



CONTACT: Dominick Miller
millerd44@michigan.gov
Mackinac State Historic Parks
Phone: (906) 847-3328
www.mackinacparks.com

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Celebrate the 4th of July With *An American Picnic*, Presented by Grand Hotel

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — The 4th of July would not be complete without *An American Picnic*, presented by Grand Hotel, at iconic Fort Mackinac, with festivities beginning at 6:30 p.m.

“Fort Mackinac is the perfect venue for celebrating the 4th of July,” said Phil Porter, Mackinac State Historic Parks director. “This is one of the most exciting days to visit the fort during the summer. The 4th of July events allow guests to participate in activities that really tie into the history and the meaning of Independence Day.”

At the event, guests will have the opportunity to have a picnic on the parade ground. The picnic includes an all-you-can-eat assortment of Grand Hotel’s grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, BBQ baby back ribs, grilled chicken breasts, corn on the cob, pasta salad, coleslaw, red skin potato salad, corn bread, potato chips, baked beans, watermelon slices, full dessert buffet, iced tea, lemonade and milk; all on checkered red and white tablecloths! Beer, wine and soft drinks are available for additional charge.

An American Picnic tickets are \$64 for adults, \$40 for children (ages 5–12), and free for children under 5 years-old. All Fort Mackinac buildings are open during *An American Picnic*, and special themed programming will take place. At 7:00 p.m., historic interpreters will fire a 38-gun salute to honor the states of the union in the 1880s, host a reel and rose dance on the parade ground, and, for the finale, will fire three cannon blasts with each louder and more impressive than the previous one. The picnic concludes with fireworks at dusk.

Advance tickets are available at Grand Hotel, Fort Mackinac, the Mackinac Island State Park Visitors Center, and online at mackinacparks.com. Tickets are nonrefundable if the event is cancelled due to inclement weather.

More information can be found at mackinacparks.com. Pictures are available upon request.

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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