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**VALLEY FORGE FAMILY DAY WELCOMES MONTGOMERY
COUNTY VISITORS AND RESIDENTS ON SEPTEMBER 25 AT THE
CONCLUSION OF THE WORLD MEETING OF FAMILIES CONGRESS
IN PHILADELPHIA**

*Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board and Valley Forge National Historical Park Host
Family Event at the Park*

KING OF PRUSSIA, Pa. (September 17, 2015) – Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board (VFTCB) and Valley Forge National Historical Park will host a special event in Montgomery County, Pa., to welcome residents and visitors from across the globe during the World Meeting of Families Congress in Philadelphia.

Valley Forge Family Day will be held at Valley Forge National Historical Park from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday, September 25, 2015, and will feature free activities for visitors of all ages, including living history demonstrations, natural and historical presentations, ranger-led programs, and interactive learning games. Trolley tours will be offered for a fee, and grilled hamburgers and hot dogs will also be available for purchase.

Montgomery County Commission Chairman Josh Shapiro joined Kate Hammond, superintendent of Valley Forge National Historical Park, and Mike Bowman, president of the Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board, at the park on June 25, 2015, to preview the plans.

“With the world’s spotlight on our region and Pope Francis expected to stay in Montgomery County, Pa., during his visit, this is a great time for our region to shine,” said Josh Shapiro, chairman, Board of Commissioners, Montgomery County, Pa. “We are excited to join in this exciting event by welcoming residents and visitors alike to Valley Forge Family Day here at Valley Forge National Historical Park on September 25,” Shapiro said.

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The family event at Valley Forge National Historical Park is timed to coincide with the conclusion of the weeklong World Meeting of Families Congress early afternoon on Friday, September 25, and in advance of the Papal Visit in Philadelphia on Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27.

“The World Meeting of Families is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to showcase our region on the national and world stage,” said A. Bruce Crawley, vice chair, Communications and Marketing Committee for the World Meeting of Families – Philadelphia 2015. “The weeklong event is expected to generate \$417 million in economic impact, and a significant portion of that spending will be done in Montgomery County. On behalf of the World Meeting of Families, I want to thank Valley Forge National Historical Park and the Valley Forge Tourism and Convention Board for creating Valley Forge Family Day to make our international and national visitors feel welcome and giving them the chance to experience some of our region’s beautiful assets, including this phenomenal national park.”

“Valley Forge National Historical Park is one of Montgomery County’s most visited tourism destinations, and we are excited to invite visitors and neighbors to enjoy the park’s historic sites, scenic trails, and picnic areas during the World Meeting of Families,” said Kate Hammond, superintendent. “Our most popular programs, including ranger-led walks and children’s activities, will be available all that week. We will present a special event on September 25 for visitors of all ages, complete with learning activities that are especially engaging for families with children,” she said.

The event will begin with an opening ceremony at 2 p.m. featuring brief welcome remarks from Commissioner Shapiro, Park Superintendent Hammond, and Tourism & Convention Board President Bowman. Pastor Charles W. Quann from Bethlehem Baptist Church in Spring House, Pa., will speak about a non-perishable food drive that was jointly coordinated by a dozen faith leaders in the region with donations benefiting the Montgomery County Anti-Hunger Network. A multi-faith choir will perform patriotic songs, under the baton of Ross Boerner, artistic director and conductor of the Norristown Chorale.

Other planned activities include:

- Hands-on education stations will accent history and ecology of the park with interactive explorations for children.
- Join the Continental Army – Young recruits will learn how to march and drill as soldiers as they join the Continental army on the mini parade grounds.
- Meet General Washington – The Continental Army’s commander-in-chief will be onsite to meet attendees and pose for pictures.

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- The Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board Kiosk – The Board’s traveling information center will provide details on all that Montgomery County has to offer to engage visitors.
- Living History – Park rangers in historical attire will share stories at the Muhlenberg Huts about Continental soldiers and camp followers. There will be musket demonstrations and visitors will see a working bake oven.
- Secrets and Spies – In this interactive program, families will learn of a plot to kidnap General Washington and, using clues and secret messages, will race to foil the plans.
- Storytelling Bench– History blends with entertainment in these tales of bravery, commitment and determination from the past.
- Film Presentation – View the history of this significant ground in *Valley Forge: A Winter Encampment*, playing every half hour.
- Trolley Tours (available for a fee) – Guests can hop aboard an old-fashioned trolley and enjoy a 90-minute guided tour of Valley Forge. Trolleys depart at 11 a.m., 1 p.m. and 3 p.m. Tickets are available at The Encampment Store within the Visitor Center.

Valley Forge National Historical Park is located at 1400 N. Outer Line Drive in King of Prussia, Pa. The main entrance to the park is at the intersection of State Route 23 and North Gulph Road. Many of the activities will be located along Outer Line Drive from the Muhlenberg Huts to the Memorial Arch. Free parking is available. Car-pooling and ride-sharing are highly recommended. Attendees should be prepared to walk from the more remote lots to the areas containing programming. Area churches and houses of worship are being encouraged to use their lots and transportation as park-and-ride opportunities for travel to and from the event.

“As we prepare to welcome thousands of visitors to Montgomery County during the World Meeting of Families, we are very pleased to partner with Valley Forge National Historical Park to host Valley Forge Family Day,” said Mike Bowman, president, Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board. “This exciting, family-friendly event is one of a number of hospitality activities planned for Montgomery County, Pa., during the World Meeting of Families,” he said.

“The Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board will publish a September edition of *The Montco Explorer*, a tourism information newspaper distributed at our 70 member hotels and at the Valley Forge Visitor Center. The Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board will also distribute welcome gift bags to World Meeting of Family guests staying at Montgomery

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County-area hotels and a welcome message from Commissioner Shapiro will play on hotel room television screens,” added Bowman.

In addition, the VFTCB has established a microsite – www.HomeAwayFromRome.com on its website, www.valleyforge.org, to provide information for World Meeting of Families attendees and residents and, as well has created a special website portal, www.valleyforgefamilyday.com where pre-registration for Valley Forge Family Day is suggested. The first 500 people to register will receive commemorative event t-shirts, courtesy of the VFTCB.

About Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board

The Valley Forge Tourism & Convention Board is a nonprofit, membership-based sales and marketing organization that actively promotes the Valley Forge area and Montgomery County, Pa., as a convention site and leisure visitor destination by encouraging patronage of its 300-plus member hotels, restaurants, attractions and services. The Board’s award-winning [website](#) serves visitors, meeting planners, tour operators and residents, as well as hosting [The Pursuit](#), a twice-weekly, nationally recognized blog.

About Valley Forge National Historical Park

Valley Forge was the site of the 1777-78 winter encampment of George Washington’s Continental Army. The park commemorates the sacrifices and perseverance of the Revolutionary War generation and honors the ability of citizens to pull together and overcome adversity during extraordinary times. For more information about the park, please visit the website at www.nps.gov/vafo or call 610-783-1099. Follow Valley Forge on social media: Facebook.com/ValleyForgeNHP, Twitter @ValleyForgeNHP, and Instagram @ValleyForgePark and share your photos and experiences.