**Kings Mountain National Military Park *National Park Service***

**Field Trip Planning Information *U.S. Department of the Interior***

***\*There is No Fee or Cost to school groups.***

Kings Mountain National Military Park preserves the site of the Revolutionary War battle that Thomas Jefferson called "The turn of the tide of success." The Battle of Kings Mountain, fought on October 7th, 1780, was the first major patriot victory to occur after the British invasion of Charleston, SC in May 1780. The Military Park is a unit of the National Park System, a bureau of the United States Department of the Interior. There is no admission cost or program fee for this site.

**School Programs** *Please call the park (864) 936-7921 (teachers only) to speak to a ranger to schedule your trip. When you call, please have two dates in mind in the event that your first choice is not available. Plan on spending at least 2 hours on site (plus additional time for any Ranger-led programs) during your scheduled visit to Kings Mountain National Military Park. If you plan to eat lunch on site, this will add additional time to your two-hour visit.*

**-Visitor Center** is open 9am until 5pm daily (restroom facilities available).

**-Museum** contains an original Ferguson Rifle, one of very few in museum collections. The museum is designed to replicate an old growth forest, with several trees talking as they tell the story of the battle and the people involved.

**-Video Presentation *“Battle of Kings Mountain,****”* produced by the History Channel,depicts the events of the battle in a short movie format. (26 minutes).

**-** **Gift Shop/Bookstore** operated by Eastern National offers books, postcards, and theme-related souvenirs for purchase. If your students plan to purchase any items, please remind them that tax is NOT included in the sticker price. **Teachers receive a 15% discount** on all items in the bookstore.

**- Battlefield Trail (outside)** The 1.5 mile self-guiding walking trail starts by winding toward the southwestern slope of the ridge where a portion of the Patriot forces assaulted the ridge top. The trail turns back across the ridge where the Loyalists forces surrendered. The Centennial Monument, U.S. Monument and Ferguson's Grave are key features along the trail. Although the trail is paved with wayside exhibits to highlight key trail features, it is steep in places. (45-60 minutes).

**-Ranger-Led Programs** (Approximately 20 minutes each)

* Weapons Talk/Demonstration: differences between the rifle and musket and their importance in the battle.
* Militia Drill: using wooden “dummy” guns, students are taught the militia drill to fire an 18th century weapon.
* Haversack Happenings (1.5 hours) limited to 90 students: series of hands-on activities designed to educate students about nature, colonial life, and 18th century soldiers.
* Battlefield Walk: ranger-led walk up to the ridge of the battlefield and discussion of events of the battle.
* Battle Talk: ranger talk about the events and importance of the Battle of Kings Mountain in the Visitor Center Auditorium.
* Using Your Senses in Nature: students learn to use their senses to read the signs that nature leaves behind.
* Trees as Habitats: nature program in which students investigate the microhabitats provided by trees.
* Food Chains and Food Webs: nature program in which students learn first-hand about the importance of food chains and food webs in the forest ecosystem.
* Archeology Program: experience the job of an archeologist; hands-on activities.

**-Picnic Area**: Lunch may be eaten in the outdoor amphitheater area just a short walk from the Visitor Center. Benches are available, no picnic tables. Please bring trash bags.

**-On the day of the visit:**

* Please plan to arrive in time to start your program as scheduled. This includes restroom breaks and sign in. If your group is late, you may be inconvenienced as there may be other groups scheduled throughout the day.
* The movie can accommodate 110 people. Ranger programs are limited to 60 students per group, unless otherwise noted. The park appreciates and expects all chaperones and teachers to remain with their group at all times.
* Groups walking the battlefield trail should wear walking shoes and dress appropriately for outdoor weather conditions.
* Bus parking is located in the main parking area – follow the signs.

**Kings Mountain NMP 2625 Park Road Blacksburg, South Carolina 29702 www.nps.gov/kimo**