

2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS FORT FREDERICK STATE PARK

Memorial Day to Labor Day May 28 - September 5, 2016

Junior Ranger Historian Activity Booklet

Young visitors ages 5-14 should ask for the Junior Ranger Historian Activity Booklet at the Visitor Center to learn how historians discover the past. Allow 2 hours to complete. Park entrance fees apply.

Nature Programs & Nature Center

On Friday, Saturday and Sunday during the summer, park rangers will lead a one hour nature hike or program starting at 11:00 am. The Nature Center will be staffed from 1-5 pm for environmental education activities. Contact the park after 5/1 for details.

Daily Fort Programs

Daily interpretive programs are presented on weekends in the spring and fall, and seven days a week from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Call for program schedule.

JANUARY ~ DECEMBER

Birding Big Year

Jan. 1st ~ Dec. 31st

During 2016 Fort Frederick State Park will enlist all birders to compile a record of bird species found within the park boundaries. Record the birds you see in the Birding Big Year Log Book located at the park Visitor Center.

APRIL

Youth Fishing Rodeo

April 2nd

Bring your budding fisherman/fisherwoman to catch stocked trout and other fish at Fort Frederick's Beaver Pond. The event is open to children ages 15 and under. Pre-registration is not required. Meet at gravel parking lot after RR tracks. All children must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 18. Bring your own gear and bait. Staff will be available to assist. Open 8 am to noon. Park entrance fees apply.

18th Century Market Fair

April 21st to 24th

Now in its 22nd year, the Market Fair features the best artisans, craftspeople, and sutlers together with an 18th century encampment. Hours are 9 am to 5 pm Thu, Fri, Sat and 9 am to 3 pm Sun. Sponsored by the Friends of Fort Frederick State Park. Admission Fee Charged.

MAY

Western Maryland Rail Trail

May 7th

Guided Bike Tour

Brilliant spring wildflowers brighten the journey as you learn about the flora and fauna along the Western Maryland Rail Trail. The guided bike ride is approximately 20 miles long roundtrip and is taken at a leisurely pace. Join us at the C&O Bicycle Shop in Hancock at 10 am.

“To Garrison the Fort...” **May 21st & 22nd**

To celebrate ***Kids to Parks Day*** special kid focused programs will allow them to experience life at the fort during the French and Indian War as members of the recreated Joshua Beall’s Company and Alexander Beall’s Company garrison the fort. Highlights of the event include musket and cannon presentations, hearth cooking demonstrations, a uniform and clothing talk and military drills. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm Saturday, and 10 am to 3 pm Sunday. Park entrance fees apply.

Get Into Nature Weekend **May 28th & 29th**

Bring your family and friends to explore the natural side of Fort Frederick State Park. This annual event features self-guided and staff-led outdoor nature and recreation activities for all interest levels and ages. Bring your bike, binoculars, kayak/canoe and camera! Events run from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Saturday night will feature a special stargazing astronomy program starting at dark. Contact the Park for details. Park entrance fees apply.

JUNE

Colonial Children’s Day **June 4th**

The People of Fort Frederick

Children ages 8 to 12 will be transported back in time as they take part in a day of hands-on 18th century life. Participants will experience the lives of women, gunsmith, commissary and others at Fort Frederick during the French and Indian War. Activities will include laundry demonstration, cooking, and a musket firing demonstration. Hours are 10 am to 3 pm. Lunch is included. There is a fee and *advanced registration is required and limited*. Registration is limited to 20 children.

National Trails Day **June 4th**

Woodmont Trail Guided Hike

To celebrate National Trails Day join the park naturalist to explore the Wildlife Heritage Trail at Woodmont. Meet at the Trail Head parking lot along Woodmont Road at 9 am for this 2 hour hike. Please call 301-842-2155 for details. Sturdy hiking attire is suggested. Please bring plenty of water. There are no restrooms along the trail.

Junior Ranger Week Park Pal **June 20th to 24th**

Birds, Butterflies & Bees

This is a fun filled, hands-on nature learning experience. Wear old clothes, because participants will get dirty! The ‘Park Pals’ program for kids ages 4-7 will consist of five sessions held 9 am to 11:30 am daily and focus on the various habitats in the park. There is a service fee for the program and *pre-registration is limited and required*. All children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older.

Junior Ranger Week **June 20th to 24th**

Celebrate Pollinator Week

This is a fun filled, hands-on nature learning experience. Wear old clothes, because participants will get dirty! The Jr. Ranger program for kids age 8-12 will consist of five sessions held 1:30-4 pm daily and focus on creating backyard habitat for butterflies and their friends. There is a service fee for the program and *pre-registration is limited and required*. All children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older.

260th Anniversary Celebration June 25th & 26th

Celebrate the 260th Anniversary of Fort Frederick! Join park staff and volunteers for a weekend of living history demonstrations and fun family activities. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm Saturday, and 10 am to 3 pm Sunday. Park entrance fees apply.

JULY

“The Fort is Pretty Full” July 2nd to 4th

Fort Frederick during the American Revolution

Join park staff in celebrating America’s birthday by learning about Fort Frederick role as a Prisoner of War Camp during the American Revolution. Highlights of the event include talks on the fort in the Revolution, musket firing demonstrations, hearth cooking demonstrations, a uniform and clothing talk and military drills. Programs will be held daily from 10 am to 5 pm. Entrance fees may apply.

Astronomy Program July 9th

Come join our park naturalist and the Tri-State Astronomers for a night of star gazing and sky navigation. Visitors will learn the basics of sky navigation and telescope use while looking through our 10 inch Dobsonian reflecting telescope. Visitors are welcome to bring their own viewing devices as well. In the case of clouds or rain an indoor astronomy education program will be offered. Park entrance fees may apply.

“Repair to the Fort”...Pontiac’s Rebellion July 16th & 17th

Experience life at the fort as civilians and militia flee to the fort for safety during Pontiac’s uprising. Highlights of the event include musket presentations, hearth cooking demonstrations, a clothing talk and militia drills. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm Saturday, and 10 am to 3 pm Sunday. Park entrance fees apply.

AUGUST

French & Indian War Muster August 26th to 28th

French, British, and American Indian reenactors assemble for three days of 18th century living history demonstrations and battle reenactments. Period crafts and food vendor will also be available. Hours are 9 am to 4 pm Friday and Saturday and 9 am to 3 pm Sunday. Park entrance fees apply.

SEPTEMBER

Get Into Nature Weekend Sept. 3rd & 4th

Bring your family and friends to explore the natural side of Fort Frederick State Park. This annual event features self-guided and staff-led outdoor nature and recreation activities for all interest levels and ages. Bring your bike, binoculars, kayak/canoe and camera! Events run from 10 am to 4 pm on Saturday and Sunday. Park entrance fees apply

One Fort: Three Wars Sept. 10th

Through living history demonstrations discover the part Fort Frederick played during the French and Indian War, American Revolution and Civil War. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm. Park entrance fees apply.

Woodmont **Sept. 11th**

Lodge Open House & Guided Hike

Showcasing the picturesque and historic Woodmont Lodge, the annual open house enables visitors to explore memories of the early days of conservation in Maryland. Visitors can also enjoy ranger guided hike at 1 pm. Open house hours are 11 am to 4 pm. Directional signs will be placed on Woodmont Rd. Entrance fees may apply.

Public Lands Day **Sept. 24th**

Western Maryland Rail Trail Clean Up

Join volunteers around the nation to celebrate your local public lands. Meet in the town of Hancock at the Church Street gate on the Western Maryland Rail Trail to help park staff clean up litter, weeds and other debris. Event runs from 9 – 11 am.

OCTOBER

Fort Frederick in the Civil War **Oct. 1st & 2nd**

To commemorate Fort Frederick's role in the American Civil War, reenactors will assemble for a weekend of living history demonstrations and tactics demonstrations. Hours are 10 am to 3 pm.

Western Maryland Rail Trail **Oct. 8th**

Guided Bike Tour

Enjoy vivid fall colors as you learn about the exploration and expansion of Western Maryland along the former Western Maryland Railway corridor. The guided bike ride is approximately 22 miles long and is taken at a leisurely pace. Join us at the C&O Bicycle Shop in Hancock at 10 am.

A Pleasant Diversion **Oct. 22nd & 23rd**

Experience pleasant diversions from military life at the fort during the French and Indian War as members of the recreated Joshua Beall's Company and Alexander Beall's Company garrison the fort. Highlights of the event include musket firing presentations, colonial toys and games and other fun activities from the time. Hours are 10 am to 4 pm Saturday and 10 am to 3 pm Sunday. Park entrance fees apply.

NOVEMBER

Cherokee at Fort Frederick **Nov. 5th & 6th**

Native American Indian Heritage Month Program

This hour long presentation will examine the story of the Cherokee who fought on the side of Maryland during the French and Indian War. The presentation will be held in the park's Visitor Center at 11 am and 2 pm, both Saturday and Sunday. Park entrance fees apply.

For Information call 301-842-2155