

FORT TICONDEROGA

AMERICA'S FORT™

**Living History Event:
Preparing For the Coming Campaign
January 19, 2019
Visitor Schedule**

Immerse yourself in the struggle for liberty in the winter of 1777. Learn about the carpentry skills that were required to build and defend this Revolutionary-era fort and see first-hand soldiers utilize tools to build a cannon carriage. A full day of programs include engaging guided tours, weapons demonstrations, and even a tasting of colonial chocolate along with a program on the importance that this food item played in the lives of American soldiers and camp followers at Ticonderoga.

10:00 am Fort Ticonderoga Opens to Visitors

10:15 am Key to The Continent Tour (Large American Flag)

During this 30-minute guided tour, explore how two decades of military occupation culminated with rich cultures and characters at Ticonderoga in 1777.

11:00 am Musket Demonstration (Demonstration Area)

British scouts in the Winter of 1777 described American defenses as, “indifferently manned...with Raw, undisciplined Yankeys.” Meet the men and muskets ready to prove them wrong in 1777. See the firelocks of free men and the training to defend these strategic fortifications.

11:30 am Green Wood and Wet Paint (Mars Education Center Great Room)

American artificers spent the early part of 1777 producing dozens of cannon carriages for the coming campaign. Archeological remains, period treatises, letters, journals, and papers show us exactly what these carriages looked like. During this presentation, see how traditional English theories set into constraints of time and materials produced uniquely American carriages—a design that would become the model for the United States artillery for years to come.

12:30 pm Tunes of Ticonderoga (Parade Ground)

Hear how drummers and fifers drawn from an army of former farmers and craftsmen, regulated daily life from reveille in the morning to the tattoo at night. Listen to the stirring tunes of martial music that inspired private soldiers on campaign and influenced the orchestral music of civilian life.

1:15 pm Key to The Continent Tour (Large American Flag)

See 10:15 am description.

2:00 pm Cannon Demonstration (Demonstration Area)

Discover the story of Major Ebenezer Stevens, who raised a new regular battalion of artillerymen for the sole purpose of defending Ticonderoga. Feel the rumble and see the flash of cannon that could shoot nearly 2 miles. Learn how techniques for firing an arsenal of old cannon laid the groundwork for the new artillery systems of this new nation.

2:30 pm Chocolate "Necessary Comforts" (Parade Ground)

Whether used for comforts for the sick, or a choice of breakfast for officers, learn just how important chocolate was at Ticonderoga. Explore the recipes and uses of these common treats. Enjoy a sample of 18th-century hot chocolate and purchase some from our Museum Store to take home!

3:00 pm Key to the Continent Tour (Large American Flag)

See 10:15 am description.

4:00 pm Fort Ticonderoga Closes to Visitors

ONGOING 10:00 am -- 4:00 pm

Soldier's Mess (Ground Floor Officer's Barracks)

From boiled salted pork to delicious drinking chocolate, discover the diversity of diet for American soldiers at Ticonderoga. Watch as rations are made into warm and tasty meals and experience the reality of daily life and what kept soldiers healthy and able to fight.

Made in Camp at Ticonderoga (Mars Education Center First Floor Classroom)

Powder horns were not only a useful way for soldiers to carry ammunition, but they also became a great canvas for soldier's art. Discover what types of markings and drawings were carved into horns. Practice the trade of a horn carver as you create your own unique markings on a banana!

Carpentry (Ground Floor Soldier's Barracks)

Watch wood chips fly as carpenters carve away at framing beams to repair the barracks of the fort. See how chisels, saws, and augers helped carpenters rebuild the old fort, even during the harsh winter months.

Keeping Clean and Fit for Service (Ground Floor Officer's Barracks)

Learn about the materials and methods used in cleaning a soldier's gun, as well as his leather accoutrements. See how the individual hard work of private soldiers kept weapons and accessories in working shape.

Shoemaking (Ground Floor Officer's Barracks)

Shoing an army was just as important as clothing an army in 1777. Soldiers' shoes wore away quickly from marching up rough roads or sinking deep in Lake Champlain mud. Whether barrels full of shoes from the quartermaster or individual soldiers repairing their messmates' shoes, discover how shoemakers kept the army on its feet.

Tailoring (Second Floor Officer's Barracks)

From sewing bed ticks for sleeping, to repairing soldier's clothes, see how soldiers skilled in

sewing provided a necessary service for the new American army. Discover the stitches and materials applied to this important trade.

SPECIAL POP-UP EXHIBIT (Mars Education Center Lower Level)

Fort Ticonderoga will feature rare artifacts from the collection that express the service of American forces in the winter of 1777. Recruiting, equipping, and maintaining artillery was a key task of Ebenezer Steven's new artillery command at Ticonderoga. Featured will be rare artifacts from this artillery service at Ticonderoga including an American-made linstock, used for firing cannon and an extremely rare case shot, or canister, for a cannon. Both were found at Ticonderoga during restoration in the 20th century, evidence of the extensive military activity here in the Revolutionary War.

Also on display will be two powder horns made for soldiers in Colonel Charles Burrall's Connecticut Regiment who served over the winter of 1776-77. These horns, made on Mount Independence where the regiment was stationed, both bear detailed depictions of the lines and fortifications of Ticonderoga and Mount Independence. Together they allow us to visualize the landscape these soldiers served in during the harsh winter. In their time, they served as mementos of service in a distant and challenging military post, today they remind us of the humanity of the individuals who suffered and survived during the war to achieve American Independence.

Additional Exhibitions: Pieces of Eight: Curiosities from the Collection • Sarah Pell's Struggle for History and Human Rights • Artillery Court • Great Wars: Ticonderoga and World War I • Hands-on Artillery Laboratory.