



Fort Frederick State Park Complex 2025 Events & Programs

Fort Frederick State Park • Sideling Hill Creek State Park
Western Maryland Rail Trail • Woodmont NRMA

Annual Special Events

18th Century Market Fair
April 24 - 27
Hours Listed Below

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.

Youth Fishing Rodeo
May 10
8 am to 12 pm

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 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.

Woodmont Lodge Open House
September 14
11 am to 3 pm

Showcasing the picturesque and historic Woodmont Lodge, the annual Open House invites you to explore memories of the early days of conservation in Maryland. Visitors will have the opportunity to speak with members of the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the Izaak Walton League about the history and importance of the Lodge. The Open House will be held at 11761 Woodmont Rd, Hancock, MD 21750, coordinates (39.630317, -78.30069). Directional signs for the event will be placed on Woodmont Road.

French and Indian Muster
September 20 - 21
Hours Listed Below

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.

History Month Activities

February - Black History - *Williams Family Walking Tour*

March - Women's History - *Women In Conservation Walking Tour*

November - American Indian Heritage - *American Indian Activity Booklet*

Booklets are available online to print at home or at the Fort Frederick State Park Visitor Center

<https://dnr.maryland.gov/publiclands/pages/western/fortfrederick.aspx>

Star Gazing - Fort Frederick State Park
July 26 - 830 pm to 11 pm
December 13 - 430 pm to 800 pm

Join Maryland State Park Rangers and the Tri-State Astronomers at Fort Frederick for a night under the stars! Volunteers from the Tri-State Astronomers will provide a variety of demonstrations that highlight various celestial features and will answer questions about their organization and equipment. Please do not use a regular white-light flashlight as this will hamper the ability to view the night sky. Parking is at fort parking lot.

Fall Foliage Drive In Access
Sideling Hill Creek State Park
October 11

Enjoy the scenic view of Mountain Maryland and West Virginia this fall at Sideling Hill Creek State Park. Visitors will be able to drive up and park their vehicles at Straus Lodge to visit the Potomac River Scenic Overlook from 10 AM to 2 PM. Parking on the hilltop is first come, first served. Visitors are welcome to park in the day-use parking lot next to the park entrance and walk up the hill (the road up to the overlook is 0.6 miles at a steep 9% incline). All vehicles must vacate the Overlook parking lot by 3 PM.

Fort Frederick History Programs

Join fort staff as they bring history back to life!
10 am to 5 pm unless otherwise noted

One Fort Three Centuries Program Series
An Army Marches on its Stomach
May 24-26

A reimagining of a favorite program. Come out to the fort and immerse yourself in three centuries of the fort's history through the most important thing to a soldier: their stomach. Join the fort's interpretive staff as they prepare foods of the French and Indian war, American Revolution, Civil War, and the Civilian Conservation Corps. Also, learn about soldiers' rations from 1755 to today through an interactive display.

Summer 1758 - the Forbes Campaign and Fort Frederick
June 14 - 15

Meet with a soldier from each of the units to pass through Fort Frederick in the Summer of 1758 and learn about the fort's role as a major supply base for the campaign. Discover how supplies were moved and carried through the wilderness in the 1750s.

Happy Birthday America!
July 4 - 5

In honor of America's 249th birthday, join fort interpretive staff as they tell the story of Fort Frederick during the American Revolution.

The French in North America during the French and Indian War
July 19

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.

A Semiquincentennial Program
(250th Anniversary of the United States of America)
6 Pounder Cannon and Cresap's Rifles
August 23 - 24

In commemoration of the Bee Line march to Boston and the removal of the fort's cannon 250 years ago in 1775 Fort Frederick will conduct artillery firing demonstrations and Revolutionary War focused programming. Cannon Firing will be conducted at 11 am, 1 and 3 pm each day.

One Fort Three Centuries Program Series
"fitted out for the expedition"
Trappings of the American Soldier 1753 to 1953
November 8 - 9

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.

Woodmont Lodge History and Conservation Tour
June 21 - 11 am
July 12 - 11 am
August 16 - 11 am

Explore a well-kept secret of hunting and conservation history located in the woods of the Woodmont Natural Resources Management Area. 15 visitors will have the opportunity to tour the majestic Woodmont Lodge and see beautiful artifacts from the early days of the Woodmont Rod and Gun Club. Guests will need to wear shoe covers while in the Lodge and use special flashlights to maintain the integrity of the building and artifacts. *Pre-registration is required for this event and can be completed by contacting Fort Frederick State Park at fortfrederick.statepark@maryland.gov or by calling the office at 301-842-2155. (Two hours have been set aside to explore the lodge.)*

The Western Maryland Rail Road
June 7
10 am to 2 pm

Join a Maryland Park Ranger for a pop-up exhibit that explores the history of the Western Maryland Rail Road through images and artifacts. The pop-up exhibit will be next to the Western Maryland Rail Trail Parking Lot in the Town of Hancock.