



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of the Superintendent
3655 U.S. Highway 211E.
Luray, VA 22835
540-999-3500 phone
540-999-3601 fax

Shenandoah National Park News Release

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Contact Karen Beck-Herzog, 540-999-3500, ext. 3300

Celebrate the Rededication of Shenandoah National Park

As part of Shenandoah National Park's year long 75th Anniversary celebration, a full day of activities commemorating the park's original dedication will be held on June 25, 2011, from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Big Meadows along Skyline Drive. In celebration of this special day, entrance fees to the park will be waived.

The park's 75th Anniversary Rededication Ceremony, featuring "The President's Own" Marine Band, will begin at 10:00 a.m. at Big Meadows. The band will begin playing for the audience's enjoyment at 9:30 a.m. Seating at the performance and ceremony will be limited to the people who reserved tickets. Founded in 1798 by an Act of Congress, "The President's Own" United States Marine Band is America's oldest continuously active professional musical organization and is the only military organization whose primary mission is to provide music for the President of the United States. Today, the band is celebrated for its role at the White House and its dynamic public performances.

Immediately following the Rededication Ceremony, special ranger-presented programs, musical entertainment, and family events will be available to everyone. Special areas will be set up to help visitors learn about Shenandoah's natural, cultural, and recreational resources, and its partners and surrounding communities. On the main stage, visitors will be able to enjoy the sounds of traditional mountain music; songs of the 1930's and 1940's; an eclectic blend of more modern hits; musical arrangements celebrating mountains, including a specially commissioned composition called *Shenandoah*; and an original one act play performed by the Blue Ridge Youth Theater. Families can enjoy hands on activities including crafts, donning ranger uniforms, and a traditional hand tool demonstration. These special programs, which will run from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., are free and do not require a ticket. For a full schedule of activities, visit www.celebrateshenandoah.org.

Superintendent Martha Bogle said, "This is an exciting year for the park and our communities. It's a time to learn about the park's past; to celebrate where it is today; and to look forward to the next 75 years. I'm confident that working closely with our neighbors, communities, and partners will help protect Virginia's National Park and will bring greater prosperity to the region. Through the 75th Anniversary we hope people will be filled with a sense of ownership and pride in their park and their region."

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THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE IS COMPOSED OF MORE THAN 20,000 RANGERS, BIOLOGISTS, HISTORIANS, GEOLOGISTS AND OTHER PROFESSIONALS WHO CARE FOR AMERICA'S 394 NATIONAL PARKS AND OTHER SPECIAL PLACES SO THAT EVERYONE TODAY AND IN THE FUTURE CAN EXPERIENCE AMERICA'S HISTORY AND BEAUTY.

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The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.