



Independence: The Best Park in History

Independence Celebrates Independence!

Independence National Historical Park celebrated our nation's 234th birthday with style this year. On July 1, Independence NHP and the U. S. Citizenship and Immigration Services hosted a naturalization ceremony for 25 new United States citizens. Candidates took the Oath of Allegiance at the site where both the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were adopted.



On July 2, Park visitors, partners and staff alike were excited to once again welcome Peter Nero and the Philly Pops to Independence Square for the Pops on Independence concert held in front of Independence Hall. We are particularly grateful



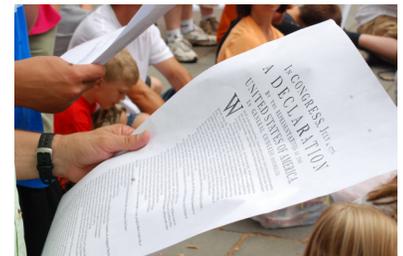
to the National Constitution Center for working with Amway Global to make this tradition possible again this year. Thanks to Wawa Welcome America!, visitors came out to Independence Mall early this year for the "Picnic on the Mall," with free hot dogs and entertainment throughout the afternoon.



On our nation's birthday, the temperature was scorching here in Philadelphia, reaching 96 degrees! The heat didn't dampen the excitement of the crowds that gathered in front of Independence Hall for the Celebration of Freedom Ceremony and parade. The day began with patriotic speeches by Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod and Mayor Michael Nutter at the Celebration of Freedom Ceremony, which this year included musical performances, historical vignettes and a special reading of the Declaration of Independence by local children. It was again followed this year by the annual 4th of July parade passing right in front of

Independence Hall.

The annual Let Freedom Ring ceremony sponsored by the Pennsylvania Society of Sons of the Revolution and the Descendants of the Signers of the Declaration featured patriotic and stirring comments by David Eisner, President and CEO of the National Constitution Center, flanked by the always impressive First Troop Philadelphia City Cavalry. The annual ceremony concluded with a ceremonial tapping of the Liberty Bell by young descendants of the original signers of the Declaration of Independence.



What would the anniversary of our nation's declaration of independence be without our special reenactment of the reading of the Declaration of Independence? This free, annual event attracted visitors, tourists, and local park neighbors who took part in the roles of both the Patriots and the Loyalists, cheering and jeering to the great words as they were read aloud by a park ranger dressed as Colonel John Nixon.

Welcoming a New Member to the INDE Team!

Superintendent MacLeod and Deputy Superintendent Dunn are pleased to announce that Patricia (Pat) Jones has been selected as the new Chief of Interpretation & Education at Independence National Historical Park.

Originally from Maryland, Pat began her National Park Service career in 1976 as an interpretive ranger on the National Mall and worked at several national parks including Rock Creek Park, C&O Canal, and Antietam. Pat left the National Park Service for a time to work in the museum field in collections management, exhibit planning and design, and public programs for such organizations as the National Gallery of Art, the San Antonio Museum of Art, and the University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures Museum. Pat returned to the National Park Service to work for the San Antonio Missions NHP and then as Chief of Interpretation for the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail where she served as project manager for the Lewis and Clark Bicentennial "Corps of Discovery II" traveling exhibit. After three years "on the road" with Corps II, Pat returned to Manassas as Chief of Interpretation. Currently, Pat is the Chief of Interpretation & Education at Lowell NHP and Director of the Tsongas Industrial History Center, an educational partnership between the National Park Service and the University of Massachusetts at Lowell. She holds a BA in Art and History and completed her graduate work for an MA History at Texas State University.

Pat is excited to help lead the interpretive and educational programs at Independence NHP when she starts in early August. Please join us in welcoming Pat to Philadelphia and as part of our team!

Philadelphia Students Experience History through the Junior Ranger Program

The Edgar Allan Poe National Historic Site (EDAL) 2010 Junior Program is a ten-week educational partnership designed to inspire creativity and imagination in ways demonstrated by early American authors such as Edgar Allan Poe. With a strong historical content, the program challenges the students to think critically about our nation's founding and the continuing struggle to fulfill the Declaration of Independence's promise that, "all men are created equal."



Park Ranger McDougal teaches Junior Rangers about the Liberty Bell

This year, we continued the twenty-year relationship between EDAL and Spring Garden Elementary School. EDAL is within walking distance of the school and, following an introductory classroom session, the kids hiked over to Poe's home, imagining the author within the empty rooms and seeing their Park Ranger in action recounting stories like *The Black Cat*. A visit to the New Jersey State Division of Parks and Recreation's Walt Whitman's Home in Camden, NJ gave the kids an opportunity to compare the lives

of these two nineteenth century authors.

The children were challenged over the next few weeks by guest speakers highlighting the experiences of African Americans in our nation's history and interacted with 85 year old Dr. Eugene Richardson, a local Tuskegee Airmen and WWII combat pilot veteran. A visit to Independence NHP allowed the kids to contemplate our nation's founding inside Independence Hall and get up close to our international icon of freedom, the Liberty Bell. The final field trip this year brought the Junior Rangers to the National Mall. At the Lincoln Memorial, as they stood on the spot where Dr. King gave his famous speech, it all hit home: "I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: 'We hold these truths to be self evident, that all men are created equal.'"

This spring, the EDAL Junior Ranger Program successfully introduced 30 youth from inner city Philadelphia to the NPS mission, instilling within them a commitment to the need for preservation and providing them with memorable experiences that may hopefully affect career choices later in life.



Volunteers at Independence

Throughout the year, INDE is fortunate to benefit from time donated to the park by enthusiastic volunteers. Volunteers work in the park in interpretation, cultural resource management, maintenance and for special events. We at INDE are proud to recognize and thank our many dedicated volunteers. This article lists just a few of the activities contributed by volunteers to INDE.

In May, the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania gathered at Dock Creek, and along with volunteers from Aramark and the National Park Foundation, created a native garden along the banks of this long-buried creek. The project was the result of an educational program through which the girls learned the importance of taking care of natural resources, even in an urban environment



Volunteers with RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) Contribute to INDE every year.

Over the Fourth of July festivities, volunteers with the Friends of Independence joined the fun and provided essential support by directing visitors and answering questions for the thousands of people who came to the park for the Philly Pops concert and the Fourth of July parade. Many of the volunteers over the Fourth of July holidays were well-versed in Independence history

and logistics, having volunteered as Twilight Tour Guides.

Thanks to volunteers in our Interpretation and Visitor Service and Cultural Resource Management divisions, the park is able to keep buildings open longer and improve documentation and analyses of the many cultural treasures held by the park.

Through their efforts, volunteers demonstrate their love for our history and our national parks. Volunteers also help raise awareness of Philadelphia's urban national park and bring in more visitors and more much-needed donations!

If you are interested in volunteering at INDE, please visit our website, www.nps.gov/inde.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior
<http://www.nps.gov/inde>

Independence National Historical Park

143 South Third Street
Philadelphia, PA 19106

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

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Independence Hall Tower Rehabilitation

On July 12, work began on the 14-month rehabilitation project of Independence Hall Tower. This project will include repointing and replacing damaged brick masonry, installing or replacing wood shingle roofing and flashings, restoring and painting window sashes, frames and doors. Carpentry repairs will include painting and caulking on all exposed wood decorative building elements over the full height of the tower. This project will also require installing new clock faces and bracing at all building elevations, refurbishing historic copper urns, replacing the supporting weathervane structure,

providing borate fungicide treatment of interior structural elements, and replacing the tower's outdated lightning protection system.

The National Park Service has awarded a \$4,394,000 contract under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act to Daniel J. Keating Company, a general contractor and construction management firm based in Narberth, PA.

For more information about the project, please visit the park's website, www.nps.gov/inde.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National Historical Park
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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA™

Summer Programs

Especially for Kids!

Junior Ranger Induction Ceremony-- Daily at 4pm at the Independence Visitor Center. For all children who have completed our Junior Ranger booklet. Pick up booklet at visitor center desk.

Hidden History – At the Portrait Gallery of the Second Bank. Kids follow clues to uncover the special people in the exhibit then get a reward! Daily, 11 am to 4:30 pm.

Ranger-Led Walking Tours

Stories from the Past - This walk highlights the diverse people and stories of the nation's founding years. Offered daily from 10:30- 11:15 am. Meet at Signer's Garden, 5th & Chestnut Streets.

History Beneath our Feet - Explore what we learn about the past by digging into the ground. Offered daily from 4:00 – 4:45 pm. Meet in the Independence Visitor Center, near south door.

Dr. Franklin's Philadelphia Walking Tour - Meet a park ranger in Franklin Court to hear about the many contributions of Benjamin Franklin. 45 minute walking tour. Daily at 2:30 pm.

Special Programs This Summer

Remember the Ladies ... Seeds to Suffrage - On August 14, 15, and 18, join a park ranger at the entrance to the Franklin Court Underground Museum at 3pm for a 45 minute walking tour that examines the struggle and accomplishments of women in the United States.