



Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

News from Your National Park

Spring/Summer 2014

Explore the outdoors at Get Outdoors Day!

Join us on **June 14th, 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM**, for the 6th annual National Get Outdoors Day at Fort Vancouver National Historic Site! Also known as GO Day, this event celebrates healthy, active, outdoor fun at sites around the nation, including right here at your local national park! Partners from federal, state, and local parks and forests, nonprofit organizations, and businesses will team up to help visitors learn about climbing, fishing, archery, bicycling, hiking, camping, and more! This event is **free of charge**, and a great opportunity for families to experience traditional and non-traditional types of outdoor activities throughout the Northwest.

GO Day at Fort Vancouver includes the annual free **Brigade Encampment**, where costumed interpreters re-enact the springtime return of Hudson's Bay Company fur brigades to Fort Vancouver. Visitors to the Brigade Encampment can experience 19th century children's games, music and dances, sign a replica Hudson's Bay Company contract, and witness historic weapons firing demonstrations.

GO Day was created as part of the Get Outdoors USA! campaign, which encourages Americans, especially our youth, to seek healthy, outdoor lives, and embrace our parks, forests, refuges, and other public lands and waters.



Improvements to the Fort Vancouver NHS Visitor Center planned!



We are very excited to announce that starting in 2014, the park's Visitor Center, built in 1960 in the historic Mission 66-style, will undergo major upgrades! This project will improve the building's infrastructure, allowing it to be more energy-efficient and easier to use for visitors. The interior floorplan will be redesigned, the theater will be expanded, and restrooms will be upgraded. Interior exhibits will be redesigned to make the space a fun, welcoming introduction to the park

that can meet the increased demand of larger groups visiting the site, such as school groups, group tours, and the general public. "The Visitor Center is the central hub of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site and the Vancouver National Historic Reserve," said Facility Manager Alex Patterson, "We here at the National Park are so pleased to be able to refresh this historic structure."

Celebrate two anniversaries at Fort Vancouver!

Join us on **Saturday, June 21st** for a day of celebration! We will offer a special free program to **commemorate the anniversary of Valery Chkalov's landing** at Pearson Field in 1937, at the end of the world's first transpolar flight from Moscow to Vancouver. This program will be presented in English and Russian. Then, join us at the fort to celebrate **Fort Vancouver National Historic Site's 66th Birthday!** For over six decades, your national park has been a community tradition, and today's the day to celebrate it! Learn about the history of the fort from volunteers and staff throughout the site. Artifacts from the national park's museum collection will be on display for the occasion. At noon, cake and refreshments will be available in the fort's Counting House.

What's Happening at Fort Vancouver

Third Saturday Speaker Series

At the McLoughlin House in Oregon City

Third Saturday, March-November

Museum Collections Open House

At the reconstructed Fort

April 12, May 10, July 12,

August 9, October 11

Cultural Demonstrations

At the McLoughlin House in Oregon City

Second Saturday, March-November

Nez Perce Chief Redheart Ceremony

Lower Parade Ground

April 19

Memorial Day & Soldier's Bivouac

Veterans Memorial & Parade Ground

May 26

Children's Cultural Parade

Reconstructed Fort and Park Road

May 30

National Get Outdoors Day

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

June 14

Public Archaeology Field School

Village/South Barracks

June 17-August 2

Chkalov Anniversary Program

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

June 21

Fort Vancouver's 66th Birthday!

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

June 21

Kids Digs

At the reconstructed fort

June 28, July 12, July 26

Independence Day

Fort Vancouver National Historic Site

July 4

1860s Baseball

Parade Ground

July 26

For more information

on our special events and programs, contact the

Visitor Center at (360) 816-6230.

Interested in hosting an event at Fort Vancouver?

Fort Vancouver offers a unique landscape for your special event.

For more information on holding an event at the park, check the website or for initial inquiries contact Chief Ranger Greg Shine at (360) 816-6231.

Want to learn more about Fort Vancouver?

Find us online at www.nps.gov/fova and on Facebook and Twitter:

www.facebook.com/fortvancouver

@FtVancouverNPS

Download the Fort Vancouver Mobile App for iPhone and Android to discover even more!



Andrey K. Yushmanov, Consul General of the Russian Federation in Seattle, and Park Ranger Luda Leksunkin at last year's anniversary of the Chkalov landing.

New eBook shares the history of the McLoughlin family



WSUV students Nicholas Rudy, Brian Ruhe, and Kyleigh Williams pose with their completed portfolio, alongside WSUV Course Instructor & CMDC Director Dr. Dene Grigar (center) and NPS Chief Ranger and Historian Greg Shine (back, second from left)

Over the winter, students from Washington State University Vancouver's Creative Media and Digital Culture Program, in partnership with the National Park Service, created a new, free digital publication based on The McLoughlin Family Collection, previously published by Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

The new eBook highlights artifacts from the national park's museum collection that were owned by Dr. John McLoughlin, Chief Factor of Fort Vancouver and "Father of Oregon." The new interactive format

features animated videos, 3D images, and audio recordings from the McLoughlin family's 19th century melodeon!

Readers using an iPad, iPhone, or the eBooks application on many computers can download this free publication through the eBooks bookstore. To access the webpage for the project, visit <http://go.usa.gov/ZuVR>



Discover history at this summer's Public Archaeology Field School



From **June 17th through August 2nd**, students from Portland State University and Washington State University Vancouver will be excavating in the Fort Vancouver Village as part of our 13th Public Archaeology Field School! The excavation site will be open to the public Tuesday through Saturday. Visitors are welcome to tour the site and talk with students and National Park Service archaeologists about their findings. Maps to the dig site will be located in the park's Contact Station and Visitor Center.

This year's field school continues a multi-year exploration of the Village, which was the largest settlement in the Pacific Northwest in the mid 19th century. Residents included Native Hawaiians, the Métis, and people of many different Native American groups. Later, the Village was the site of the U.S. Army Quartermaster's Depot, part of the World War I Spruce Mill, and a barracks and regional training compound for the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). Every year, student archaeologists uncover artifacts from each of these time periods that tell a story about life in Vancouver. Visit the site in person, or follow us on Facebook to see what we find this year!



Kids Digs teach young people about archaeology

Do you know a young person interested in archaeology? This summer, we will be hosting three of our very popular and fun Kids Dig events! At Kids Digs, kids ages 8 to 12 work with National Park Service archaeologists and students from our Public Archaeology Field School to lay out excavation units, excavate with trowels, screen for artifacts and record their finds! Participants get an idea of how archaeologists do their job, what they can learn from excavated artifacts, and how layers of time are created underground. History is not just found in books, it lies beneath our feet!

In 2014, Kids Digs will take place on **June 28, July 12, and July 26 at 11:00 AM**. Each program can accommodate 20 youths. No pre-registration is needed, but spots on each session are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Registration takes place inside the fort at the Contact Station beginning at 9:00 AM on the day-of.



Exciting events at the McLoughlin House in Oregon City

This spring and summer, the McLoughlin House in Oregon City, a unit of Fort Vancouver National Historic Site, is hosting a number of fun, free events and programs. As part of a monthly speaker series on the third Saturday of the month, Oregon author RC Marlen will be on hand **March 15th** from noon to 1:30 pm to discuss her book *Grist: A Story of Life in Oregon Country*. On **May 3rd**, the McLoughlin Memorial Association (MMA), the National Park Service's partner in Oregon City, will be celebrating its 105th anniversary - stop by to take a tour, listen to historical music, and visit with members of today's MMA.

On the **second Saturday of the month from March through November**, the site will be reprising its very popular Victorian Cultural Demonstrations! Join NPS staff and volunteers to learn crafts that were popular during the early to middle years of Queen Victoria's reign. This free program highlights a different craft each month, and is suitable for visitors of all ages. To learn more about the McLoughlin House, visit <http://go.usa.gov/TnZQ>

Go behind-the-scenes at our Museum Collections Open Houses



This spring and summer, learn about the history of the Northwest through our nationally-recognized Museum Collection Open House program! Join Museum Technician Meagan Huff for special behind-the-scenes tours of our vast collection of archaeological and historic artifacts. Each month features a different theme, and brings together artifacts based on that theme. In 2014, Open Houses will feature the history of dining at Fort Vancouver (**April 12**), motherhood on the frontier (**May 10**), Spruce Mill soldiers (**July 12**), Vancouver Barracks at the turn of the century (**August 9**), and slipware ceramics (**October 11**).

Tours take place at 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM. Children over 10 years of age are welcome. Due to space constraints, tours are limited to 15 people. Advance reservations can be made by calling (360) 816-6255. Learn more online at <http://go.usa.gov/B9PT>