RIVER RAISIN
NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK
FOUNDATION

DECEMBER 2023 EDITION

Major's Exposé: December News on the River Raisin

December is here for us to reflect on accomplishments of the past year and acknowledgement to our Foundation supporters for your important contributions to our mission. Your support and commitment impacts what is happening in our community. The Foundation continues to contribute to the development of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park with your donations, memberships, and sponsorships. THANK YOU!

Days of celebration in December include the French Noel event at the Visitor Center on Sunday, December 3rd, International Volunteer Day on December 5th and National Wreaths Across America Day on Saturday, December 16th. The Event Center will host the Riverbots VEX Robotics Signature Event on December 13th-16th. We will welcome students from all over the U.S. sponsored by the Foundation. We hope you'll come to cheer on the teams for this exciting educational event.

The Visitor Center is open 7 days a week from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.. The Visitor Center will be closed on Christmas Day, December 25 and New Years Day, January 1, 2024. The River Raisin Trade Depot gift shop inside the Visitor Center features holiday merchandise this month. If you are a Foundation member, come shop with your 10% member discount on every purchase.

We wish you Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

See Calendar of Events

3rd Place Tie
La-Z-Boy Team A

3rd Place Tie
Team Edge

Thank You for a Successful Fund A Need Event!

The Second Annual Tomahawk Challenge, sponsored by ITC, has funded the need for an interactive fur trading station/exhibit and operational funding for the Foundation. The trade and economy centered exhibit in the Education Center called “Making the Grade (Pelt)” and “Made Beaver” activity station where students can purchase pelts to make interchangeable bundles providing perspectives of the British, Canadian, French, Native and American economy as during the fur trade in the early 1800’s

The Wyandot of Anderdon Team B won the axe throwing challenge with members Amy Ortlieb, Alex Ortlieb and Alexis Gronda. LaCroix Company of the Friends of the River Raisin Battlefield scored for second place and a tie for third place was with La-Z-Boy Team A and Team Edge.

A HUGE thank you to our sponsors and donors who are our partners in making the Visitor Center a community gem!

Tomahawk Level Sponsors:

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A FORTIS COMPANY

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LA-Z-BOY
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December 13-16, 2023

Watch the Riverbots 23 a VEX Robotics Signature Event at the Event Center located inside the Visitor Center. The public is welcomed. VIQRC event is December 13 & 14. VRC event is December 15 & 16.

Riverbots organizers welcome volunteer judges to assist with the event, 8am to 5pm. As a volunteer your commitment is for two days, lunch is provided, no experience required. Email the Foundation at info@battlefieldfoundation.org to volunteer.

La-Z-Boy Grant funds New Films at Visitor Center Theater

It's cold outside, but it's warm in the Theater at the Visitor Center. Thanks to a generous grant from La-Z-Boy Foundation we've produced some new short films including cultural tribal films. Topics range from Nme or Sturgeon to the recently designated UNESCO Heritage Site the Hopewell Mounds (photo above) to dug-out canoes. We continue to add to our offerings so visit us often to see new films and exhibits!

Program
Sunday, December 3, 2023

The Friends of the River Raisin Battlefield will host their annual holiday event, Echoes of a French Noel, on Sunday December 3rd from 11:00am-4:00pm. This event will showcase how the early French settlers along the River Raisin would have celebrated the winter season from the late 1700's up through the War of 1812. The event will be held at River Raisin National Battlefield Park's Visitor Center at 333 North Dixie Hwy, Monroe, MI, 48162. The event is free and open to the public and offers opportunities to learn about the Yule Log tradition, the Reveillon, the GUIANNÉE, holiday crafts, music, & games! For more information, please call 734-243-7136.

Park Closed December 25, 2023 and January 1, 2024

The Visitor Center at the River Raisin National Battlefield Park will be CLOSED on the federal holiday of Christmas Day observed on Monday, December 25 and on New Years Day Monday, January 1, 2024. Regular hours of operation are 10am to 5pm daily.

Consider a Year End Donation to the Foundation

We are building community at the River Raisin National Battlefield Park. We appreciate our Foundation members and donors and partner organizations. Without you, we can't accomplish our mission to build enduring, diverse relationships through a world-class experience that shares the untold stories of the Battles and their aftermath inspiring conversation, understanding, and respect. Thank you for being an integral part of our success.

In 2023 the Foundation provided development funding for the park beyond the small amount of federal budget dollars the park receives. We were awarded over $500,000 in grant funding for park development including field trip transportation funds, tribal and inclusive storytelling, creation of cultural films and exhibit funding for the Education Center. Grants received in 2023 include funding from the **National Park Foundation**, **DTE Foundation** and **La-Z-Boy Foundation**. Donations received from memberships and sponsorships help fund artwork, exhibits, and operational funding for the Foundation. **First Merchants Bank** supported programming for field trips and events. The **Wyandotte Nation** is the premier sponsorship of the Theater, so our visitors can see the films at no charge. **Keith Masserant**, of **Mid American Group**, recently donated logs from the remnants of former Masserant family dwellings to help our Wednesday Crew of volunteers to build a blockhouse exhibit. All this support helps with our mission and vision to make the River Raisin National Battlefield Park an outstanding educational experience for all our visitors.

Whether you become a member or provide a one time donation, you are contributing to building the soon to open Education Center, providing programming, and giving vital operational funding so we can continue to seek grants and create inclusive opportunities for all who visit the park. Please consider a donation or annual membership as a year end gift to the River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation. www.thebattlefield.org

CLICK HERE TO DONATE NOW

Partner Spotlight

VOLUNTEERS

It's International Volunteer Month! We are so thankful for our many volunteers who are very helpful partners at the park. Without volunteers we could not offer much of the programming we provide. Our gift shop volunteers help us stock inventory, price merchandise, and assist at the cash register with customers We have a dedicated "Wednesday Crew" who are super handy to have crafted much of what you see built in the Education Center. Tour guides for field trips are essential to providing a great experience for our students.
We can't say THANK YOU enough to our many volunteers!

War of 1812 Historical Events in December

- December 14, 1814 Delegates to the Harford Convention met in Harford, Connecticut
- December 19, 1813 Capture of Fort Niagara
- December 24, 1814 Treaty of Ghent is signed
- December 28, 1812 William Henry Harrison formally resigns as Governor of Indiana

Territory and takes the rank of Brigadier General
- December 19, 1812 U.S.S. Constitution defeats the H.M.S. Java

Holiday Shop at the River Raisin Trade Depot!

Stop in the gift shop for Michigan art, apparel, and holiday gift items. You'll find jewelry, candles, puzzles and games, books and Michigan food items. Gift Shop is open during Visitor Center hours, 10am to 5pm, 7 days a week. Closed on Christmas and New Year's Day.

Upcoming events...

Battles Commemoration

January 20, 2024

Annual Commemoration will be January 20th at the Visitor Center. Ceremony and programs from 11am to 4pm. Re-enactors wanted, contact (734) 243-7136 for more information.

Do you like Archery or Axe Throwing?

We are looking for Archery or Axe Throwing coaches for the Foundation range inside the Education Center. We will train the right volunteers to help us offer these programs in 2024!

Contact: info@battlefieldfoundation.org or call (734) 243-7136 ext 171.

Give a Gift Membership or Invite a Friend to become a MEMBER!

Invite a friend to join or give a gift membership this holiday season. Foundation membership funds our educational and programming efforts of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park including the under-construction Education Center inside the Visitor Center. Exclusive Members Only events showcase our progress and offer special themed activities. Membership benefits include 10% discount in the River Raisin Trade Depot Gift Shop, Major's Expose Newsletter, and event ticket discounts. Help us reach our goal to grow membership! Forward this newsletter to a friend and ask them to join the Foundation!
Contact the Foundation for Gift Memberships at info@battlefieldfoundation.org or call (734) 243-7136 ext. 171.

Who will be our next NEW member?
www.thebattlefield.org

Volunteers Wanted

The River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation is always looking for volunteers.

Opportunities would involve assisting with the gift shop, field trips, building exhibits, maintenance and more! All volunteers are subject to the National Park Service volunteer guidelines including a background check. Go to www.thebattlefield.org to apply.

Looking for Volunteer Opportunities? CLICK HERE

About the River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation

The mission of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation is to build enduring, diverse relationships through a world-class experience that shares the untold stories of the Battles and their aftermath inspiring conversation, understanding, and respect.

The River Raisin National Battlefield Park Foundation is the nonprofit partner of the National Park Service dedicated to preserving and enriching the River Raisin National Battlefield Park with expertise, private funding and in-kind support for development, construction and restoration projects. To learn more and to support our mission please visit/contact us: www.thebattlefield.org

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