



# VALLEY FORGE PARK ALLIANCE

*Inspiring appreciation for and citizen stewardship of Valley Forge Park since 1976.*

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**E-News - September 24, 2024**

## **Grant from the National Park Foundation Will Allow the VFPA to Bring History to Life for Local Students**



# **National Park Foundation**<sup>TM</sup>

The Valley Forge Park Alliance has been awarded a National Park Foundation grant through the Open Outdoors for Kids program to illuminate the often overlooked African American narratives from the Revolutionary War. This initiative draws on Park-led research to engage the community, particularly students from Norristown Area School District, in a pilot curriculum program combining hands-on activities with immersive field trips at Valley Forge National Historical Park.

The grant will allow the Valley Forge Park Alliance to extend its outreach, particularly to underserved communities, ensuring that more students experience the park's unique historical and cultural significance.

In collaboration with Dionne Patterson, founder of UGR3Day, the Valley Forge Park Alliance will create dynamic educational experiences. These experiences will include interactive sessions and, importantly, storytelling-focused excursions.

Over the next year, the program will connect 200 students with the African American experience at Valley Forge, deepening their understanding of its critical role in American history. Emphasizing accessibility and inclusion, this project is designed to foster a broader appreciation for our shared heritage, creating a strong emotional connection and fostering empathy among all participants.

“We are honored to receive this funding from the National Park Foundation,” said Molly Duffy, Executive Director of the Valley Forge Park Alliance. “This grant enables us to highlight the contributions of African Americans at Valley Forge and inspire a new generation to engage with this important history.”

*The National Park Foundation's Open OutDoors for Kids program ensures that all youth have access to national parks and opportunities to develop a lifelong connection to these treasured spaces. Through field trips, classroom activities, and educational engagements, the program nurtures children's sense of wonder and curiosity, bringing the history and beauty of national parks to life.*

## Fall Campfire Programs Begin Next Week

Join a park ranger for an interactive evening by the campfire as we discuss unique stories of Valley Forge and the American Revolution. The programs are located at Conway's Brigade, and run for about an hour:

- October 5, 2024 - Communities at War
- October 12, 2024 – War In Winter: Military Operations During the Valley Forge Encampment
- October 19, 2024 - Ancient Bones of Valley Forge: Fossils of the Port Kennedy Bone Cave
- October 26, 2024 - John Laurens: Forgotten Patriot
- November 2, 2024 - The Conway Cabal

The program will be canceled for rain. Call 610-783-1099 before 5 PM to check on the status of the program.



[Learn More About the Programs](#)

## Homeschool Day is Tuesday, October 8



## Valley Forge Homeschool Day

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

Valley Forge Homeschool Day is a free two-hour event on Tuesday, October 8, 2024 hosted and coordinated by Valley Forge National Historical Park with the help of friends and partner organizations. The morning session runs from 9 AM to 11 AM, and the afternoon session runs from 12 PM to 2 PM.

Each session features the same hands-on activities and programs about science, art, American Revolutionary War history and the history of the early iron-making industry. Homeschool Day is geared towards homeschool families with kids between the ages of 5 and 15, though it is also open to the general public.

[Check Out All of the Homeschool Day Activities](#)

## Help the Muster Roll!



**Valley Forge**  
*Muster Roll*

HONORING THE 1777-1778 ENCAMPMENT

The Muster Roll website and database, the backbone of our services, are in need of crucial updates to ensure we can continue to provide these valuable services.

Funds raised will allow us to bring the Muster Roll website and database into the 21st century, ensuring that the sacrifices of our ancestors are never forgotten. This is a legacy we can all be a part of.

Help us to hit our milestones:

\$5,000 by October 4  
\$10,000 by October 22  
\$15,000 by December 19

Gifts at \$500+ receive a courtesy membership to the Alliance, which includes **NARM benefits!**

**Make a Gift to the Muster Roll**

## Mindfulness Walks - WAIT LIST ONLY

Bad news if you were holding off on registering for the fall mindfulness walks series: it's full up for the season.

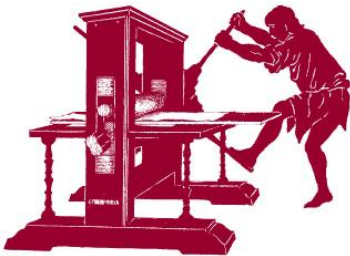
**MINDFULNESS  
WALKS**

But there is some good news: you can put your name on the waiting list and if a spot opens up, we'll let you know!

Mindfulness walks are intentionally kept to a small amount of people. **Please do not show up unless you are fully registered!**

**Put Your Name on the Waitlist**

## Thank You, Philadelphia Print Shop



**The Philadelphia Print Shop**

**[www.philaprintshop.com](http://www.philaprintshop.com)**

The Philadelphia Print Shop recently donated a beautiful, historic lithograph to the Park. Called "A Topographic View of Valley Forge During the Encampment of Washington's Army in the Winter of 1777-78," this is a c. 1877 George S. Harris map of Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, and the Continental Army encampment during the American Revolutionary War. Buildings are illustrated in profile, including General George Washington's headquarters, the headquarters of other officers, the arsenal, and huts housing soldiers. Soldiers are illustrating drilling with Baron von Steuben's newly introduced tactics. Redoubts (fortifications) underscore the very real threat of enemy attack.

Thank you, Philadelphia Print Shop, for this generous donation!

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and you'll get a Friends Circle Membership too!*

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