



**CONTACT:** Dominick Miller  
[millerd44@michigan.gov](mailto:millerd44@michigan.gov)  
Mackinac State Historic Parks  
Phone: 906.847.3328  
[www.mackinacparks.com](http://www.mackinacparks.com)

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

MACKINAC ISLAND, MI – 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 special programs beginning at 3:00 p.m.

It will be an 1880s Independence Day, complete with a band, games on the parade ground such as relay races, tug-of-war, and catch, the raising of the colors, playing of “Hail, Columbia,” a reading of the Declaration of Independence, and toasts.

After the games and reading of the Declaration, the ‘fireworks’ begin. There will be a 38-gun salute, honoring the 1880s states of the union (be ready for Michigan!), followed by the finale of a cannon salute in honor of the holiday.

“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 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 (\$17/adults, \$10.25/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.

Funding for many Mackinac State Historic Parks programs comes from Mackinac Associates, friends preserving and sharing Mackinac's heritage.

Prizes during the kids' games on the Parade Ground provided by Ryba's Fudge Shops Mackinac Island.

More information can be found at [mackinacparks.com](http://mackinacparks.com). Additional and higher-res photos are available upon request. A downloadable version of this release can be found [here](#).

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*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, featuring the Mackinac Island Native American Museum, Benjamin Blacksmith Shop, The Richard & Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, American Fur Co. Store & Dr. Beaumont Museum, McGulpin House, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek, 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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