

Antietam Battlefield

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the
Interior

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



2016 Annual Schedule of Events

March

Saturday, 19th, 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 ranger at the New York State Monument, behind the visitor center, at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, 20th, Battlefield Hike-The Cornfield- Meet the ranger near Tour Stop #2 at 1:00 p.m. for this two hour, two mile hike.

Saturday, 26th, Battlefield Hike- The Cornfield- Meet the ranger at the New York State Monument near the visitor center. The hike will start at 1:00 p.m. and will last about two hours.

Sunday, 27th, Battlefield Hike- The West Woods -This hike will focus on the events surrounding the fighting in the West Woods. Meet the ranger at the visitor center for this two mile, two hour hike. This program begins at 1:00 p.m.

April

Saturday, 2nd, Civil War Trust Park Day & Generations Hike-An annual hands-on event to help Civil War battlefields and historic sites take on maintenance projects large and small. Please meet at the Antietam Battlefield National Cemetery parking lot at 8:45 a.m. If you have any further questions, contact Ranger Jane Custer at 301 432-7893. The Generations Hike will begin at 1:00 p.m. near the New York State Monument. The hike will explore the Union attack into the West Woods and will traverse land recently acquired by the Civil War Trust.

Sunday, 3rd, Battlefield Hike- Nicodemus Heights - This ranger led hike will look at the Confederate artillery on the north end of the battlefield, specifically at Nicodemus Heights and Hausers Ridge. The program will begin near Tour Stop #2 at 1:00 p.m. This hike will last a little over two hours and will cover about two and one half miles.

Saturday, 9th , Battlefield Hike- Artillery at Antietam - Meet the ranger at the visitor center for this two hour, two mile hike that will focus on artillery at the Battle of Antietam. The hike will begin at 1:00 p.m.

Sunday, 10th, Battlefield Hike- Sunken Road - This hike will explore on the initial attacks on the Sunken Road as well as Capt. James Hope and his paintings of the battle, which are on display at the visitor center. The hike is about two miles long and will last about two hours. Meet the ranger behind the visitor center at 1:00 p.m. for this program.

Saturday, 16th, National Junior Ranger Day at Antietam, 10:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m.-Young people ages four to twelve can participate in special programs, interact with volunteers portraying Civil War soldiers, have the opportunity to become a Junior Park Ranger, and take part in a family hike at 1:00 p.m that will allow visitors to learn about two historic farmhouses on the battlefield. There is no entry fee on this day. All programs are free. Please call the park at (301) 432-5124 or with any questions.

Sunday, 17th, Battlefield Hike-Burnside Bridge-This battlefield hike begins at Tour Stop #9, Lower Bridge, at 1:00 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, 23rd , Battlefield Hike-Sunken Road- This battlefield hike will meet behind the visitor center at 1:00 p.m. and will focus on the final attacks and breakthrough at the Sunken Road. The program will last about two hours and we will hike a little under two miles.

Sunday, 24th, Battlefield Hike- Final Attack- Join the ranger for this hike which will focus on the action after the Union forces carried the Burnside Bridge. The hike is about two miles in length and will last about two hours. This hike will meet at Tour Stop #9 at 1:00 p.m.

Saturday, 30th, Battlefield Hike- Burnside Bridge-This battlefield hike begins at Tour Stop #9, Lower Bridge, at 1:00 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.

May

Sunday, 1st, Battlefield Hike-All Day Hike of the Battlefield - This all day hike of the field will take place in two parts. The first half will meet at 9:30 a.m. behind the visitor center and will cover the Cornfield, West Woods, and Sunken Road. It will last about three hours and will cover about three miles. The second part will begin at the National Cemetery parking lot, 1:30 p.m. and will explore the middle of the field, Lower Bridge, and Final Attack. We will cover about three miles in three hours.

Saturday, 28th, Sunday, 29th, and Monday, 30th Memorial Day Weekend- Ranger tours, cemetery programs and living history to commemorate the sacrifices of American soldiers. Parade in Sharpsburg on Saturday. Memorial Day Ceremony on Monday at the National Cemetery at 11:00 a.m.

June

Saturday, 25th and Sunday, 26th, Artillery Weekend - Living history volunteers will take to the field for a demonstration of loading and firing Civil War artillery. Cannon firing demonstrations will be held throughout the weekend at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

July

Saturday, 2nd, 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 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Several of the park roads will not be open after 3:00 p.m.

Saturday, 30th and Sunday, 31st, Artillery Weekend - Living history volunteers will take to the field for a demonstration of loading and firing Civil War artillery. Cannon firing demonstrations will be held throughout the weekend at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

August

Saturday, 13th and Sunday, 14th, Living History Weekend - Military demos will be held at the visitor center and Burnside Bridge and civilian camp will be located at Mumma Farm.

Saturday, 27th and Sunday, 28th, Artillery Weekend - Living history volunteers will take to the field for a demonstration of loading and firing Civil War artillery. Cannon firing demonstrations will be held throughout the weekend at 11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m.

September

Saturday, 17th and Sunday, 18th, 154th 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, 24th and Sunday, 25th, Aftermath of Battle Living History Weekend- Living history volunteers will tell the story of the United States Sanitary Commission and demonstrate the role it played in improving the life of the common soldier by portraying a soldier feeding station. They will discuss their role in the Civil War and the aftermath of the Battle of Antietam by providing comfort and solace to the troops.

October

Saturday, 8th and Sunday, 9th, Living History Weekend - Living history volunteers will portray the 124th New York Infantry recreating the life of a Civil War soldier. Weapons demonstrations will be held both Saturday and Sunday, with ongoing interpretation in the camp throughout the weekend.

December

Saturday, 3rd, Annual Memorial Illumination- Volunteers place over 23,000 candles on the battlefield. Each luminary represents 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 10th. Note: The visitor center will be open from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. Several of the park roads will not be open after 3:00 p.m.

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the National Park Service. We are pleased to announce there will be 16 fee free days at Antietam National Battlefield to allow visitors to visit the park without having to pay the entrance fee. The following dates are fee free.

January 18 - Martin Luther King Jr. Day

April 16-24 - National Park Week

August 25-28 - National Park Service Birthday Weekend

September 24 - National Public Lands Day

November 11 - Veterans Day