

2024 Calendar of Events

Fort Frederick State Park

History Programs

Discover over 260 years of history at one of Maryland's first State Parks!

February 11 - *The Williams Family at Fort Frederick*

To commemorate Black History Month, join us at 1 PM in the Visitor Center for a program about the Williams', an African American family who were the longest-tenured private owners of the land known today as Fort Frederick State Park. Learn about their legacy here from before the outbreak of the Civil War through the beginning of the 20th Century with a multimedia presentation.

March 9 - *"tho' not provided for...seems Necessary": Women at Fort Frederick*

To commemorate Women's history Month, come and learn about the role of women at Fort Frederick during the French and Indian War through a multimedia presentation. Explore the lives of these women who worked and lived alongside their male counterparts as part of the Fort Frederick Garrison. The program will be held at 2 PM in the Visitor Center.

April 25-28 - *18th Century Market Fair*

Step into the 1700s at Fort Frederick State Park's annual Market Fair! This event sponsored by the Friends of Fort Frederick State Park features artisans, craftspeople, and sutlers from across the country. Guests may explore the 18th-century encampment in modern-day clothes or period-specific clothing. Hours are 9 AM to 5 PM on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, and 9 AM to 3 PM on Sunday, rain, or shine. Admission Rates: \$5 for adults, \$2 for children aged 6 to 12, and 5 and under free.

May 25-26 - *100th Anniversary of Fort Frederick State Park*

Come one, come all, and celebrate Fort Frederick State Park's 100th Anniversary and the fort's three centuries of history! This event will include living history programming and displays from many of our state and community partners who have helped make the park what it is today. The event runs from 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturday and 10 AM to 3 PM on Sunday.

June 15-16 - *"An Army Marches on its Stomach": Soldiers' Rations*

Learn how soldiers' food rations have evolved over the centuries. Join Park staff and volunteers at the fort anytime between 10 AM and 5 PM for this free program that will include campfire cooking demonstrations and bread baking in our 18th-century oven.

July 1-7 - *"for the Reception of Prisoners": The Fort in the American Revolution*

Join Park staff in celebrating America's birthday by learning about Fort Frederick's role as a Prisoner of War Camp during the American Revolution! Highlights of the event include programs on the fort in the Revolution, musket firing demonstrations, soldiers' cooking demonstrations, uniform and clothing programs, interactive military drills, and more. Programs will be held from 10 AM to 5 PM on all days of the event.

July 20-21 - *The French in North America during the French and Indian War*

To commemorate French-American Heritage Month, join Park Staff and volunteers for a living history program about French military forces in America from 1754 to 1763! Highlights of the event include musket firing demonstrations, hearth cooking, military drills, and children's drills. Hours are 10 AM to 5 PM on Saturday and 10 AM to 3 PM on Sunday.

Contact Information: Fort Frederick State Park • 11100 Fort Frederick Road • Big Pool, MD 21711

Office: 301-842-2155 • Duty Ranger: 443-805-1759

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August 24-25 - *French and Indian Muster*

French, British, and American Indian reenactors assemble! Join us for two days of 18th-century living history demonstrations and battle reenactments. Period crafts and a food vendor will also be available. Hours are 9 AM to 4 PM on Saturday and 9 AM to 3 PM on Sunday.

September 21 - *SP#1: The Civilian Conservation Corps*

Join Park staff and volunteers anytime between 10 AM and 5 PM as they demonstrate life at Fort Frederick for the Boys of the Civilian Conservation Corps during the 1930s. Learn about the role the CCC played in preserving Maryland's public lands and creating today's Fort Frederick State Park.

October 12-13 - *"Reduction of the British Army...is most happily effected"*

Come to the fort anytime between 10 AM and 5 PM and commemorate the American victory over the British in 1781 at Yorktown, VA, and learn about the fates of the surrendering British prisoners. Event highlights include Revolutionary War living history programs, cooking soldiers' rations, and musket firing demonstrations.

November 9-10 - *"fitted out for the expedition": Trappings of the American Soldier 1753 to 1953*

Visit the Visitor Center and see displays of the basic arms and soldiers' equipment used in American conflicts from the French and Indian War to the Korean War. The Visitor Center displays, and exhibition will be available from 10 AM to 5 PM on both days.

December 7 - *A 1930s Christmas*

Come out and get in the holiday spirit with a special living history event featuring the Boys of the Civilian Conservation Corps' Company 1353. Learn about the CCC's influence on Fort Frederick's history, attend a free blacksmithing program, and enjoy a 1930s Christmas! This event will be held from 10 AM to 4 PM.

***All Program subject to Park Day-Use Fee unless otherwise noted in description.
\$3 per vehicle for in-state visitors and \$5 per vehicle for out-of-state visitors
Free - Maryland Park Service Passes and Veterans and Activity Duty Military With ID***

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Fort Frederick State Park

Nature Hikes & Programs

Experience the wild side of one of Maryland's oldest State Parks!

April 6 - Youth Fishing Rodeo

Bring your budding angler to catch stocked trout and other fish species at Fort Frederick's Beaver Pond. Participants who land the biggest catch or the most fish will receive special prizes, and all participants will receive grab bags of small lures and tackle! The event is open from 8 AM to 12 PM for children ages 15 and under, and all participants must be accompanied by an adult over the age of 18. Children ages 15 and under do not need a fishing license; other visitors need one. Interested fishers will meet at the gravel parking lot at the entrance to the boat ramp. Staff will be available to assist and provide a limited number of rental rods. It is strongly recommended to bring your own gear and bait.

Second Sunday Hikes

Join a Park Ranger to explore the different trails at Fort Frederick State Park every second Sunday from May through September.

May 12 & August 11 - Beaver Pond Trail

The trail is approximately 1.74 miles on a flat, gravel path. Hikers will meet at the Beaver Pond Trailhead near the entrance to the Fort Frederick State Park campground at 10 AM. Interested attendees will need appropriate clothing and shoes, water, sunscreen, sunglasses, and other optional items such as binoculars for hiking in nature. This hike is leashed pet friendly but not suitable for strollers or wheelchairs.

June 9 & July 14 - Plantation Trail

The trail is approximately 1-mile single track over rolling terrain. Hikers will meet at the Plantation Trailhead in the Picnic Area at 10 AM. Interested attendees will need appropriate clothing and shoes, water, sunscreen, sunglasses, and other optional items such as binoculars for hiking in nature. This hike is leashed pet friendly but not suitable for strollers or wheelchairs.

Stream Waders

May 19, June 23 & July 15

There's more to our streams than meets the eye! Get your hands dirty with park staff collecting macroinvertebrates (stream bugs and crayfish) and determining the health of the Potomac River here at Fort Frederick State Park. Aspiring limnologists will meet at the Potomac River trail near the gates to the campground at 11 AM. Shoes and clothing for getting wet are recommended.

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