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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, with games available starting at 1:30 p.m. and a special program beginning at 2:00 p.m.

It will be an 1880's Independence Day, with a reading of the Declaration of Independence, the raising of the colors, and games on the parade ground including sack and foot races, catch and baseball, and tug of war. Guests are encouraged to join the party and participate in games on the fort parade ground.

After the games and reading of the Declaration of Independence, 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.

"Fort Mackinac is the perfect venue for celebrating the 4th 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 4th 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 throughout the day, with lunch served from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Snacks and beverages will be available until 7:00 p.m.

All special programming is included with regular admission to Fort Mackinac (\$15.50/adults, \$9.25/child (5-12), and free for kids under 5). Guests are welcome to come back to Fort Mackinac starting at 9:00 p.m. to watch fireworks.

More information can be found at 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.

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