



Living History Event: The Bridge to 1777

March 4, 2023 | 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

In March 1777, American soldiers at Ticonderoga raced against time to prepare for the next British attack on Lake Champlain. On land and ice, soldiers labored to build a strong bridge across Lake Champlain, connecting both halves of the camp and blocking the big boats of the Royal Navy. During this event, explore the myriad of military preparations afoot in March 1777.

****Appropriate footwear is highly recommended for undetermined walking conditions****

10:15 a.m. Key to the Continent Guided Tour (Begins at the American Flag)

In this entertaining half-hour tour, discover the incredible story of Ticonderoga and all the great experiences Fort Ticonderoga offers today. Learn about the iconic battles of Carillon and Ticonderoga within the French & Indian War and the Revolutionary War. Explore groundbreaking preservation and reconstruction efforts that allow Fort Ticonderoga to bring to life its heroic tales today and for generations to come.

11:00 a.m. “Act Like Men Who Know the Value of Liberty” (Parade Ground)

With massive construction underway at Ticonderoga through the winter of 1777, Colonel Anthony Wayne worried about the British gaining intelligence of Ticonderoga’s defenses. Hear Colonel Wayne’s orders to prevent leaks from his army and discover the role British spies played in preparing for the inevitable attack on Ticonderoga that year.

11:30 a.m. Guided Tour of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum (Begins on Parade Ground)

More than a century of collecting has allowed Fort Ticonderoga to acquire North America’s largest and most important collection of 18th-century military material culture. This guided tour will give you the scoop on the most significant, rare, and interesting pieces in the collection.

12:30 p.m. Music Demonstration (Parade Ground)

From the earliest patriotic songs which inspired a nation, to the everyday duties and marches that regulated army life, listen to the fifes and drums of the American garrison of Ticonderoga. See the fifers and drummers of the several regiments who arrived in the winter of 1777 to take their turn on the line, defending liberty.

1:15 p.m. Key to the Continent Guided Tour

See 10:15 a.m. description.

2:00 p.m. Guided Hike to the Great Bridge (Begins at the American Flag)

Take a guided tour to see the original site of the “Great Bridge” built in 1777. Learn about the incredible ingenuity of American soldiers and engineers as they labored on the ice that winter. Discover the role of the bridge during the British siege in July 1777 and the process of discovery in the 20th century.

2:30 p.m. Guided Tour of the Fort Ticonderoga Museum

See 11:30 a.m. description.

3:00 p.m. Key to the Continent Guided Tour

See 10:15 a.m. description.

3:30 p.m. “On the Doors of Every Barrack” (Parade Ground)

With Ticonderoga’s winter garrison departing and troops continually arriving at Ticonderoga, Colonel Anthony Wayne ordered six commandments to be obeyed by all soldiers at Ticonderoga. Listen to these orders and discover how Wayne ensured that no soldier could ever “plead ignorance of them” again.

4:00 p.m. Fort Ticonderoga Closes to Visitors

Ongoing 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Building the Great Bridge (Parade Ground)

Watch wood chips fly as soldiers frantically notch large timbers with axes and saws. Discover American ingenuity in 1777 and learn how they built the “Great Bridge” course by course and caisson by caisson.

“The Sleighs in your Company Shall Remain to Assist Us” (Around Fort Ticonderoga)

With not enough oxen and horses at Ticonderoga in the winter of 1777, the Continental Army pleaded with teamsters hauling supplies to Ticonderoga. Meet the teamsters strong-armed into service and see the power of their draft animals hauling timbers to complete the “Great Bridge.”

Treenails (Ground Floor of the Soldiers’ Barracks)

For the twenty-two caissons built in 1777, the army needed thousands of treenails or pegs to hold these structures together. From tree to nail, witness soldiers constructing these wooden fasteners to secure independence that year.

Regimental Armorers (Ground Floor of the Officers’ Barracks)

The last line of Ticonderoga’s defenses ultimately came down to a soldier and his musket. See armorers diligently fix each spring and screw to repair soldiers’ muskets.

Officer’s Quarters (Second Floor of the Officers’ Barracks)

Step inside the quarters of a Continental Army officer at Fort Ticonderoga and learn of the luxuries within. From beds to brandy, learn about officers’ duties and comforts. See the administrative work that kept an army operating.

“The Market to be Constantly Held” (In Front of the Fort)

See the market of local farmers and families as they setup to sell foodstuffs to the soldiers at Fort Ticonderoga. Discover how this common occurrence before the war grew dramatically by 1777 causing problems for the Continental Army at Ticonderoga.

Exhibits 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Mars Education Center

- A Well-Regulated Militia: Citizen, Soldier, and Soldier (downstairs)
- 1759: Carillon/Ticonderoga (upstairs)

Soldiers’ Barracks

- Iron & Stone: Building Fort Carillon (Ground Floor West)
- The Artillery Laboratory (Ground Floor West)