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## **It's A Star Spangled Fourth of July at Fort Mackinac**

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — Historic and iconic Fort Mackinac will be decked out in patriotic finery with banners, flags and bunting for A Star Spangled Fourth of July, this July 4, starting at 7:00 p.m.

It will be an 1880's Independence Day, with a reading of the Declaration of Independence, patriotic toasts, the raising of the colors, and games on the parade ground including sack and foot races, games of catch, hoop and stick, and Jacob's Ladder. Guests join the party and participate in games on the fort parade ground.

After the toasts, the 'fireworks' begin. There will be a 38-gun salute, honoring the 1880s states of the union, followed by the finale of a cannon salute in honor of the holiday. Guests are then welcome to stay at Fort Mackinac, enjoying the buildings, galleries and views, and stick around for the fireworks from the cannon platform, Wood Quarters, or Stone Quarters.

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

The Tea Room Restaurant, operated by Grand Hotel, will be open until 9:00 p.m. serving hot dogs and brats, chicken sandwiches, salads, sweets, and beverages, including beer and wine.

All special programming is included with regular admission to Fort Mackinac (\$13.50/adults, \$8.00/child (5-12), and free for kids under 5). Guests who visit Fort Mackinac earlier in the day on the fourth are welcome to come back for the special event without having to purchase a new ticket.

More information can be found at [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com). Additional 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, the Biddle House, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Historic Downtown Mackinac, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State 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 online at [www.mackinacparks.com](http://www.mackinacparks.com).*

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