



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**New Exciting Events This Spring in Shenandoah National Park**  
*New Family-Friendly Activities and Culinary Events are a Focus*

**Shenandoah National Park, Va. – (March 11, 2010)** – ARAMARK Parks and Destinations in Shenandoah National Park announces a series of new children’s activities, culinary and special events as they kick-off the 2010 season. All events and programs will be hosted at Big Meadows Wayside, Skyland Resort or Big Meadows Lodge which officially open on March 19, April 1 and May 20, 2010 respectively. Additionally, guests visiting the park April 17-25 will receive free entrance in honor of the National Park Service’s fee free promotion to celebrate National Park week.

“Shenandoah National Park’s rich history, unique geographic and wildlife draw more than 1.1 million visitors each year. We hope to enhance each visitor’s experience by offering fun entertainment, guided programs and culinary events perfect for the entire family,” said Helen Morton, director of sales & marketing for ARAMARK Shenandoah National Park Lodging. “With a wide array of events and programs, guests can plan an overnight getaway or a day trip to enjoy the tastes of the regional cuisine or take in the featured entertainment of the Shenandoah Valley Cloggers and the Possum Ridge String Band.”

**Easter Egg Hunt**, held at Skyland Resort on Sunday, April 4, 2010, is open to children ages three to ten years old. Kids will explore Skyland’s historic lower-level area to find hidden colorful eggs.

Other children’s activities planned this spring include games, crafts, story-telling, S’mores & Stories and home-made ice cream events. Dates and times will be posted on-site and on [www.visitshenandoah.com](http://www.visitshenandoah.com). A minimal fee may apply to some activities.

**Scavenger Hikes** will be offered every Monday and Wednesday beginning May 3 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. at Skyland Resort, and May 24 - November 3 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Big Meadows Lodge. Guests will follow clues and search for hidden natural and historic “treasures” along a national park trail. Each member of the expedition will receive signed and official certificates validating their achievement level of “City Slicker,” Pioneer Scout” or the elite “Frontier Explorer” . Authors Kat and John LaFevre will lead the hikes on June 21, July 19 and August 16 and autograph their books. Priced at \$5 per person or \$20 for a family of four, the rate includes an autographed “Shenandoah Scavenger Hikes” book.

**Vintner Dinners** include an elegant four-course dinner highlighted with wine pairings from a featured Virginia Winery. The Vintner will provide insight for the selected pairings. Priced at \$295 for double occupancy, the package includes Friday night lodging, dinner for two people, etched wine glasses and a Shenandoah Seasonings recipe book. The dinners are available for booking April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10 and November 12 at Skyland Resort.

**Executive Chef & Guest Chef Dinners** is a new twist on Shenandoah’s popular “Shenandoah Seasonings” culinary workshops. Shenandoah’s Executive Chef and guest chefs will lead participants through a delectable four-course menu of mouth-watering items paired with wines. Priced at \$295 for double occupancy, the package includes Friday night lodging, dinner for two people, etched wine glasses and a Shenandoah Seasonings recipe book. Guests can book the dinners April 23, May 28, June 25, July 23, August 27, September 24 and November 26 at Skyland Resort.

**Rainy Day Cooking Demos** feature the chef as he prepares one of his favorite items at Skyland Resort. Guests can pamper their palette indoors when the trails outside are too wet for their taste. Priced at \$10 per person you can enjoy a delectable sample and take home the recipe. Dates and times will be posted on site.

**Wildflower Spring Celebration** held Saturday, May 15 at Skyland Resort, celebrates the arrival of spring flowers and warmer weather in Shenandoah National Park. Guests will enjoy music, food and the sights and sounds of spring. The free event runs from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For a complete listing of events or to book overnight reservations at either Skyland Resort, Big Meadows Lodge or Lewis Mountain Cabins, please call 800-778-2782 or log on to [www.visitshenandoah.com](http://www.visitshenandoah.com).

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**About Shenandoah National Park**

Established by Congress in 1935, Shenandoah National Park in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia contains nearly 197,000 acres of land with over 500 miles of trails, including 101 miles of the Appalachian Trail. Shenandoah draws up to 1.1 million visitors a year with its rich history, unique geography and wildlife, as well as the panoramic vistas from the Skyline Drive. This National Scenic Byway, built during the Depression era, winds along the crest of the mountains through the length of the park, providing vistas of the sweeping landscape to the east and west.

Lodging options in the park include Skyland Resort (mile 41.7), Big Meadows Lodge (mile 51.2) and Lewis Mountain Cabins (mile 57.5), which are operated by ARAMARK, an authorized concessioner and hospitality provider for the National Park Service. For more information about Shenandoah accommodations, dining and special events, call 800-778-2872 or visit [www.visitshenandoah.com](http://www.visitshenandoah.com).

**About ARAMARK Parks and Destinations**

ARAMARK Parks and Destinations, a division of ARAMARK, delivers authentic and memorable experiences at national and state parks, national forests, specialty hotels, museums, and other tourist destinations throughout the United States. In partnership with its clients, ARAMARK Parks and Destinations seeks to enhance the guest experience by offering industry-leading hospitality, environmental stewardship, recreational, and interpretive programs. For more information on ARAMARK Parks and Destinations and each of its properties, visit [www.aramarkparksanddestinations.com](http://www.aramarkparksanddestinations.com).