



CONTACT: Dominick Miller
millerd44@michigan.gov
Mackinac State Historic Parks
Phone: 906.847.3328
www.mackinacparks.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 14, 2023

Explore How the Historic Residents of Michilimackinac Relaxed with ‘Wit and Mirth’

MACKINAC ISLAND, MICH. — Even in the Great Lakes wilderness, the historic residents of Michilimackinac knew how to have a good time.

Join the interpretive staff at Colonial Michilimackinac, in Mackinaw City, for *Wit and Mirth: Leisure and Recreation During the Fur Trade* this Saturday, June 17, from 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The day promises to be full of entertainments that allows guests to play games of skill and chance, take tea with the neighbors, hear historic poetry, laugh at jokes, and more.

All special programs are included with regular admission to Colonial Michilimackinac, and events take place throughout the day. Special programs such as highlighting the recreational activities of the historic residents allow the interpretive staff to showcase the history of the site in a different way.

“This event helps us to share with visitors the whole picture of life at Michilimackinac in 1780,” said LeeAnn Ewer, Curator of Interpretation for Mackinac State Historic Parks. “Just like today, people are complicated, and they had diverse interests that included relaxing as well as necessary work.”

Ewer is especially excited for the ‘Music and the Fur Trade’ program, which will showcase how music played a large part in the Great Lakes fur trade.

“Music is universal and can be related to on so many levels. It was a huge part of life in the 18th century, just like it is today,” Ewer said.

‘Card Games at the Soldier’s House’ and ‘Dice Games at the Merchant’s House’ will showcase some of the popular games of the 1700s, with an explanation of how they were played. Guests will then be able to try it for themselves!

At 12:00 p.m. interpreters will present ‘Literature at Michilimackinac,’ which will explore original works from the time period, including poetry, newspaper articles, and some popular fiction. Some of the works to be shared were written by Michilimackinac residents.

Colonial Michilimackinac admission is \$14.50 for adults and \$8.75 for children ages 5-12. The fort will be open 9:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., with last admission at 6:00 p.m. All special programs are included with regular admission.

The full schedule of events for Saturday, June 17:

- 9:30 a.m. – Fort Michilimackinac Open
- 10:00 a.m. – Bales, Barrels and Boxes: Supplying the Great Lakes Fur Trade Program
- 10:30 a.m. – Artillery Firing Demonstration
- 11:00 a.m. – Card Games at the Soldier’s House Program
- 12:00 p.m. – Literature at Michilimackinac Program
- 1:00 p.m. – Voyageur Games Program
- 2:00 p.m. – Gardens of Michilimackinac Program
- 3:00 p.m. – Artillery Firing Program
- 3:30 p.m. – Dice Games at the Merchant’s House Program

4:30 p.m. – Some Tea and Loaf Sugar: Tea at the British Trader’s House Program

5:30 p.m. – Music and the Fur Trade Program

6:30 p.m. – Musket Firing Demonstration

7:00 p.m. – Fort Closed for the Evening

Colonial Michilimackinac was originally constructed by the French in 1715 and later occupied by the British. It was moved to Mackinac Island in 1780-81 and became Fort Mackinac. It has been operated as a museum since 1958 and is home to one of the longest ongoing archaeological excavations of its kind.

A downloadable version of this release can be found [here](#). Additional photos available upon request. More information on Colonial Michilimackinac and all of the other sites operated by Mackinac State Historic Parks can be found [here](#).

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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