

THE  
**FUTURE**  
OF  
**AMERICA'S**  
**NATIONAL**  
**PARKS**

First Annual  
Centennial Strategy for

# Andersonville National Historic Site

August 2007

CENTENNIAL INITIATIVE



Site: ANDE

Year: 2007

### Vision Statement

Located in southwest Georgia, Andersonville National Historic Site was established in 1970. Containing 520 acres, the park preserves a National Cemetery and Prison Site in perpetuity and makes this a valuable part of America's heritage available to approximately 140,000 visitors each year for their experience, enjoyment, understanding and appreciation.

Andersonville National Historic Site provides an understanding of the overall prisoner-of-war story of the Civil War, to interpret the role of prisoner-of-war camps in history, to commemorate the sacrifice of Americans who lost their lives in such camps, to preserve the monuments located within the site and operate the National Cemetery for burial of veterans and their dependents. Andersonville is the site of Camp Sumter, the largest prisoner-of-war camp in the Civil War. The National Cemetery remains an active cemetery and currently contains over 19,000 graves of former prisoners-of-war, spouses and children from WWI, WWII, the Korean Conflict, the Vietnam War, the Gulf War and the War on Terrorism.

The National Historic Site contains the cultural landscape associated with Andersonville Prison and its' memorialization period. The prison site consists of historic earth works and rifle pits, historic wells and the area where Stockade Branch flows. Two reconstructed sections of the stockade are in place and a tour road provides access to the entire prison site and cemetery.

The National Prisoner of War Museum opened in 1998. The construction of the 10,000 square foot museum is a result of a partnership with the American Ex-Prisoners of War and the Friends of Andersonville.

The Centennial vision for the park and its partners is to produce a traveling exhibition entitled: "Echoes of Captivity: A Moving Tribute to the American Prisoner of War Experience." The hope is that this traveling exhibit will raise awareness through education to a larger and more diverse audience by telling the story of America's POWs. The display will be loaned to museums, educational institutions and libraries for short term periods. The exhibit plans to present an informational program that will increase the viewer's knowledge surrounding the stories of Andersonville and Prisoners-of-War. By reaching out through this traveling exhibit, the park anticipates greater visitation by those who have the desire to learn more about these incredibly important stories.

### Park/ Superintendent/ Program Manager

Fred Boyles, Superintendent

Site: ANDE

RECREATION

Expand partnerships with schools and boys and girls associations to show how national park experiences can improve children's lives.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Insert Park Text

The work described currently is supported by OFS and/ or PMIS

Site: ANDE

RECREATION

Focus national, regional, and local tourism efforts to reach diverse audiences and young people and to attract visitors to lesser-known parks.

Increase the number of visitors that attend ranger-facilitated programs such as campfire talks, hikes, and school programs.

Andersonville National Historic Site provides an understanding of the overall prisoner-of-war story of the Civil War, to interpret the role of prisoner-of-war camps in history, to commemorate the sacrifice of Americans who lost their lives in such camps, to preserve the monuments located within the site and operate an active National Cemetery.

The National Prisoner of War Museum is also located at Andersonville. The 10,000 square foot museum contains audiovisuals, exhibits and artifacts from POWs held in the Civil War through the Gulf War.

The park and its partners will produce a traveling exhibition entitled: "Echoes of Captivity: A Moving Tribute to the American Prisoner of War Experience." The hope is that this traveling exhibit will raise awareness through education to a larger and more diverse audience in the telling of the story of America's POWs. The display will be loaned to museums, educational institutions and libraries for short terms. The exhibit will present an informational program that will increase the viewer's knowledge surrounding the stories of Andersonville and the prisoners-of-war.

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Site: ANDE

**EDUCATION**

Impart to every American a sense of their citizen ownership of their national parks.

Increase visitors' satisfaction, understanding, and appreciation of the parks they visit.

A visit to Andersonville National Historic Site can be a very powerful experience for a first time visitor. The story of Camp Sumter and of all POWs in American history is well presented through the Official Map and Guide, National Prisoner of War Museum, Audio Driving Tour, Wayside Exhibits, Living History Programs and Ranger Facilitated Programs. Temporary exhibits are mounted in the Museum so that return visitors can learn new aspects of the park's story.

Andersonville National Historic Site, the Friends of Andersonville and the American Ex-Prisoners of War propose a new traveling exhibit based on the current thematic exhibit halls of the National Prisoner of War Museum. This new exhibition will be comparable in concept, style and design to the exhibits currently in the Museum. The exhibition will include cases, wall panels, freestanding display units and computer and audiovisual equipment that would highlight the site's oral history collection. The traveling exhibit will reach a larger audience who are either unaware of or not able to travel to southwest Georgia. The traveling exhibition would permit its hosting by military museums, historical societies and schools.

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Site: ANDE

**PROFESSIONALISM**

Model what it means to work in partnership.

Other Park/ Program performance goal(s)

Andersonville National Historic Site has a number of very active and involved partners who give to the park in many forms including volunteer time, monetary help and advocacy of its needs. These partners include the Friends of Andersonville, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, individuals and many other groups.

The park is fortunate to have a long term partnership with the Friends of Andersonville who have created a strong endowment fund to support park enhancements. Generous donations from former POWs, foundations and private donors have allowed the Friends to give over \$500,000 in eight years to worthy projects that have benefited the park in land acquisition, resource protection and visitor services.

The American Ex-Prisoner of War and the Friends of Andersonville were major contributors to the construction of the National Prisoner of War Museum which opened in 1998. The Friends of Andersonville, through the Andersonville Trust, have funded numerous interpretive projects throughout the years that the park would not have been able to accomplish due to the shortfall of operating funds. Each of these are models of partnerships at Andersonville National Historic Site.

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