

Saratoga

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
Saratoga National Historical Park



2011 Calendar of Events

“In the last 1000 years...Saratoga did more [than any other battle]. It launched two centuries of revolution elsewhere. It marked the beginning of the end of the British Empire. And it breathed life into the United States of America.

—*New York Times Magazine* “Best of” Millennium Edition

Welcome to Saratoga National Historical Park! The epic battles and heroic events which took place here in the autumn of 1777 formed the turning point in America’s Revolutionary War and were key to winning American independence.

Today, Saratoga is owned by all Americans and forever protected by the National Park Service. Come and take part in any of the special events listed in this calendar or simply enjoy the beautiful landscape. You are standing where our freedoms were made possible.



Enjoying the Park

Saratoga National Historical Park preserves and interprets four separate sites associated with this military campaign: Saratoga Battlefield (Stillwater, NY), Schuyler House (Schuylerville, NY), Victory Woods and Saratoga Monument (Victory, NY). Schuyler House, Victory Woods and Saratoga Monument are located about 8 miles north of the Battlefield.



Visitor Center

Offers ranger programs, park brochures, 20-minute orientation film, fiber-optic light map, artifact display, seasonal exhibits, museum dioramas, and a book and gift shop.

Hours/Season: 9am to 5pm daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.



Battlefield

Accessible by foot, car, bicycle or horse, with over 7 miles of hiking trails and a 10-mile self-guided car tour road with a bicycle/pedestrian lane.

Hours/Season: Grounds open daily to pedestrian use during daylight hours.
Tour road open to cars April 1 through November 30, weather depending.
Inclement weather may shorten tour road open season.



Schuyler House

1777 country estate of American General Philip Schuyler. Guided tours share the enduring charm and simple elegance of this historic country house.

Hours/Season: Memorial Day – Labor Day
Wednesday – Sunday
9:30am – 5pm (Last tour begins 4:15pm)

Autumn Hours: Labor Day to October 16
Saturdays and Sundays
9:30am – 5pm



Saratoga Monument

155' granite obelisk commemorating the American victory on October 17, 1777.

Hours/Season: Memorial Day – Labor Day
Wednesday – Sunday
9:30am – 5pm

Autumn Hours: Labor Day to October 16
Saturdays and Sundays
9:30am – 5pm



Victory Woods

A 22-acre parcel where British forces were encamped and surrounded during the forlorn week before their October 17, 1777 surrender to the American army. The trail is self-guided, and offers an accessible and raised 1/2 mile pathway with interpretive signs.

Hours/Season: Open daily to pedestrian use during daylight hours.

Park Fees

Entrance fees are charged for the Battlefield from May 1 to October 31. *Passes are valid for 7 days.*

- \$5 for cars
- \$3 per adult (age 16 and over) for hiking, bicycling, and horseback riding
- \$10 for a Saratoga National Historical Park annual pass

“America the Beautiful” Federal Interagency Annual, Senior, and Access Passes are accepted, and available for purchase at the Visitor Center.

Valid Golden Age and Golden Access Passes are accepted.

There are no entrance fees for Schuyler House, Saratoga Monument or Victory Woods.

2011 Events

All park events except April *"Burgoyne's Gold"* program are free of charge.
Normal battlefield entrance fees still apply.



Frost Faire

Saturday, January 22

Visitor Center and Battlefield

Our 16th annual winter festival! Winter-time family fun, past and present. Tubing the "Big Hill," bonfire, hot refreshments, nature hike, horse-drawn carriage rides, snow-shoeing, games, and more.

10:30am – 3pm



Black History Month

Sunday, February 13

Visitor Center

Did you know that between 400 and 500 black soldiers fought at the Battles of Saratoga? Park Ranger Eric Schnitzer unveils new information about these free and enslaved soldiers, while dispelling common myths about their service.

1:30pm – 3pm



Junior Ranger Day

Sunday, February 20

Visitor Center

For kids age 5-12! Enjoy one, two, or all three Junior Ranger programs, get your free badge, talk with a National Park Ranger, and see episodes of Liberty's Kids on the big screen! *Reservations required*, either by e-mailing megan_stevens@nps.gov or calling 518-664-9821 ext. 219.

1pm, 2pm, 3pm



Women's History Month

Sunday, March 13

Visitor Center

Glorious Paintings by Women in the 18th Century

These magnificent paintings will take your breath away. Superb feminine artistic talent, rarely publicized since its expression over 200 years ago, will be brought to life by Park Ranger Eric Schnitzer.

1:30pm



Burgoyne's Gold — You Solve the Mystery!

Saturday, April 9

SPECIAL LOCATION:

Schuyler Room, Saratoga Town Hall, 12 Spring Street, Schuylerville, NY

Someone has been murdered in Old Saratoga! Can you decipher the clues and solve the mystery? Join us for light refreshments during this evening of merriment, murder and mayhem. Cost: \$17.77 per person.

Proceeds to benefit Friends of Saratoga Battlefield. *Reservations required*, either by e-mailing megan_stevens@nps.gov or calling 518-664-9821 ext 219.

7pm – 9pm



Celebrate Earth Week!

April 15–23

Battlefield

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink and Recreate! Saratoga National Historical Park, Hudson Crossing Park and Siena College bring you a series of environmental programs and events. Go green!



Plein Aire at Saratoga Battlefield

Saturday, May 7 (rain date May 8)

Battlefield

Artists and photographers are welcomed as the Superintendent's guests for the day to enjoy photography or open air painting of the park's pristine landscape. Park Ranger Jennifer Morrow offers art lessons for kids all day!

9am – 4pm

2011 Events



British Army Spring Training Day

Saturday, May 7

Battlefield

The cold winter has ended and a new campaign season begins. Soldiers drill, camp followers mend clothes and the army prepares to quell the American "rebellion." See the troops and decide the outcome of a "real" court martial!

10am – 4pm



Guided Natural History Walks

Saturdays, May 7, 14, 28; June 4

Battlefield

Discover an amazing array of beautiful flowers and trees in lesser-known areas of the park during this leisurely nature walk with staff and volunteer guides. The May 14 walk is part of NY State Heritage

Weekend and will include special stories of the Battlefield's heritage!

10am – 11:30am



Ranger-Guided Evening Bike Tours

Wednesdays, June 1 & 15;

Battlefield

July 6 & 20; August 3 & 17

Enjoy scenic views in American and British fortified areas of the park with staff and volunteer guides.

Rides usually cover 5 miles. Please bring water and insect repellent. Helmets required.

6pm – 8pm



Independence Day at Saratoga Battlefield

Monday, July 4

Visitor Center

Morning citizenship ceremony is followed by Park Ranger Joe Craig portraying a 1776 town crier with news of American Independence. Join fellow citizens in toasting the 13 "new" states!

- *Citizenship Ceremony* — 10am
- *Readings of Declaration of Independence* — 1pm and 3pm



Children's Program Series

Thursdays, July 7, 14, 21, 28

Schuyler House

Children ages 5-12 enjoy different 18th century activities each week such as playing games, dressing up in colonial clothes, cooking and dancing! Sponsored by Friends of Saratoga Battlefield.

1pm – 3pm



Guided Early Morning History Walks

Wednesdays, July 6, 13, 20;

Battlefield

Fridays, August 5, 12, 26

Join park volunteers Dick Farrell and Ray Palmer on a series of walks. Participants should be able to walk 2 miles over uneven ground and should bring water and insect repellent.

9am – 11am

July 6 — Why Saratoga?

July 13 — September 19: The First Battle

July 20 — October 7: The Second Battle

August 5 — Why Saratoga?

August 12 — September 19: The First Battle

August 26 — October 7: The Second Battle



18th Century Day

Sunday, August 14

Schuyler House

Step back in time at the historic Schuyler House! The grounds abound with 18th century activities, including puppet shows, music, oxen cart rides, blacksmithing, basket weaving, chair caning, candle making, tinsmithing and more. Hosted by Old Saratoga Historical Association.

Noon – 5pm



East meets West at Saratoga Battlefield

Sunday, August 28

Visitor Center

Global interaction started before the Internet! Learn how events in India during the 18th century affected the Revolutionary War, and how America's Revolutionary War affected India in a lecture by Skidmore College Professor tillman Nechtman. Then enjoy a concert of 18th-century Indian music by renowned musician and Skidmore College music department lecturer Veena Chandra.

• *Lecture* — 1pm

• *Concert* — 1:45pm

2011 Events



August Music Series

Tuesdays, August 2, 9, 16, 23

Visitor Center

The track is closed, but music echoes through the Hudson River Valley. Bring a bag lunch and enjoy the views while listening to noontime concerts every Tuesday. Sponsored by Friends of Saratoga Battlefield.

Noon – 1pm



234th Anniversary of the Battle of Saratoga

Saturday & Sunday, September 17 & 18

Battlefield

18th-century American and British soldiers set the 1777 scene with tents, campfires, horses, musket and cannon firings. Discuss strategy with officers, judge a court-martial, browse Colonial wares, go on a “reconnaissance” party, learn about period recipes, sewing and cooking techniques.

- Camps open Saturday, 11am to 4pm; Sunday, 11am to 3pm
- Special performance: “Marquis de Lafayette” Saturday at 6pm; Sunday at 1:30pm
- Wreath laying ceremony by Daughters of the American Revolution and Sons of the American Revolution. All are welcome! Sunday, 1:30pm



Rendezvous with Treason: The Benedict Arnold Betrayal

Sunday, October 2

Visitor Center

Today, 231 years ago, British Major John André was hanged as a spy for conspiring with infamous traitor and Saratoga Battlefield hero, Benedict Arnold. Educators and actors Sean Grady and Gary Petagine portray the conspirators in this riveting first-person performance about their attempt to bring down the cause for American Independence. Sponsored by Friends of Saratoga Battlefield. 1:30pm – 3pm



Plein Aire at Saratoga Battlefield

Saturday, October 8 (rain date October 9)

Battlefield

Artists and photographers are welcomed as the Superintendent’s guest for the day to enjoy photography or open air painting of the park’s pristine lands. Park Ranger Jennifer Morrow offers art lessons for kids all day! 9am – 4pm



Surrender Week in Schuylerville

October 10 – 17

SPECIAL LOCATIONS: Schuylerville and Victory, NY

Wednesday, October 12: Park Ranger Joe Craig leads a Guided Full Moon Walk in Victory Woods. Meet at Saratoga Monument. 8pm - 9:30pm

Thursday October 13: Park Ranger Eric Schnitzer discusses “Photographs of the 18th Century” at Old Saratoga Historical Association, Saratoga Town Hall, Schuylerville, NY 7:30pm – 9pm

Monday October 17: Surrender Ceremony in Schuylerville, at Fort Hardy Park 10am – 11am



Candlelight Tour of Schuyler House

Saturday, October 15

Schuyler House

Feel the welcome of the warm, soft glow of candlelight as Old Saratoga Historical Association members, park staff and volunteers guide visitors through General Philip Schuyler’s 1777 country house. Light refreshments and period music follow the tours. 6pm – 9pm



Saratoga National Historical Park: Displays and Programs

"Something More at Stake"

Produced in partnership with Friends of Saratoga Battlefield and Skidmore College, this film tells the compelling story of the battles here which helped form a nation and change the world.



Fiber Optic Light Map

Get a bird's eye view of the battlefield's four square miles of streams, ravines, and rolling hills on the Hudson River's western bank. During the narration, trails of blue (Americans) and red (British) lights travel the landscape, interjected with cannon fire (yellow) and battle action (white).



"Saratoga: By Choice or by Chance"

Learn about some of the lesser-known stories behind the Battles of Saratoga from the perspectives of several groups of people here at the battles: Brunswick (German) soldiers, women camp followers, African American soldiers, children, and Oneida Indians.



Timeline Exhibit

Walk through each year of the American Revolutionary War while viewing highlights of key events and themes. The exhibit also introduces the international impacts of the Revolution, as this was by no means only a local affair. Artifacts and artwork help tell the human stories and illustrate what was in many ways a "war of ideas."



Orientation Talks

Presented on request in the Visitor Center, these informal talks gather around a diorama and give visitors an overview of the Battlefield as it looked in October 1777. The programs highlight the crucial role geography played in determining where the fighting occurred and how the American defenders used it to their advantage.



Touring with Technology

Enhance your battlefield tour experience with your own cell phone or MP3 player!

- **Cell Phone Tours:** call 518-665-8185 at each tour stop and follow the audio directions provided. Your regular service provider's rates apply.



- **MP3 Tours:** audio files are available as downloads from our website at "www.nps.gov/sara" through the "Photos and Multimedia" link.

Official Saratoga Battlefield Guides

Get a customized, personally guided caravan tour of Saratoga Battlefield with these trained, knowledgeable, courteous guides.



Guided tours are provided by independent contractors and are available with advance reservation only. For fee or scheduling information, please call 518-664-9821 ext. 224 or e-mail "SARA_info@nps.gov"

FOR KIDS! Junior Ranger Program

Younger visitors can learn about the park and its resources through fun games and activities. This free program is designed for students grades 3-6 and made available through Friends of Saratoga Battlefield.



FOR KIDS! Try-On Tent

Especially for our younger visitors, here's a unique way to experience history. Replicas of soldiers' uniforms, equipment, and a tent provide a unique chance to experience a little of what life was like for soldiers during the late 18th century—on a "kid-friendly" level.



Education Programs

Area schools can take advantage of these free ranger-presented programs throughout the year. They are most popular in the autumn and spring.

More information on these programs can be obtained by calling the Visitor Center at 518-664-9821 ext. 224.



Volunteers in Parks

Many park programs call on the time, talent, enthusiasm, and dedication of people of many ages to help provide visitors with historical programming, trail safety, nature walks, site information, area directions, and much more.



Area residents interested in learning more about volunteering at Saratoga National Historical Park can call the park volunteer coordinator at 518-664-9821 ext. 225.

Nearby Areas of Interest



Fort Stanwix National Monument

315-338-7730

www.nps.gov/fost

Located in Rome, New York. First built to defend the headwaters of the Mohawk River, in August

1777 the fort prevented a small British army from invading east to strengthen the British army that would fight in the Battles of Saratoga.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 2½ hours



Fort Ticonderoga

518-585-2821

www.fort-ticonderoga.org

Built by the French on Lake Champlain, the British captured the fort in the French and Indian War.

American forces captured it from the British in 1775. In 1777, the British seized it, leaving a small garrison of troops there.

When the garrison learned of the American victory at the Battles of Saratoga, they set fire to and left the fort.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 1¾ hours



Mount Independence State Historic Site

802-948-2000

American fortifications on Mount Independence were intended

to compensate for defense flaws in Ticonderoga. It gave American troops at the fort there an escape route as they fled the assault of British forces in July of 1777.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 2¼ hours



Hubbardton Battlefield State Historic Site

802-273-2282

Located in western Vermont. American forces fleeing Fort Ticonderoga and Mount Independence retreated here, but British troops caught the Americans unaware.

Though the Americans rallied well, combined

British and German forces drove the Americans from their defenses, scattering them into the wilderness.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 2 hours



Bennington Battlefield State Historic Site

518-279-1155

In August 1777, some of British General Burgoyne's troops went toward Bennington, Vermont for needed

supplies. On August 16, they encountered American militia at Walloomsac Creek, and a battle began. The Americans won, depriving the British of these men and supplies.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 1 hour



Bennington Battle Monument State Historic Site

802-447-0550

This 306-foot obelisk in Bennington, Vermont commemorates the Battle of

Bennington and marks the location of the storehouse sought by the British in August 1777.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 1¼ hour



Schuyler Mansion State Historic Site

518-434-0834

American General Philip Schuyler built his city home in Albany, New York in the 1760s. Schuyler closely followed

events in the Battles of Saratoga from this house. After the American victory in these battles, the defeated General John Burgoyne would be a guest in the house before he traveled east to join his troops in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 1 hour



New York State Military Museum

518-581-5100

The museum preserves, interprets and shares the story, history and records of New York State's military forces and

veterans. Features include a special Revolutionary War exhibit.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 25 minutes



Blockhouse Museum

518-664-1847 ext. 39

Built in 1927 by New York State, the Blockhouse was the first visitor center for Saratoga Battlefield. Later removed by the National Park Service, it was moved to

the Village of Stillwater in 1999. The Blockhouse now serves as a visitor center and museum, offering special events and exhibits during the summer and autumn season.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 10 minutes



Hudson Crossing Park

www.hudsoncrossingpark.org

Located on Lock 5 Island in Schuylerville, New York. In 1777 the British army crossed the Hudson River here in their advance to Saratoga. Now, Hudson Crossing Park promotes environmental

sustainability and offers a children's play garden and special programs and events. Hiking trails open daily.

From Saratoga National Historical Park: approx. 15 minutes

Saratoga National Historical Park
648 Route 32
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postage

Recipient

**For More
Information**

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