Antietam Battlefield

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Antietam National Battlefield
P. O. Box 158
Sharpsburg, MD 21782

2013 Annual Schedule of Events

March

Sunday, 17th, Battlefield Hike-Irish Brigade at Antietam-Commemorate St. Patrick's Day by following the attack of the Irish Brigade on the Sunken Road. The hike will be a little over one mile in length over uneven terrain and will last approximately two hours. Meet the rangers at the New York State Monument, behind the visitor center, at 1:30 p.m.

Sunday, 24th, Battlefield Hike-Hood and McLaws- This September marks the 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Chickamauga. This ranger led hike will focus on two Confederate commanders that played a key role at both Sharpsburg and Chickamauga. Meet the rangers behind the visitor center at 1:30 p.m. for this two hour, two mile hike.

Sunday, 31st, Battlefield Hike- Burnside and Longstreet- These two commanders fought each other on the south end of the Antietam battlefield in the fall of 1862. Their paths crossed again a little more than a year later during the Knoxville Campaign in November of 1863. This hike will meet in the parking lot of the National Cemetery on the north side of MD Rt. 34 at 1:30 p.m. The program will last approximately two hours and we will hike two miles exploring the middle and south end of the Antietam field.

April

Saturday, 6th Civil War Trust Park Day & Potomac Watershed Clean Up Day -An annual hands-on event to help Civil War battlefields and historic sites take on maintenance projects large and small. Please meet at the visitor center, 8:00 a.m. For more information contact Park Ranger Debbie Cohen at Debbie_Cohen@nps.gov or (301) 432-2243. Rain date is April 13th.

Sunday, 7th, Battlefield Hike- Hooker vs. Jackson- Join the park rangers for this two mile, two hour hike starting at 1:30 p.m. behind the visitor center. The 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Chancellorsville is this May and this hike will look at Union general, Joseph Hooker and Confederate general, Stonewall Jackson. Both of these commanders played key roles at Antietam and Chancellorsville and this program will explore their actions in each battle.

Sunday, 14th, Battlefield Hike-Burnside Bridge-This battlefield hike begins at Tour Stop 9, Lower Bridge, at 1:30 p.m. and will explore the Confederate defense of and the Federal attacks upon the Burnside Bridge. The hike is approximately two miles in length and will last about two hours.

Saturday, 20th, National Junior Ranger Day at Antietam, 10:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m.-Young people ages four to twelve can participate in special programs, interact with volunteers portraying Civil War soldiers and have the opportunity to become a Junior Park Ranger. There is no cost for these programs, but there is a park entry fee of $6.00 per family. Please call or email Park Ranger Christie Stanczak at (301) 432-5124 or Christie_Stanczak@nps.gov with any questions.

Sunday, 21st, Battlefield Hike- All Day Hike of the Battlefield: Antietam and Gettysburg- This ranger led hike will take place in two parts: meet at 9:30 a.m. behind the visitor center for the morning portion and then we will begin the afternoon hike at the National Cemetery at 1:30 p.m. The 150th Anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg is this July and so this hike will focus on the soldiers and leaders that fought at both Antietam and Gettysburg.

May

Saturday, 25th, Memorial Day Commemoration –Watch one of the oldest, continuous Memorial Day parades in the Town of Sharpsburg followed by a commemoration held in the National Cemetery.

June

Saturday, 8th and Sunday, 9th - S.D. Lee at Shapsburg Artillery Weekend - Living history volunteers portraying Colonel Stephen D. Lee's Battalion will discuss the role of artillery at Antietam. Located near the center of the Confederate line, the hill where the visitor center stands was a key Confederate artillery position. Cannon firing demonstrations will be held throughout the weekend. Saturday at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m.; Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, 22nd and Sunday 23rd - Artillery/Infantry Firing Demonstrations and Historic Weapons Display- Historic firearms expert, Vince Armstrong, will be at the park to discuss the variety of Civil War weapons. Artillery firing demonstrations will be on Saturday at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. The 3:00 p.m. demo on Saturday will be infantry only. Sunday the demos will be combined artillery and infantry at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

July

Saturday, 6th, Antietam Salute to Independence Celebration- Join the Maryland Symphony Orchestra for a special Independence Day commemoration. The two hour concert begins at 7:30 p.m. fireworks display immediately following the concert. **Note:** Due to this special event, the visitor center will be open from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Several of the park roads will not be available to tour after 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, 27th and Sunday, 28th, Weapons Firing Demonstrations - Artillery firing demonstrations will be on Saturday at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. The 3:00 p.m. demo on Saturday will be infantry only. Sunday the demos will be combined artillery and infantry at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

August

Saturday, 10th and Sunday, 11th, Living History Weekend - Defenders of the Sunken Road Weekend at Antietam-Volunteers will portray Confederate soldiers that defended the Sunken Road. Join the living historians to learn about the soldiers who fought at Antietam. Weapons and tactics demonstrations will be on Saturday at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. Sunday the demos will be at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, 24th and Sunday, 25th, Weapons Firing Demonstrations - Artillery firing demonstrations will be on Saturday at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. The 3:00 p.m. demo on Saturday will be infantry only. Sunday the demos will be combined artillery and infantry at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

September

Friday 13th through Sunday 15th Battle Anniversary Weekend at Antietam- A full schedule including special battlefield hikes, and living history firing demonstrations will take place this weekend. A detailed schedule will be announced in late August.

Saturday, 28th and Sunday, 29th, Weapons Firing Demonstrations - Artillery firing demonstrations will be on Saturday at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. The 3:00 p.m. demo on Saturday will be infantry only. Sunday the demos will be combined artillery and infantry at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

October

Saturday, 12th and Sunday, 13th, Iron Brigade Weekend -Volunteers will portray the Iron Brigade, a famous fighting unit of the Union Army. Join the living historians to learn about the soldiers who fought at Antietam. Weapons and tactics demonstrations will be on Saturday at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. Sunday the demos will be at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, 26th and Sunday, 27th, Weapons Firing Demonstrations - Artillery firing demonstrations will be on Saturday at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m. The 3:00 p.m. demo on Saturday will be infantry only. Sunday the demos will be combined artillery and infantry at 11:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m.

December

Saturday, 7th, 25th Annual Memorial Illumination- Volunteers place over 23,000 candles on the battlefield; each representing a casualty from the bloodiest single-day-battle in American History. Driving tour begins at 6:00 p.m. on Route 34 east of Sharpsburg. In the event of high winds or heavy rain, this event will be rescheduled to December 12th. Note: The visitor center will be open from 8:30 a.m. through 3:00 p.m. Several of the park roads will not be available to tour after 3:00 p.m.