

*****National Park Service Press Release***
Blue Ridge Parkway**

The Blue Ridge Parkway would like to extend an invitation to the general public to attend its 18th Annual Overmountain Victory Celebration. The festival will be September 17-20, 2009 and will be held on the grounds of the Museum of North Carolina Minerals located near Spruce Pine, NC at the junction of Highway 226 and the Blue Ridge Parkway (Milepost 331).

The festival celebrates the epic story of the Mountain Men of North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia and honors their contributions in turning the tide of the American Revolution with their victory at King's Mountain. This year marks the 229th anniversary of their historic march.

The Revolutionary War encampment will be open to the general public from Friday evening, Sept. 18, through Sunday morning, Sept. 20. Saturday will also be our official home school day. On Friday and Saturday evenings, Candlelight Tours are conducted of the encampment with re-enactors recreating important events of the march. There are also a variety of activities and demonstrations during the day on Saturday and Sunday.

A free curricula-based education program for the Overmountain Victory National Historic Trail is available online at www.nps.gov/ovvi. Click on the "for teachers" link for information and lessons.

The festival is free of charge and no reservations are required for the candlelight tours or for the demonstrations and activities on Saturday and Sunday.

Schedule of Events

Thursday, Sept. 17 and Friday, Sept. 18: 9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

School Days

*Area school children will participate in special demonstrations. **Reservations are required for the school days activities.***

Friday, Sept. 18 and Saturday, Sept. 19: 7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Candlelight Tours

Take an evening tour by candlelight through a Revolutionary War period encampment and catch a glimpse of history.

Saturday, Sept. 19: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Encampment Open to the General Public

Firing Demonstrations will be held every hour on the hour from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Re-enactors will demonstrate crafts and skills of the Revolutionary War period throughout the day.

A Battle Re-enactment will be held at the Orchard at Altapass at 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 20: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Encampment Open to the General Public

Posting of Colors Ceremony 9:00 a.m.

Drum Head Service 10:00 a.m.