

2020 Calendar of Events

Fort Frederick State Park Complex

APRIL

18th Century Market Fair

April 23-26

Now in its 26th year, the Market Fair features the best artisans, craftspeople, and sutlers together with an 18th century encampment. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Friday, Saturday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. This event is sponsored by the Friends of Fort Frederick State Park. Admission Fee \$5 for adults, \$2 ages 6 to 12, and 5 and under free.

MAY

Youth Fishing Rodeo

May 2

Bring your budding angler to catch stocked trout and other fish species at Fort Frederick's Beaver Pond. The event is open to children ages 15 and under. Pre-registration is appreciated but not required. Meet at the gravel parking lot after the railroad tracks. All children must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 18. Bring your own gear and bait. There will be a limited number of rods provided on-loan. Staff will be available to assist. Open 8 a.m. to noon. Park entrance fees apply.

One Fort: Three Centuries

May 23

In Honor of Memorial Day, discover the part Fort Frederick played during three centuries of American history; the French and Indian War, American Revolution, Civil War, and the Great Depression through the Civilian Conservation Corps. Visitors will be able to experience the lives of those men and women through living history demonstrations. Highlights include military drill, musket and cannon firing demonstrations, and more. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Park entrance fees apply.

Memorial Day Astronomy Program

May 23

Come join a park ranger and the Tri-State Astronomers at 8:00 p.m. for a night of stargazing and sky navigation. You will learn the basics of sky navigation and telescope use while looking through our reflecting telescopes. You are welcome to bring your own viewing devices as well. In case of clouds or rain, an indoor astronomy education program will be offered. Park entrance fees apply.

Memorial Day to Labor Day Programs

Guided Nature Hike – Every Saturday at 9 a.m. - Join a park ranger to explore the natural side of Fort Frederick State Park. These hikes will normally range around one to two miles and one hour in length starting from the Visitor Center. Themes may include: Birding, Leave No Trace (What's that?), Wilderness Survival, Trees, Pollinators, Wildflowers, Parks and Outdoor Careers. Junior Rangers booklets available. Meet at the Visitor Center. Open to hikers of all ages!

Trails and Nature Club - 3rd Saturday of the Month (Free to Join - Hikes and Nature Programming - Club Members Determine Monthly Programming/Hike) Times to be determined. Call the park for more information.

Year of the Woman Hike - Join us for a self-guided hike along the Plantation Trail - Pick up your printed guide at the Visitor Center and set out on your 1.5 mile adventure - this fun and educational journey will highlight the women of Fort Frederick and the Maryland Park Service's history.

Daily Fort Programs - On the half hour from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. join historical interpreters to discover what life was like during French and Indian War through hands-on and educational experiences.

JUNE

To Build a Fort; 18th Century Military Engineering

June 6-7

Construction of Fort Frederick was no simple task and many people with special skills would help make it a reality. Join British military Engineers as they demonstrate engineering methods of the era. Take part in a hands-on masonry program, learn about carpentry, and other skills needed to build the fort. Cannon firing demonstrations will take place both days. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. Park entrance fees apply.

Junior Rangers and Park Pals

June 17

Please join us for the start of our 2020 Junior Rangers and Park Pals summer youth programs. Junior Rangers (8-14 years) and Park Pals (5-7 years) are our nature based outdoor education programs designed to: get kids out into nature; help them gain an understanding and appreciation for our natural resources and public lands; give them a chance to meet new friends; and get some exercise all while having some fun in the great outdoors. The six sessions are held for two hours once-a-week, for seven weeks with ample make-up sessions available (no class the week of Independence Day). There is a \$20 per child fee and advanced registration is required and limited.

Orientation and First Session: Wednesday June 17; 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Visitor Center. Graduation is July 22.

Colonial Children's Day

June 20

Children ages 8-12 will be transported back in time as they take part in a day of hands-on 18th century activities. They will experience the life at Fort Frederick during the French and Indian War. Activities will include a musket firing, an 18th century meal, leisure activities and more. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Lunch is included. There is a \$20 per child fee and advanced registration is required and limited.

JULY

Fort Frederick during the American Revolution

July 3-5

Join park staff in celebrating America's birthday by learning about Fort Frederick's role as a Prisoner of War camp during the American Revolution. Highlights of the event include; programs on the fort in the Revolution, musket firing demonstrations, soldier's cooking demonstrations, uniform and clothing programs, interactive military drills, and more. Programs will be held from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Park entrance fees apply.

Night Hike, Nocturnal Animals

July 5

Please join a park naturalist at 8:00 p.m. for a one and half mile hike along the Beaver Pond Trail. Bring your flashlight and a sturdy pair of shoes. Learn what adaptations help nocturnal animals survive in their night-time environment. Meet at the Beaver Pond Trail - Parking is available at the Beaver Pond Trailhead. The hike will last between one and two hours. Additional parking at the entrance to the boat ramp. Park entrance fees apply.

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AUGUST

The American Soldier through the Ages

Aug. 1

The military history of Fort Frederick spans the 18th and 19th centuries. Building upon that legacy, the park will be hosting a "Soldier through the Centuries" program. With hands-on displays of weapons, uniforms and military gear from the 1600's colonial militia, Revolutionary War, Civil War and World War II. Historical interpreters from the fort will be describing how soldiering changed over time while maintaining certain common elements. You will be given a rare opportunity to come in close contact with our military past. 18th century cannon firing demonstration will take place at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Park entrance fees apply.

Fishing Derby

Aug. 16

Join us any time from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for a fun-filled adventure on Big Pool Lake. Have you always wanted to learn to fish? Join park staff and borrow our rods and gear if needed. There will be a limited supply of free fishing gear on-loan. Small prizes and certificates will be issued. Fun for the whole family! Meet at the boat ramp. Park entrance fees apply.

French and Indian War Muster

Aug. 22-23

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

SEPTEMBER

Labor Day Plantation Trail Guided Hike

Sept. 7

Join park staff at 10:00 a.m. for a guided hike along the Plantation Trail. Learn why this trail was created and how it is linked to park acquisition and the early 20th century reforestation effort in parts of the park. Meet at the trailhead in the Picnic Area. The trail is a moderate hiking trail. The hike will be about one and half miles long and last one to two hours. Park entrance fees apply.

Woodmont Lodge Open House

Sept. 13

Showcasing the picturesque and historic Woodmont Lodge, the annual open house invites you to explore memories of the early days of conservation in Maryland. This event includes a Woodmont history program at 2 p.m. (meet on the porch of the lodge). Open house hours are 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Directional signs will be placed on Woodmont Road.

Provincial Garrison 1758

Sep. 19

Come out and learn about the role Fort Frederick and regional colonial troops played during the Forbes Campaign of 1758; that resulted in the capture of French Fort Duquesne. Reenactors portraying Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia Provincial Troops will portray the men and women in this campaign. Highlights of the event include cannon firing demonstrations, musket firing presentations, military and children's drill. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Park entrance fees apply.

OCTOBER

Pontiac's Rebellion Living History

Oct. 17

Experience life at the fort as civilians flee to the fort for safety and protection from the militia during Pontiac's uprising. Highlights of the event include musket and cannon firing presentations, hearth cooking, militia drills, children's drill, and presentation of the fort's role in the conflict. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Park entrance fees apply.

Western Maryland Rail Trail Guided Bike Tour

Oct. 24

Enjoy vivid fall colors as you explore the Western Maryland Rail Trail. This 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, MD at 10:00 a.m.

Fort Frederick State Park Complex is comprised of Fort Frederick, The Western Maryland Rail Trail, and Woodmont Natural Resources Management Area

Fort Frederick State Park
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Larry Hogan, Governor
Jeannie Haddaway-Riccio, Secretary