



Community Bulletin



America's Picnic: Celebrating the Glorious 4th

On Saturday July 4th, 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, July 4, 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 reflect upon nearly a century of progress on the

American experiment. Looking ahead, Americans also wondered whether the country would still be one united nation for next year's celebration or if civil war would tear that nation apart. John Brown's Raid and execution, as well as the coming Presidential election, stirred fervor and pushed questions about the nation's future to the forefront.

Volunteers and staff in historic costume will help set the mid-century scene. Visitors are invited to witness the latest

and greatest technology of the 19th century in the Wonders of the Modern World exhibition. Families can enjoy a special ranger-guided walking tours throughout the day and sit down to enjoy *Patriotism, Pride, and a Slice of Early America*, an 1860's hometown band concert with the Wildcat Regiment Band of the 105th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

For additional information, please call the Information Center at 304-535-6029.

2009 Federal Recreation Lands Photo Contest

America's Federal Recreation Lands are special places that bring people together and leave visitors enriched. From scenic vistas to diverse wildlife to historic landmarks, these lands offer a myriad of picture perfect moments to capture. We invite you to get out and explore these places and share your experience by entering up to three photos into the **Share the Experience Photo Contest**. This year in celebration of these special places, we've included two exciting categories and you can enter your 3 images in only one category or both.

You can enter your photos in the **Federal Recreation Lands Pass Category** for a chance to have your winning

photo adorn the 2011 Federal Recreation Lands Pass, earn you an Olympus E-3 DSLR Camera Kit and a trip to a Federal Recreation Area of your choice. There are fourteen chances to win national recognition and many great prizes.

You can also enter the **America at Its Best Category**. This special category is being included to acknowledge the PBS special by Ken Burns entitled, "National Parks -- America's Best Idea." Land set aside to be preserved unimpaired as National Parks has been called America's Best Idea. For more than a century, America has preserved and protected some of the greatest natural resources on this earth as national

parks, national forests, fish and wildlife refuges and other lands. Take a photo in any of the federal recreation lands that you believe showcases "America at Its Best." The winning photo will be featured in an issue of Parks magazine and the winner of this one time category will receive an Olympus E-30 DSLR camera kit and the Ken Burns "National Parks - America's Best Idea" DVD and companion book.

Additional information can be found online at <http://nationalparks.promo.eprize.com/experiencecontest2009/> This contest is sponsored by Olympus and The National Park Foundation.

Volunteer of the Month

This month Helen Liptak was unanimously nominated Volunteer of the Month by the Harpers Ferry NHP Management Team. In early May Helen was recruited by her granddaughter to sewing over 100 volunteer patches on new polo shirts. These shirts were purchased as a result of special project funding the park received because of its substantial and highly visible volunteer program. Over 250 shirts were purchased altogether, with nearly 125 being patchless. As soon as the boxes of shirts arrived at her doorstep, the sewing began. Within a two week period Helen had completed over 60 shirts. This is not her first time volunteering with for National Park Service. In 1999, Helen performed similar work for staff at Minute Man National Historical Park in Concord, Massachusetts.

Helen, an 89-year old Massachusetts native, graduated in 1939 from Bay Path College in Springfield, Massachusetts. After graduation she was employed by



Liberty Mutual Insurance before marrying and starting a family. Over the past 65 years Helen has volunteered her time and talents to a number of organizations including; the local Catholic Church, the Boy Scouts of America and the National Park Service. Her call to volunteer service remains strong and she has certainly instilled that ethic in her children and grandchildren. Mother of four and grandmother to six, Helen remains very active for her 89 years. In addition to sewing, she enjoys gardening, birding, cooking, walking, vacationing on Cape Cod and spending time with her family.

July 18 - 19 "Under Fire: The Battle of Harpers Ferry 1862" Bolivar Heights Battlefield. Artillery demonstration and program on General Stonewall Jackson's capture of the 12,500-man Union garrison. Programs at 12 noon 2pm & 3pm

July 25 "Slavery, the Abolitionist Movement and Reflections of Jefferson & Lincoln" 1 and 3 pm An insightful dramatic presentation on the issue of slavery featuring Jim Getty as Abraham Lincoln & Bill Barker as Thomas Jefferson. Arsenal Square

August 1-2 "I Will Follow Them To the Death: Sheridan's Soldiers 1864" 11-4pm Members of the living history group 11th New Jersey will demonstrate union army garrison duties and maintaining military security in a occupied enemy town.

August 8 - 9 "Under Fire: The Battle of Harpers Ferry 1862" Bolivar Heights Battlefield. Artillery demonstration and program on General Stonewall Jackson's capture of the 12,500-man Union garrison. Programs at 12 noon 2pm & 3pm

August 15 - 16 "A Summer of Fire: Harpers Ferry 1864" 11-4pm Living history volunteers of the 42nd Pennsylvania and 20th Maine Hospital interpret the Union occupation of Harpers Ferry during the summer of 1864. Ranger guided historic weapons, drill and firing demonstrations will be featured.

August 23 Niagara Movement Pilgrimage to John Brown's Fort 8:30-11am Retrace the 1906 footsteps of the men and women of Niagara during this commemorative walk to the site of the John Brown's Fort in 1906. A 10:00 a.m. memorial service will follow at the Curtis Freewill Baptist Church.

Summer Events

July 4th "America's Picnic: Celebrating the Glorious Fourth!" 11-4pm A special living history program on how the 4th was celebrated in America. Traditional hometown band concert with the Wildcat Regiment Band, the Regimental Band of the 105th Pennsylvania Volunteer Infantry.

July 5 Workshop "Ices, Creamed Ice, and Custards" 2-4pm Roeder's Confectionery. Observers welcomed. Call the living history offices at 304-535-6063 to register. Workshop limited to 20 people: 16 yrs or older, 5.00. Under 16 free with paying adults.

July 11-12 "Giving Aid and Comfort: Medical and Relief Work during the Civil War" 11-4pm The living history volunteers will portray the medical and relief efforts that provided aid and comfort to the thousands of soldiers fighting during the American Civil War.



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

Harpers Ferry NHP Home Page
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.