworks display! The Fort will be open, with living history events throughout the day. Entrance fees apply to enter the fort.

**July 5-September 1: Historic Reserve Summer Programs including. . .**

**Fast Facts at Fort Vancouver:** An introductory talk for visitors on-the-go. Talks discuss Fort Vancouver's past and why it is considered nationally significant and operated as a unit of the National Park System.

**Historic Weapons:** Black powder demonstrations are offered every weekend with Saturdays focusing on the military presence at the Historic Reserve and Sundays programs about Hudson's Bay Company at Fort Vancouver.

**Company Servant:** Think life at Fort Vancouver was glamorous? For the 220 "servants" of the Hudson's Bay Company, the 6-day work week meant hard work and long hours. Come and experience the day-to-day work of a baker, fur trapper, gardener, and carpenter at 1840's Fort Vancouver. Visitors will try their hand at kneading dough and cutting sea biscuits in the Bake House, weighing and pressing furs in the Fur Warehouse, weeding and hoeing in the garden, and trying their hand at carpentry using the tools of the 1840's.

**Digging Deeper into History:** Fort Vancouver burned down in the 1860s leaving what appeared to be a bare landscape. However today, many of the buildings have been reconstructed on their original sites. Join a park ranger as you tour the buildings and grounds, finding out how the pieces of the Fort Vancouver puzzle hidden for so many years were put together to reconstruct the buildings and lives of the residents.

**Strolling the Historic Reserve:** Walk back through time as you learn about the hidden treasures of the Historic Reserve, walk includes Officers Row.

**Saturday, July 12 (11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.) Kids Dig at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City**

Children ages 8-12 are introduced to archaeology by participating in a "mock dig", mapping their artifact finds, and recording their data. As they excavate and screen with the help of park staff and volunteers, participants will discuss how we learn from archaeology, and why we should preserve these pieces of our past. Each two-hour session is limited to 20 children, on a first-come, first-served basis. Free of charge.

**Saturday, July 12 (12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.): Cultural Demonstration- *Feather Work* at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City**

Nature crafts of all sorts were enjoyed by Victorian ladies. The delicate art of feather work was used to create lovely pictures for the home. Join us and try this form of creative expression for yourself!

**Saturday and Sunday, July 19-20 (9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.): Soldier's Bivouac**

Much of the news today is about soldiers in battle. However much of their time is spent at camp and in the community. Explore the camps of soldiers from Vancouver Barracks' past and present. Visitors will see what life was like in the military from a soldier's point of view. Bivouac takes place on the Parade Ground. Free of charge.

**Saturday, July 19 (6:00 p.m.): 1860's Vintage Base Ball**

The first vintage base ball game of the season, this gloveless game with wooden bats is played by very different rules! Bring a picnic and watch staff and volunteers recreate a game, playing by the rules established in 1860. The 1st Oregon Volunteers will once again play the Vancouver town team. Come and cheer for your favorite team, but beware... the umpire can fine the audience for "ungentlemanly" or "unladylike" behavior. All games take place on the Parade Ground next to the Bandstand. Free of charge.

**Saturday, July 26 (11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.): Kids Dig**  
Refer to July 12 description.

## August

**Saturday and Sunday, August 9-10: Environmental Living Program- Crossroads and Conflict**  
Refer to July description.

**Saturday, August 8 (9:00 p.m.) Movie Night On the Reserve**  
Refer to July description.

**Saturday, August 9 (12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.): Cultural Demonstration- *Victorian Jewelry-Symbolism & Sentimentality* at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City**  
Jewelry was more than personal ornamentation to the Victorians - much of it used symbolism to express sentiment and deeper meaning. Come and enjoy a display of original period jewelry and a lecture on this fascinating topic!

**Friday, August 15: Annual Reserve Trust Dinner**  
Details to be announced

**Saturday, August 16 (6:00 p.m.): 1860's Vintage Base Ball**  
Refer to July description

**Saturday, August 23: Land Bridge Community Event**  
Details to be announced.

## September

**Monday, September 1-Labor Day (1:30 p.m.): Historic Weapons: Important Tools of the Past**  
The soldiers of the US Army used black powder weapons for sport and for military purposes. Join rangers and volunteers as they explain the role of various weapons used by the soldiers at the Vancouver Barracks. Free of charge located on the Parade Ground.

**Anniversary of the McLoughlin Memorial Association Founding-McLoughlin House in Oregon City:**  
**Date to be announced**  
Free of charge

**Saturday, September 13 (12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.): Cultural Demonstration- *Beadwork* at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City**  
Beads were used in a variety of creative ways, ladies made jewelry, clothing, gifts, and home décor items. Learn about this versatile craft material, and experiment with Victorian-style beadwork!

**Saturday, September 13 (5:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.): Campfires and Candlelight**  
Stroll back in time and experience the night life of U.S. Army soldiers, Oregon Trail immigrants, and the residents Fort Vancouver Village. Once inside the Fort, visitors have the opportunity to observe life evening activities by campfires and candlelight.

## October

**Washington and Oregon Archaeology Month: Walking and Collection Tours**  
Celebrating archaeology by raising awareness about archaeology and cultural heritage, both states offer a number of activities for everyone. Fort Vancouver provides Kids Dig, Collections Tours, and more. To learn more about this year's archaeology month celebrations please go to [www.oahp.wa.gov](http://www.oahp.wa.gov). Entrance Fees to visit the fort apply.

**Saturday Date TBD (11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.): Kids Dig**  
Refer to June description

**Saturday, October 11 (12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.): Cultural Demonstration- *Bobbin Lace & Lacemaking* at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City**

Queen Victoria's wedding veil was made of delicate Honiton lace. Come and see the amazingly intricate techniques of bobbin lace and other types of lacemaking!

**Saturdays, October 11 and 18 (7:00 p.m.): Tales of the Engagé**

Step back in time with a “campfire program” of the 1840’s. Join the Engagés of the Hudson’s Bay Company as they share their stories of life at Fort Vancouver. The 1hour program will take place just outside the fort walls. Free of charge.

**Friday and Saturday, October 24-25 (6:00-9:00 p.m.): Spirits of Oregon City-McLoughlin House in Oregon City**

The Spirits of Oregon City is a mobile theater tour that takes you back in time to several of the heritage sites in town, including the Mountain View Cemetery. You'll see living history vignettes about the characters of Oregon City's past. Reservations are strongly recommended - call the Rivershore Hotel at (503) 655-7141 to reserve your space. Tickets are \$15.00 per person. It's a little spooky, but not scary - an interesting and fun event for all ages!

**November**

**Saturdays, November 8 and 22 (7:00 p.m.): Lantern Tours**

Refer to January Description

**Saturday, November 8 (12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.): Cultural Demonstration- *Penny Rugs* at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City**

When is a rug not a rug? When it's a Penny Rug! These layered and stitched table mats are made of concentric circles of wool felt. Coins were used as cutting templates, which gave the craft its name. Come and learn the technique of this folk craft!

**Tuesday, November 11: Veterans Day (Free Fee Day for Veterans and their families)**

Honoring those who have served and who are serving, military personnel and their families are admitted free into Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

**December**

**Saturdays, December 6 and 20 (7:00 p.m.): Lantern Tours**

Refer to January description

**Saturday, December 6: Heritage Holidays at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City**

Step back in time, to the 1850’s. The holiday season is approaching, and everyone is preparing for the festivities. Learn what it might have been like to celebrate Christmas with the McLoughlin Family.

**Saturday, December 13 (10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.): Christmas at Fort Vancouver**

Experience first hand the festive traditional sights, smells, and sounds of the holiday season at Fort Vancouver. Visitors will be able to view and participate in activities undertaken by residents at the fort during the holiday season. Entrance Fees to visit the fort apply.

Please remember to visit the other venues within the Vancouver National Historic Reserve. For more information regarding their hours of operation and events please contact:

Pearson Air Museum- 360.694.7026

Officers Row

The Restaurant located in the  
Grant House-360.1101

Marshall House-360.696.3103

Vancouver National Historic Reserve located in the  
Howard House- 360.992.1800

Water Resources Education Center- 360.487.7111