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Celebrate Colonial Michilimackinac with Special Themed Weekends in 2019

MACKINAW CITY, MICH. — Colonial Michilimackinac will hold a series of events for the 2019 season, celebrating the site’s rich history.

The season kicks off with *The King’s Birth-day Celebration* on Tuesday, June 4. Join the Michilimackinac interpretive staff for King George III’s birthday and celebrate this most British of holidays with artillery fire, drinks and treats, and other special programs.

Other 2019 season events take place weekends each month. Craig Wilson, Mackinac State Historic Parks’ Curator of History, believes these special events are a great opportunity to highlight aspects of Michilimackinac’s history that is not portrayed in the larger interpretive themes.

“We hope that visitors attending these events take away a deeper understanding of our past,” said Wilson.

During *Rendezvous at the Straits: Voyageur Culture*, June 29–30, guests can try their hand at voyageur games and other activities the voyageurs needed to keep the Great Lakes fur trade moving. If weather permits, interpreters will paddle to the fort in two canoes for guests to see how the boats were used in the 18th century. This is the only opportunity for guests to see the canoes in action.

Pastimes in Times Past: Fun and Games, July 13–14, allows guests to take part in games of skill and chance, sing songs, take tea with the neighbors, dance, and more.

Gardens and Good Things to Eat, Aug. 10–11, guests can join interpreters in cooking meals and learn about the unique food cultures of Michilimackinac’s French, British and Native American Residents, while learning more about the site’s 5,500+ square feet of gardens.

During *Michilimackinac at Work: Labor and Trades*, Sept. 14–15, guests can join the interpretive staff as they demonstrate a variety of tasks that made up the world of work at Michilimackinac in the 18th century.

Finally, Fort Fright, Colonial Michilimackinac’s biggest annual event, will kick off the Halloween season the weekend of Oct. 4–5 from 6:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m. Lanterns light the way as guests experience a spooky side of Michilimackinac, complete with activities suited for all ages. Activities include a haunted house, demon walk, werewolf walk, and storytelling near bonfires and treats. Tickets for *Fort Fright* are on sale now at mackinacparks.com.

Entry to all events, excluding Fort Fright, are included with regular admission to Colonial Michilimackinac and are held during regular site hours. Fort Fright is a special ticketed event.

“We’ll be doing things that are truly special, that guests wouldn’t be able to see otherwise” said Wilson. “Even if someone has visited in the past, there is always something new to see or do.”

Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan’s Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, Historic Downtown Mackinac, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, and Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks’ rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or on the web at www.mackinacparks.com.

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