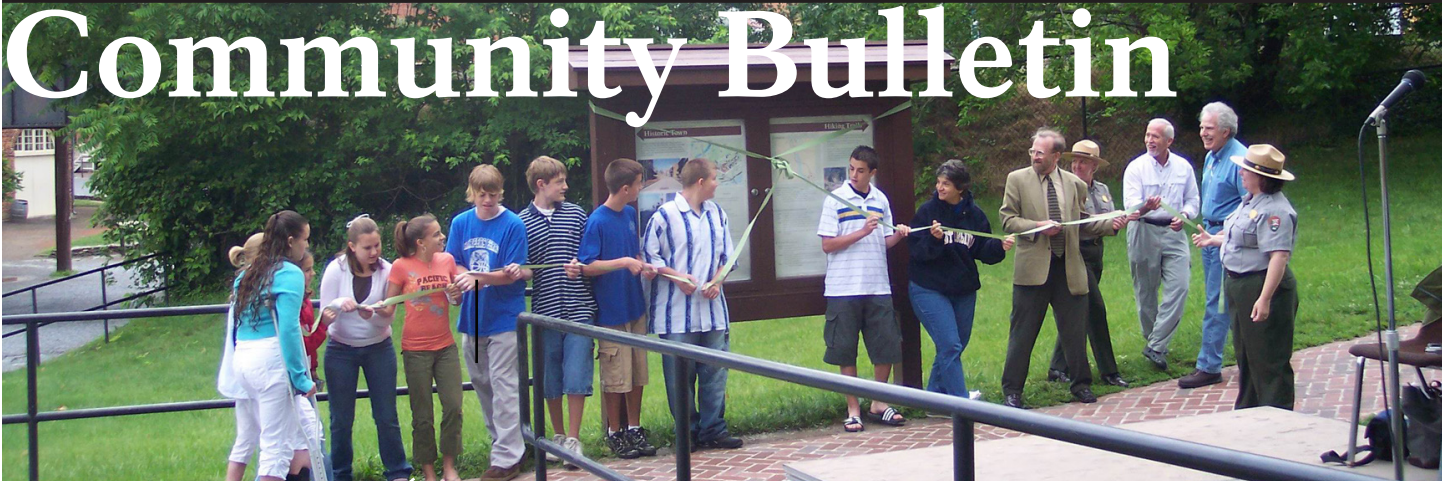




# Community Bulletin



## Harpers Ferry Middle School Design Projects

As part of a service-learning partnership initiated by Rita Hennessy, Acting Park Manager for the Appalachian National Scenic Trail, all 165 Harpers Ferry middle school sixth-graders participated in the development of a new trail brochure for the Appalachian Trail.

The students mapped the Appalachian Trail route through Harpers Ferry with global-positioning system (GPS) units and took notes and photographs. Using this data, they developed the brochure now available to the park's 300,000 visitors.

Impressed by the 6th graders brochure project, the student council—consisting of 6th, 7th and 8th graders—approached Rita about producing a project of their own. Harpers Ferry Park Ranger Elizabeth Kerwin-Nisbet proposed the development of high-quality orientation posters for under utilized bulletin boards in the park. Together Rita, Elizabeth and the students' teacher, Assunta Wight, guided the students' efforts as they went on hikes and took notes, photographs, trail measurements, and wrote exhibit text. The students worked with Michele Foshee, Harpers Ferry Center intern, who created the layout and conducted a "live design" session

with council members. The students enjoyed the process—especially the field work. One student wrote: *Lying on the rocks and soaking up the sun after the hard climb was worth it. Somehow you got the feeling that all was right with the world.*

The students' project was formally unveiled in a special ceremony on June 3rd, National Trails Day. Chris Jarvi, Associate Director of the National Park Service, thanked the students and their teacher for their hard work on behalf of NPS director Fran Mainella. David Startzell, Executive Director of Appalachian Trail

Conservancy, expressed the ATC's appreciation by presenting a \$500 check to Joe Spurgas, Principal of Harpers Ferry Middle School.



# America's Picnic: Celebrating The Glorious Fourth

On Saturday and Sunday, July 1 and 2, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park invites visitors to experience America's Picnic: Celebrating the Glorious Fourth. This special event showcases a Harpers Ferry of the past--an 1860 town decked out in patriotic finery to celebrate Independence Day. The year is 1860. Americans celebrated the nation's birthday with picnics, band concerts, and patriotic speeches honoring the founding fathers and the glorious republic. Americans looked back to honor a century of progress with a new experiment called democracy in the brave new world. Looking ahead, Americans also wondered whether the country would still be united for next year's celebration or if civil war would come to pass. References to the recent John Brown raid, his execution and the coming Presidential election will be topics that stir fervor and questions about the nation's future.

Volunteers and staff in period clothing will help set this mid-century scene. Children are invited to enroll and march with the hometown defenders, the local militia. Families can enjoy a special ranger-guided walking tour America's Picnic: Celebrating the Glorious Fourth. This living history presentation reveals famous July 4ths from the town's tumultuous history. A ranger-guided program and historic weapons demonstration called Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness joins the town's militia company, the Floyd Guard, as they bring to mind the purpose of the Declaration of Independence and defense of a young nation.

On Saturday, July 1 and 2 visitors are invited to enjoy a brass band concert, Patriotism, Pride, and A Slice of Early America. Travel back in time and experience the relaxation and recreation of an 1860's hometown band concert with the Wildcat Regiment Band of the 105th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

## Saturday, July 1

12-4 Special Exhibits open.

**12:00 Patriotism, Pride, and A Slice of Early America** Travel back in time to experience the 1860 relaxation and recreation of a hometown band concert. Join the Wildcat Regiment Band at the tent on Arsenal Square.

**1:00 America's Picnic: Celebrating the Glorious Fourth** A ranger-guided living history presentation. Witness famous July 4ths from the town's turbulent history. Begins at the Green.

**2:00 Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness** A living history and historic weapons firing demonstration. Join our 1860 town militia as they bring to mind the establishment and defense of our grand republic. Begins at the Green.

**3:00 Support Our Home Town Defenders** Join in our local militia games. Show your hometown pride and skill in the bucket brigade and tug-o-war.

**4:00 Patriotism, Pride, and A Slice of Early America** Travel back in time to experience the 1860 relaxation and recreation of a hometown band concert. Join the Wildcat Regiment Band at the tent on Arsenal Square.

## Sunday, July 2

12-4 Special Exhibits open.

**12:00 Patriotism, Pride, and A Slice of Early America** Travel back in time to experience the 1860 relaxation and recreation of a hometown band concert. Join the Wildcat Regiment Band, the Regimental Band of the 105th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry, at the tent on Arsenal Square.

**1:00 Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness** A living history and historic weapons firing demonstration. Join our 1860 town militia as they bring to mind the establishment and defense of our grand republic. Begins at the Green.

**2:00 America's Picnic: Celebrating the Glorious Fourth** A ranger-guided living history presentation. Witness famous July 4ths from the town's turbulent history. Begins at the Green.

**3:00 Patriotism, Pride, and A Slice of Early America** Travel back in time to experience the 1860 relaxation and recreation of a hometown band concert. Join the Wildcat Regiment Band at the tent on Arsenal Square.

**4:00 Support Our Home Town Defenders** A ladies militia fair booth and pie raffle. Join the local militia wives, daughters and sweethearts as they raise funds to supply the hometown defenders with militia uniforms. Enter your name in the raffle to win a pie!



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

The history of Harpers Ferry has few parallels in the American drama. It is more than one event, one date, or one individual. It is multi-layered, involving a diverse number of people and events, decisions and actions that influenced the course of our nation's history. Visit Harpers Ferry and step into history.

Harpers Ferry National Historical Park  
P.O. Box 65  
Harpers Ferry, West Virginia 25425

Visitor Center  
304-535-6029

Harpers Ferry Historical Association Bookshop  
304-525-6881 or 800-821-5206

Harpers Ferry NHP Home Page  
[www.nps.gov/hafe/](http://www.nps.gov/hafe/)

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.