



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National
Historical Park

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Independence National Historical Park

January 3, 2011
For Immediate Release
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Celebrate the Birthdays of Benjamin Franklin and Edgar Allan Poe

National Park Service Offers Special Programs in Honor of these Philosophical Philadelphians!

Philadelphia – In honor of the January birthdays of gifted authors and editors, Benjamin Franklin and Edgar Allan Poe, the staff of Independence National Historical Park and the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site extend an invitation to mark the occasion with these special programs designed for Poe and Franklin fans of all ages.

On **Friday, January 14, at 7 p.m., in the Franklin Court Underground Museum**, historical re-enactors Bill Roebing and Paul Campbell will represent Benjamin Franklin and Edgar Allan Poe as hosts for a screening of the 1928 silent film, *The Fall of the House of Usher*, which addresses many themes of Poe's literature and makes reference to other famed Poe stories. Well-known glass armonicist, Carolinn Skyler, will accompany the movie on the glass armonica, the instrument invented by Benjamin Franklin. Following the film, National Park Service rangers will lead a discussion and field questions from the audience. Literature anthologies, biographies and novelty items will be available for purchase from Eastern National, the park's non-profit cooperating association, to support education and interpretive programs. Portions of the event will be filmed for web based education outreach. This program is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit www.nps.gov/edal or call the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site at 215-597-8780.

Following this kick-off event, stay for these extra programs celebrating the extraordinary lives of Benjamin Franklin and Edgar Allan Poe throughout the weekend. All programs are free and open to the public:

Publishing in Philadelphia

Independence Visitor Center, 6th and Market Streets
Saturday, January 15, 1 p.m.

This 30-minute ranger-led program is designed for park visitors, families, teachers and students, age twelve and over. For more information, please visit www.nps.gov/edal or call the Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site at 215-597-8780.

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

Ben Franklin, the Relevant Revolutionary

Saturday, January 15, 3 p.m.

Independence Park Institute, 3rd and Chestnut Streets

This program for park visitors, families, teachers and students age twelve and over offers a hands-on way to learn about Franklin's contributions in science and history. The program will be offered in the Ben Franklin classroom of the Independence Park Institute. For more information, please visit www.nps.gov/inde or call 800-537-7676.

Ben Franklin Portrait Tour

Saturday, January 15 and Sunday, January 16, 11 a.m.

Despite his 305 years, Benjamin Franklin remains ageless in his many portraits. Join a park ranger for a tour of the Portrait Gallery featuring Ben and his many friends and colleagues. For more information, please visit www.nps.gov/inde or call 800-537-7676.

Poe in Philadelphia

Sunday, January 16, House Tour at 1 p.m., game follows at 2 p.m.

Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site, 7th and Spring Garden Streets

Take a historic house tour, then join in an interactive learning experience based on the gameshow Jeopardy. The tour starts at 1pm, followed by the game at 2pm. For more information, please visit www.nps.gov/edal or call 215-597-8780.

18th Century Printing Demonstrations

Saturday, January 15 and Sunday, January 16, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Printing Office at Franklin Court

Watch a National Park Service Ranger use an 18th Century replica printing press, just like the one that Ben Franklin would have used. Free programs run daily, every 30 minutes. For more information, please visit www.nps.gov/inde or call 800-537-7676.

The Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site is located at 7th & Spring Garden Streets. Of the several Philadelphia homes Poe lived in, this is the only one that survives. During the year Poe lived in the house he published some of his most popular stories including, "The Black Cat." In recognition of Poe's contribution to American literature, the National Park Service protects and preserves his home. An independent unit of the National Park Service, the site is managed by the superintendent of Independence National Historical Park. The site is open Wednesday to Sunday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday. On street parking is usually available, or take SEPTA bus routes #43 or 47. For more information, call 215-597-8780 or visit the park's website, <http://www.nps.gov/edal>.

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