



National Mall Times July 2009

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ROBBY ANTON • ROBERT S MACGURE • BRENTE MAHRE
• MICHAEL J MORROW • HOWARD A MUCIHA

Welcome to National Mall and Memorial Parks!

July is a great time to experience your national park! Our ranger staff presents interpretive programs throughout the park from bike tours and evening walking tours to shorter detailed programs of each memorial.

To learn more about the future of the National Mall, visit the National Mall Plan website (www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan) to read current alternatives, express ideas, and follow our progress.

Page through this newspaper to find out more about the many fascinating ranger programs offered throughout the park. Our park staff and volunteers will be glad to answer any of your questions. Thanks for visiting, and have a wonderful experience at National Mall and Memorial Parks!

Landscape of Freedom

By Ranger Janet Buerger

It is for us, the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they... have thus far so nobly advanced.

- Excerpt from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address

Every Fourth of July this nation celebrates more than independence; it celebrates the goal of the American experiment, universal freedom, and equality. Progress has been slow, and at times discouraging, but after the recent inaugural festivities of the first African-American President, National Mall and Memorial Parks reminds us of ongoing progress.

The Washington Monument stands as a tribute to the Father of the Country. On July 4, 1775, Commander in Chief George Washington issued Order #1: unity of colony militias - a unity of people - to symbolize our ideals. As a slave holder he struggled with these new ideals and on December 31, 1775, reversed the ban on blacks in the military and ordered his generals to accept them as equal to whites. Facing the Monument is the Jefferson Memorial. In relief

I AM NOT AN ADVOCATE FOR FREQUENT CHANGES IN LAWS AND CONSTITUTIONS. BUT LAWS AND INSTITUTIONS MUST GO HAND IN HAND WITH THE PROGRESS OF THE HUMAN MIND. AS THAT BECOMES MORE DEVELOPED, MORE ENLIGHTENED,

Text within the Thomas Jefferson Memorial

on a wall inside are parts of the Declaration of Independence, stating that all men are created equal. President Lincoln both preserved Washington's Union and helped end slavery in it. Inscribed on a wall in Lincoln Memorial is his Gettysburg Address, which challenges "the living" to finish the work of the founding fathers.

IN THESE DAYS OF DIFFICULTY, WE AMERICANS EVERYWHERE MUST AND SHALL CHOOSE THE PATH OF SOCIAL JUSTICE... THE PATH OF FAITH, THE PATH OF HOPE, AND THE PATH OF LOVE TOWARD OUR FELLOW MAN.

Text within the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial reminds us that he and Eleanor Roosevelt elevated progress to an international stage. In response to the Great Depression he committed to a New Deal for all Americans; to World War II, he took a stand against tyranny worldwide. Eleanor Roosevelt, as our first delegate to the United Nations, orchestrated an international Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and, on the home front, fought for the rights of women and blacks, and improved relations with Latin America. She helped arrange for Marian Anderson's 1939 concert at Lincoln Memorial, making it a platform for First Amendment rights.

An inscription on the steps marks where Martin Luther King Jr. followed to give his 1963 "I Have a Dream" speech. We can stand there in solidarity, looking to Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol, site of the inauguration, backed



Crowds gather for Martin Luther King Jr. August, 28, 1963

by Lincoln's challenge "for us, the living" to carry on and achieve the goal. National Mall and Memorial Parks, our virtual landscape of freedom, suggests that we can do it.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive, SW
Washington, DC 20024
202-233-3520
www.nps.gov/nama or www.nps.gov/mall
National Mall Plan Website:
www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan
Radio: 1670 AM

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Join National Park Service rangers every Saturday and Sunday from 1:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. for FREE guided bike tours of the Nation's Capital. (Family Tours are given on the third Sunday of the month from 2:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.)

Tour season begins Saturday, March 28, and continues through Sunday, November 29, 2009. Please bring your own bike, helmet (required), and water. All tours begin at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial plaza.

For more information call Bike Program Coordinator, Ranger Jason Martz at 202-438-4391, or check our website: www.nps.gov/mall.

Saturday, July 4 – NO TOUR – Independence Day Celebration

Sunday, July 5 – History of the Mall - Explore the History of America's Front Yard

The history of the National Mall is as diverse and fascinating as the history of our nation itself. From George Washington's vision of the Federal City to the District of Columbia of today, how has this span of green space in the heart of the Nation's Capital been altered over time? How has this area been influenced by great natural, cultural, historical, and social events through time? Join us to see and hear how the National Mall has evolved into what you experience today.

Saturday, July 11 – Off the Beaten Path - "Affairs of Honor:" American Duels

On July 4th, 1776, fifty-six men, supported by a Continental army and freedom-loving citizens from thirteen states, formed a new nation and pledged "our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor" to one another, and to a glorious cause. In an age when a man's reputation was his most valued possession, gentlemen of power and politics would go to extremes to defend their honor and their good names. Even though dueling was an ancient practice, it found new life in America. The greater the name, the higher the stakes; many of our country's famous and powerful men can be connected to this violent practice. President Andrew Jackson found "justice" and "satisfaction" on the dueling grounds. Stephen Decatur, a naval hero, was mortally wounded in a duel. The Burr and Hamilton duel, perhaps history's most famous, is itself an incredible and tragic story. Join National Park Service rangers for a tour focusing on the lives, and sometimes-violent deaths, of famous men.

Sunday, July 12 - Unexplored Tales of the City

Learn the truth surrounding the Presidents of the United States: strokes, heart attacks, depression, gout, dysentery, or worse. They're human too, but their job description often hides the truth from the public. Were you taught that George Washington cut down a cherry tree, or Abraham Lincoln wrote his Gettysburg Address

on the back of an envelope while riding a train? The truth regarding these, and other misunderstood and fictitious legends is just the beginning. These tours prove once and for all that true American history is stranger than fictitious American history.

Saturday, July 18 – Off the Beaten Path - The City of Magnificent Intentions

Legendary author Charles Dickens used these words to describe the city of Washington in his American Notes. When Dickens visited America in the 1840s, Washington was a city still in its infancy, struggling to define itself among the brotherhood of world capitals. Thrust into status as a city from its inception, the capital had to grow at an incredible rate to justify its rank as the seat of government for the young United States of America. Join National Park Service rangers as we explore the growth of Washington, D.C. from a mere idea on paper to the inspiring national symbol that it became.

Sunday, July 19 - On This Date in History - "The Eagle has landed..." The 40th Anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing

At the heart of the American spirit is the belief that anything can be accomplished through determination, innovation and teamwork. As a people, we have always been explorers and adventurers. On July 20th, 1969, astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin did what had previously seemed impossible; they walked on the moon. Those first careful steps on another world were the culmination of an amazing, but often frantic, "Space Race" that lasted more than a dozen years. It was one of the more complicated and challenging endeavors ever attempted, and that achievement will never be forgotten. So, intrepid travelers, if you have the "right stuff," pull on your crash helmet, and join NPS rangers for a bike tour exploring this historic event.

Sunday, July 19 - Family Tour - The Hunt is on! The Search for Symbols on the National Mall - 2:30 P.M. – 4:30 P.M.

Have you ever thought there might be something hidden inside the monuments and memorials on the National Mall? If so, you're right! There are symbols, some in plain view, others hidden, which are clues about the person or event being memorialized that help visitors better understand the structure. Plants, animals, and even different types of stone have

meaning. You just need to know where and what to look for. What can the leaves at the World War II Memorial teach us? Who is that man in the painting at the Lincoln Memorial? What is George Washington leaning on? You will never look at the monuments and memorials on the National Mall the same way again!

Parents – Please note; all participants (children and adults) must have their own bike and helmet. Reservations for Family Tours are required. Please call Bike Program Coordinator Ranger Jason Martz 202-438-4391 to make reservations. Space is limited.

Saturday, July 25 – History of the Mall - The Bonus March

Washington, D.C. simmered during the summer of 1932. As if to accentuate the nation's ills during the Great Depression, a large "Bonus Army" had gathered in the Nation's Capital to make demands on the government. The Bonus Expeditionary Force, a take-off of the World War I American Expeditionary Force, contained disaffected war veterans who demanded early payment of their war service bonuses. Order degenerated into chaos, tempers flared, the Army responded to calls to preserve the peace, and the country awaited the outcome. The reputation of an American president ranked among the casualties of that summer clash while the stock of a man seeking that office rose immeasurably. This tour will challenge accepted interpretations of the event. We will explore many of the sites and examine all of the personalities involved in this great drama.



Sunday, July 26 – People of D.C. - Famous Names, Extraordinary Stories

Get to know the people behind the city. See and hear how the influential personalities of Washington, D.C. have affected the city, the landscape, the architecture, and the culture of the Nation's Capital over time. Presidents, first ladies, governors and mayors, authors, poets, famous and infamous characters alike have helped shape the history of Washington, D.C. These people have helped influence, not only the city, but the entire nation. These are their stories.

Every Saturday in July
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

“Viva la Revolution”: The South American Rebellion from Spain

The statues along Virginia Avenue, N.W. honor those who helped the United States acquire its freedom, as well as Latin American revolutionary leaders. Bernardo Galvez helped the United States during its revolution; Jose San Martin, Simon Bolivar, and Jose Artigas led rebel forces that liberated twelve million people in South America from 1810-1824.

Join a National Park Service ranger for a two-hour walking tour of the history and culture of the Spanish and Latin American statues on Virginia Avenue. The tour will start at the entrance to the Foggy Bottom Metro Station (23rd & I Street, NW) and will end at the intersection of Virginia and Constitution Avenues, NW. Comfortable walking shoes and water are recommended. There are no public restrooms along the route. Contact Mike Balis at 202-438-9710 for more information.

Sunday, July 5
7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Sacrifice and Circumstances

How did a conflict resulting in over 33,000 U.S. deaths come to be called “The Forgotten War?” American Soldiers in the Korean War suffered through trying circumstances to protect the free world. Harsh terrain and sub-zero weather were a constant companions for U.S. troops who were ill-prepared for what politicians and generals thought would be a quick and decisive battle. The Korean War is often referred to as “The Forgotten War” but we can do our part to remember it. Spend time learning about and reflecting on the circumstances of this war, and the conditions experienced by soldiers. Tour begins at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Contact Victor Pillow at 202-426-6841 x345 for more information.



Sunday, July 5, 12, 19
7:00 P.M. - 8:30 P.M.

Family Nature Walk

Ever wonder what tree and plant species are in the park, or what animals live in the park? Use your senses to see, hear, smell, and touch nature. Come join a park ranger to explore the park! Conclude with a sunset view of the Tidal Basin. B.Y.O.B! Bring Your Own Binoculars, and wear comfortable shoes. Tour begins at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Contact Kristel Nelson at 202-497-1357 for more information.

Monday, July 6
6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Nuts about Squirrels

Squirrels - we see them every day, but do you really understand them? Why do they run on the other side of the tree from you? Do they really hibernate, and what are the benefits to having squirrels in Washington D.C.? Join us to learn more about the Eastern Gray Squirrel and its history in Washington D.C. Tour begins at the World War II Memorial ranger station. Contact Chris Cusumano at christopher_cusumano@nps.gov for more information.

Monday, July 6
6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

The Art of War: Nose Art of World War II Military Aircraft

Far from home, and thousands of miles in the sky, World War II pilots faced the enemy head on. Many airmen balanced their fear by painting the nose of their planes, at first to express individualism, but later to evoke emotional memories of home and life during peacetime. Soldiers are often remembered for their heroism, but once in a while an aircraft becomes synonymous with freedom, liberty, and esprit-de-corps. These iconic images have transcended time to become not just more than American folk art or graffiti, but legendary symbols representing a great generation of airmen. Meet at the World War II Memorial visitor information booth to learn more. Contact Joel Yarvis at joel_yarvis@nps.gov for more information.

Wednesday, July 8, 15
5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

The History and Mystery of the Tidal Basin

Come out and explore the history and mysteries of the Tidal Basin! Have you ever heard how Jefferson couldn't take the heat, or smell? How about the Speedway Daredevils (horse and horsepower)? Have you seen the 400 year old stone carvings, or the foxes sunning themselves on the roof, or the moonlight patrols? This program begins at the entrance to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact Harry Gedney at 202-438-9640 for more information.

Friday, July 10
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Who Won the Civil War? Slavery, Causes, Consequences, and Steps toward Reconstruction

The obvious answer to that question is only partially correct. The last Civil War veteran died only fifty years ago. Why has this conflict, that took 620,000 American lives, been termed “our felt history?” We have to start at the Washington Monument to find out! Meet on the west side (facing the Lincoln Memorial) of the Washington Monument. Contact Lowell Fry at 202-438-9603 for more information.

Saturday, July 11
8:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.

Meet the Big Four on the Mall

Come meet four Presidents on the National Mall. Why are Washington, Jefferson, Roosevelt, and Lincoln represented by a national monument and three memorials

on the National Mall? Washington, the first president, is remembered as a military leader during the American Revolution, and the country's first head of state. Jefferson, our third president, is remembered for his wide range of talents, from agricultural pursuits to diplomacy. Roosevelt, the thirty-second president, led the United States through the Great Depression and the Second World War. Lincoln, the sixteenth president, presided over America's 19th century crisis, the American Civil War. This free walking tour begins at the Washington Monument, and will make stops at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the FDR Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial. Contact Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066 for more information.

Sunday, July 12, 26
6:00 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

A Tradition of Honor

Join National Park Service rangers for a tour of the Japanese American Memorial to Patriotism during World War II. Learn more about the internment of over 100,000 Americans without due process, and the service of over three thousand of them. Contact Mike Balis at 202-438-9710 for more information about this program, and where to meet.



Tuesday July 14
6:00 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Heads or Tails? Making Cents of American Currency

When you look at American currency, what does it mean to you? Many people never take the time to notice who is on a coin or currency. What about its design? Is it symbolic? Whose ideas were these? By understanding the symbolic designs on American currency we can better appreciate the ideologies of hope, optimism, patriotism, and freedom that were envisioned by our Founding Fathers. What qualities about American money give it such a special place in our culture? What is the significance of who is on the money, and how has American money changed over time? The buck stops here! Meet at the Lincoln Memorial to learn more. Contact Joel Yarvis at Joel_Yarvis@nps.gov for more information.

Tuesday, July 14
7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Personalities and Politics: National Mall Presidents

What did the four presidents of the National Mall do well, and not so well? How did personality and character shape their presidencies? What legacies did they leave after their term in office concluded? This program begins at the entrance to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact Paul Maisto at paul_maisto@nps.gov for more information.

Ranger Led Programs - Continued

Thursday, July 16
7:00 P.M. – 8:30 P.M.

Twilight Bird Walk around the Tidal Basin

Join a National Park Service ranger on a guided walk around the Tidal Basin to see how many bird species we can identify before the sun sets. Bring your own binoculars, or participants can sign out a nature pack, which includes a sketch pad, binoculars, books, park brochures, maps, and activities for the whole family. Meet at the World War II Memorial ranger station. Contact Robert Steele at 202-438-9574 for more information.

Friday, July 17
7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M.

The Lincoln Haunts Jaunt

Celebrate our sixteenth President's bicentennial by stopping at sites that would have been familiar to Abraham Lincoln. This walking tour will concentrate in areas around Lafayette Square, the White House, and Pennsylvania Avenue. Meet at the base of the Washington Monument for this two-hour walking tour. Contact Lowell Fry at 202-438-9603 for more information.

Wednesday, July 22 & Thursday, July 30
7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Lincoln & FDR: Through the Camera's Lens

Spend an hour looking into the souls of two of our more famous presidents. We'll start with the advent of photography, and how

each president and his nation were affected by the camera. Did Lincoln use the lens to further his image and ideals? How did the media react to Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his ailment? We'll discuss these and other fascinating details, and view some of the more important images that remain from these two influential presidents. Programs take place at the District of Columbia War Memorial (just to the southwest of the World War II Memorial along Independence Avenue.) Contact Lee Vogtman at 202-426-6841 x346 for more information.

Friday, July 24
5:00 P.M. – 6:00 P.M., 7:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.,
9:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.

Breakout of Normandy

Although Allied forces landed successfully in Normandy on June 6, 1944, they still needed to break out of Normandy in order to liberate Western Europe. German forces stood in their way, and were very successful in containing the Allied breakout. How strong were the German forces? Weren't the Germans defeated as a fighting military force? The assassination attempt on Adolf Hitler on July 20, 1944, by a German resistance movement could have meant the War in Europe was over. Or could it? Meet at the World War II Memorial to find out more about the Normandy Campaign, and the attempted assassination of Adolf Hitler. Contact Paul O'Brian at 202-438-7066 for more information.



Urban Campfire Programs at Sylvan Theater

The National Park Service invites you to attend the third season of Urban Campfire Programs at Sylvan Theater! Enjoy an evening in the Nation's Capital and help National Mall and Memorial Parks commemorate the Bicentennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

Bring comfortable chairs or blankets, and spend an hour on the Washington Monument grounds at

the historic Sylvan Theater at 15th Street and Independence Avenue, SW. Free parking is available at the nearby Paddle Boat lot near the Tidal Basin. The nearest Metro Station is Smithsonian, just four blocks from the Sylvan Theater. **Programs are held weather permitting.** Contact Brad Berger at 202-438-4173 for more information.



Saturday, July 18
8:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Salmon P. Chase

In 1861, the arduous task of financing the Civil War fell to the newly appointed Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase. Politically ambitious, Chase was driven by an almost obsessive desire to become the next President of the United States which frequently put him at odds with Abraham Lincoln. Learn more about this turbulent relationship, and Chase's use of his position within Lincoln's cabinet to promote his own political agenda.

Saturday, July 25
8:30 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Ulysses S. Grant

General Ulysses S. Grant was an important asset to President Abraham Lincoln. Grant earned his reputation in 1862 and 1863 for his ability to command Federal troops in the field, especially at the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, and Vicksburg. Lincoln's ultimate trust in Grant led to Grant's promotion to the rank of Lieutenant General, and command of all Union forces. Only George Washington and had been bestowed that rank. What made Grant so important to Lincoln, and what leadership qualities did he possess to become one of America's great generals? Come and learn more about Grant, and his relationship with Lincoln.

Independence Day Celebration

EMS Tents

The National Park Service, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, the D.C. Department of Health, and four local EMS volunteer groups, will staff six first aid tents on July 4. Tents will be located on the National Mall between the Lincoln Memorial and the Capitol Building. Look for the red signs and banners. If you have an emergency, please call United States Park Police at 202-619-7300, or contact any NPS staff member.

FREE Bike Valet
2:00 P.M. - 10:30 P.M.

Enjoy the celebration by bike! The National Park Service, in partnership with the Washington Area Bicyclist Association (WABA), will provide FREE bike valet parking on Independence Day. Two locations will be available. The first will be near the corner of 15th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W. while a second location will be on the south side of the Lincoln Memorial (pending available staffing.)

Independence Day Parade
11:45 A.M. - 1:45 P.M.

The parade route will move westward on Constitution Avenue from 7th Street to 17th Street, N.W. Viewing areas will be available along Constitution Avenue. Parade participants include marching bands, floats, balloons, and military units.

Smithsonian Folklife Festival, co-sponsored
by the National Park Service
11:00 A.M. - 5:30 P.M.

Visitors to the Folklife Festival can learn about oral traditions in African American culture, explore music and its meaning in Latino culture and experience the vibrant culture of Wales. The Festival is located on the National Mall between 7th and 14th streets with special evening events beginning at 5:30 P.M.

National Park Service
Independence Day Concert
Begins at 6:00 P.M.

Located on the southwest corner of the Washington Monument grounds, near the intersection of 17th Street and Independence Avenue, S.W. Artists include the United States Army Air Force Band with special guest Mark Wills. National Mall and Memorial Parks rangers will also present a vignette, entitled "The Importance of July 4th Throughout American History."

A Capitol Fourth Concert
8:00 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

This concert takes place on the West Lawn of the U.S. Capitol and is led by the National Symphony Orchestra. Guests include Jimmy Smits, Barry Manilow, Aretha Franklin, Natasha Bedingfield, Jersey Boys, and Andrew von Oeyen.

NPS Fireworks
9:10 P.M. - 9:30 P.M.

Cap off your day with our brilliant fireworks display.

<http://www.nps.gov/foju>

National Park Service Cell Phone Tours

It's easy! Just call the following phone number to listen to National Park Service rangers present programs about various aspects of the Lincoln Memorial.



NOTE: Please be respectful. No speakerphones within memorials. Standard cell phone rates apply.

Lincoln Memorial

202-747-3420

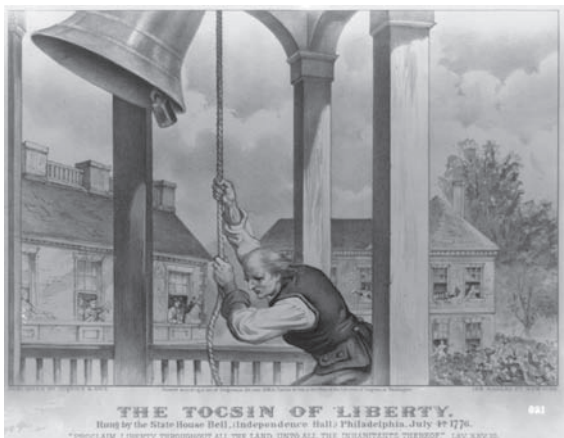
The Torch of Freedom

By Ranger Tom Downs

"The Second Day of July 1776, will be the most memorable Epoch, in the History of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated, by succeeding Generations, as the great anniversary Festival. It ought to be commemorated, as the Day of Deliverance by solemn Acts of Devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with Pomp and Parade, with Shews, Games, Sports, Guns, Bells, Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more. You will think me transported with Enthusiasm but I am not. I am well aware of the Toil and Blood and Treasure, that it will cost Us to maintain this Declaration, and support and defend these States. Yet through all the Gloom I can see the Rays of ravishing Light and Glory. I can see that the End is more than worth all the Means. And that Posterity will triumph in that Days Transaction, even altho We should rue it, which I trust in God We shall not."

- John Adams July 3, 1776

This quote is an excerpt from John Adams' letter to his wife Abigail on July 3, 1776. The emotions of this sharp-witted founding father speak of the momentous occasion. Adams believed that July 2, 1776, would be the date to forever mark and celebrate our Declaration of Independence. Although the official date comes later, Americans have celebrated their country's birth date, and have followed Adams' advice ever since. Adams bore witness to, and was part of, the American dream for freedom. He was an example of how the new nation would carry on after the war by becoming our first vice-president, and our second president. Adams' eloquent words put the historical significance of American independence, and the consequence for failure if it was not achieved, into clear focus.



Ringing the Liberty Bell at Independence Hall

Although Congress made its decree for freedom on July 2, 1776, no one signed the Declaration of Independence. Congress did sign the Lee Resolution, named for Virginian Richard Henry Lee, on July 2. This resolution contained three parts: separation from the British Crown, a call to

form foreign alliances, and a plan for confederation. Congress formally adopted the Declaration of Independence two days later, July 4, 1776, and the alarm for freedom was sounded at Independence Hall with the Liberty Bell. Americans rejoiced as word spread throughout the newly declared independent states. Although independence had been declared, delegates of the Continental Congress had not yet inked their signatures onto the document. On August 2, 1776, when most delegates signed the Declaration of Independence, it became official.

Unfortunately, Americans were getting good and bad news at the same time. British troops were making landfall in New York as the Liberty Bell rang in Philadelphia. On July 9, 1776, General George Washington, while concentrating troops in New York City, ordered the Declaration of Independence read aloud to his troops. At that point, American and British forces had been engaged in armed conflict for fifteen months.



Washington reviews his troops at Valley Forge

Hoping to inspire his troops, Washington's men found new meaning in the war for independence. In 1777, the British occupied the capital city of Philadelphia while Washington and his men struggled through a brutal winter at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Nearly two thousand of Washington's twelve thousand men died during that winter encampment. The Continental Army was hardened by the experience, and gained even greater resolve in the campaign to defeat the British. For the next four years, Americans would fight battle after battle against the mightiest military on earth.

Thanks to the military leadership of Washington, and the combined efforts of the French Navy and his good friend and ally General Marquis de Lafayette, the British surrendered after the Siege of Yorktown on October 19, 1781. The fight for freedom was over. The Treaty of Paris, signed between the United States and Great Britain on September 3, 1783, made it official. The United States had become a sovereign and independent nation after six years of valor and sacrifice.

The struggle to keep the torch of freedom lit to this day can be seen as one walks through National Mall and Memorial Parks. Since the Revolutionary War, the United States has fought many wars to defend the torch of freedom; all have come at a terrible cost. Freedom rings as loudly today as it did at Independence Hall in Philadelphia on July 4, 1776, thanks to our determination as a nation and a people. This park is home to the memory of our nation's past, and we celebrate what Americans have achieved since the days of our founding fathers. It is here that we honor the sacrifice of those lost in defense of freedom.



Wall of Gold Stars at the World War II Memorial

When you visit the World War II Memorial you will find the words "Here we mark the price of freedom" engraved in front of a wall of 4,048 gold stars. Each star represents one hundred Americans lost during the war. At the Korean War Veterans Memorial you will find

the words "Freedom is not free," and at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial you will find the names of 58,261 lives honored for their courage, sacrifice, and devotion to duty and country. Abraham Lincoln is draped in the Stars and Stripes at the Lincoln Memorial. Not only did he preserve our flag during the American Civil War, his policies helped end slavery. Six-hundred and twenty thousand Americans, north and south, were lost during the most costly war in our history. The message becomes clear as visitors experience these memorials; freedom has come at a great cost.

As we celebrate our two-hundred and thirty-third birthday, the National Park Service will proudly carry on the words of John Adams—*Bonfires and Illuminations from one End of this Continent to the other from this Time forward forever more*—with a brilliant fireworks display. These illuminations will light up the sky of our nation's capital to to inspire and remind us of how fortunate we are to have the freedom that has been entrusted to us all.



Independence Day Fireworks

Visiting the Washington Monument

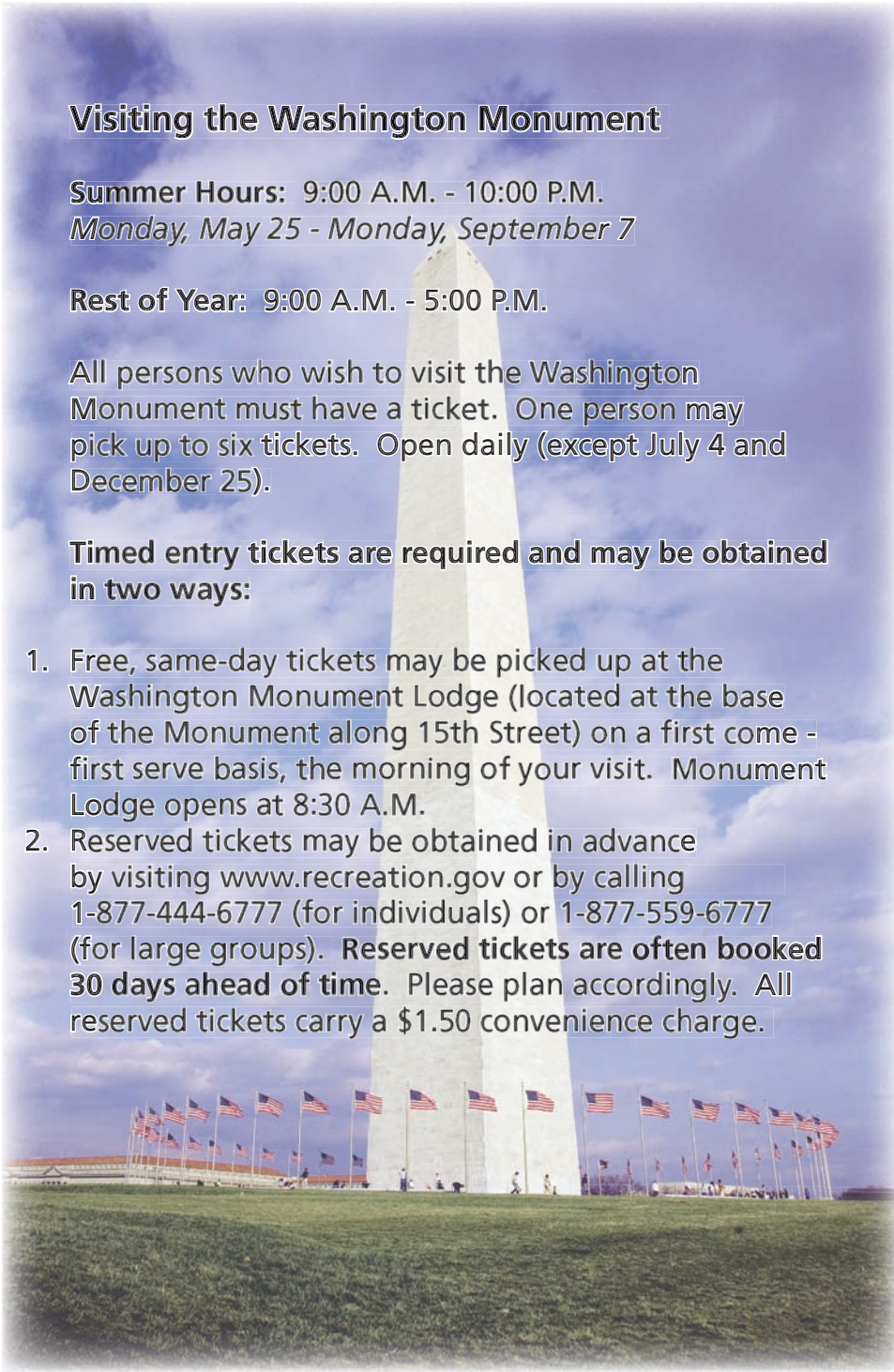
Summer Hours: 9:00 A.M. - 10:00 P.M.
Monday, May 25 - Monday, September 7

Rest of Year: 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.

All persons who wish to visit the Washington Monument must have a ticket. One person may pick up to six tickets. Open daily (except July 4 and December 25).

Timed entry tickets are required and may be obtained in two ways:

1. Free, same-day tickets may be picked up at the Washington Monument Lodge (located at the base of the Monument along 15th Street) on a first come - first serve basis, the morning of your visit. Monument Lodge opens at 8:30 A.M.
2. Reserved tickets may be obtained in advance by visiting www.recreation.gov or by calling 1-877-444-6777 (for individuals) or 1-877-559-6777 (for large groups). **Reserved tickets are often booked 30 days ahead of time.** Please plan accordingly. All reserved tickets carry a \$1.50 convenience charge.



The Old Post Office, built between 1892 and 1899, is home to the Bells of Congress, which were a gift from England on our Nation's Bicentennial. From the observation deck, located 270 feet above the street level, the visitor can get a spectacular view of our Nation's Capital.

Operating Hours

Summer: Memorial Day through Labor Day

Monday through Saturday
 9:00 A.M. - 7:45 P.M.
 Sunday and Holidays
 10:00 A.M. - 5:45 P.M.

Winter: Labor Day through Memorial Day

Monday through Saturday
 9:00 A.M. - 4:45 P.M.
 Sunday 10:00 A.M. - 5:45 P.M.



202-606-8691 www.nps.gov/opot

Old Post Office Tower NHS Tours and Presentations

Ranger led walking tours of Pennsylvania Avenue
Upon Request - Saturdays and Sundays 11:00 A.M. & 1:00 P.M.

Join a park ranger for an interpretive program to learn more about one of Washington, D.C.'s more impressive and fascinating landmarks, the Old Post Office Tower. Tours are by request. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

**For Whom the Bell Tolls:
 The Washington Ringing Society
 and the Bells of Congress**
First Thursday of every month 6:45 P.M.

The art of change ringing goes back to the Middle Ages, and you can experience it first-hand at the Old Post Office Tower! To learn more about the systematic ringing of the Bells of Congress, join members of the Washington Ringing Society the first Thursday of each month for a full explanation of the Bells of Congress, why they are here, and how they work. The program will be followed by their weekly practice session. Call 202-606-8691 for more information.

Eastern National

Want to learn more about National Mall and Memorial Parks? Eastern National, a park partner, operates four bookstores throughout the park. The bookstores are located at:

Lincoln Memorial
 9:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Thomas Jefferson Memorial
 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

www.easternnational.org

Washington Monument Lodge
 8:30 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.

Tourmobile Sightseeing

Get ready for the sights and sounds of the Nation's Capital. Tourmobile Sightseeing's narrated shuttle tours take you right where you want to go. Buy your tickets from the driver, and enjoy unlimited re-boarding. You choose where to stop, stay as long as you want, then board and ride to another historic location.

202-554-5100

www.tourmobile.com

"Monuments, and reservations, which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations."

National Park Service Organic Act
 August 25, 1916

Daily Ranger Programs



- World War II Memorial
- Lincoln Memorial
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial
- Korean War Veterans Memorial
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

Join National Park Service rangers to learn more about the meaning, symbolism, and significance of the park's many memorials. No prior sign-up is required, and all programs are free. Program length varies. For more information contact a park ranger at each memorial. Programs are offered at the following memorials...

Scheduled Programs are presented at:

11:00 A.M., 1:00 P.M.,
 3:00 P.M., 5:00 P.M.

**Additional programs on request.