

Special Events

Virginia: America's First Frontier

By May of 1775, men, women, and children were heading west, deep into the harsh wilderness. They follow a trace that leads them to a life of freedom. However, that freedom is often overshadowed by hardships, the likes of which many have never known. The further onto the western fringe they travel, the more important community becomes. Journey to Joseph Martin's station, Virginia's final point of rest and resupply, and walk amongst merchants and tradesmen. Meet those individuals who traveled the trace and the indigenous peoples they encountered along their journey. Come and immerse yourself in Virginia: America's First Frontier.

May 13th – 15th

Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

\$10⁰⁰ per vehicle Friday and Saturday

\$4⁰⁰ per vehicle on Sunday

Martin's Station Fall Encampment

A long summer has given way to autumn. The harvest of Powell's Valley abounds. Our community is gathering to give thanks and celebrate the fruits of their hard labor. Journey to Joseph Martin's Station, on the far reaches of the Virginia frontier, and visit with skilled tradesmen, mingle with tidewater merchants, and enjoy a majestic celebration amongst our family and friends.

October 7th – 9th

Friday 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

\$10⁰⁰ per vehicle Friday and Saturday

\$4⁰⁰ per vehicle on Sunday

2022 Hours of Operation

Martin's Station: 10 a.m.—5 p.m.

April 9 to May 10: Saturday and Sunday only

May 11 to October 30: Wednesday through Sunday

(Closed Mon & Tues)

Wilderness Road State Park staff and volunteers are dedicated to preserving and interpreting all cultures depicted during living history programming. Events at the park use costumed re-enactors and participatory programming which allows visitors to experience history.

Special Children's Program

Junior Pioneers

Children can experience Virginia's frontier like never before. Follow in the footsteps of our forefathers through hands on activities. Learn about fire starting, fishing, gardening, and more. Discover what daily life was like in 1775. On the final day of the program, participants will receive a meal, a Junior Pioneer official certificate, and a t – shirt.

June 20th – 24th

Children Ages 5 – 13

Monday – Friday 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Pre-registration is required

Payment required at registration. Non-refundable Fee of \$20⁰⁰ per child that includes daily snacks, a graduation meal and a t – shirt

Evening Programs

A Shot of Vengeance: 18th Century Artillery

May 21st - 6 p.m.

The Colonial Angler: 18th Century Fly Fishing

June 18th - 6 p.m.

The Earthen Oven: Baking on the Frontier

July 16th - 6 p.m.

Powder and Lead: The Anatomy and Exploitation of the Long Rifle

August 20th - 6 p.m.

Even Temper: The Art of Hardening Steel in a Frontier Forge

September 17th - 7 p.m.

A Frontier Christmas

December 3rd - 5 p.m.



Wilderness Road State Park

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Virginia State Parks

Wilderness Road State Park

Program Guide

April - December 2022



www.virginiastateparks.gov

Filling the Gap

The Virginia frontier presents many challenges to those who dare risk all to settle the untamed wilderness. Basic human needs have to be carefully considered. Land must be cleared, crops planted, and cabins built. Experience the final step of construction as the men, women, and children of Martin's Station come together to fill in the gaps of the new Transylvania Land Company office.

April 9th – 10th

Mapping a New Frontier

Land. It is the only guarantee of the frontier. Many travel the trace to obtain it, though its claim is not as easy as simple occupation. Colonel Preston has arrived at Martin's Station and invites you to join the surveyors of the Transylvania Land Company. Learn the process of mapping and surveying, as well as the steps required to claim and keep land on this new frontier.

June 11th

Frontier Justice

Law on the western front is swift and harsh. An autocratic system overshadows theocracy. Verdicts are defined by the law of religion and man. Witness Colonel Preston convene court, and listen carefully as he hands down verdicts and dispenses his unique brand of frontier justice.

June 11th
Colonial court to be held at 3 p.m.

The Woodland Hunter: Masters of the Chase

For centuries, Native Americans hunted the forests of Virginia in search of food and furs. Hunting was a necessity for survival and taught to young men at an early age. A combination of skills and ancient techniques led Native American hunters to be successful providers and become masters of the chase.

June 18th

A Declaration of Independence

July 4th, 1776. The Second Continental Congress ratifies the Declaration of Independence. Ties to the English crown are severed. The North American colonies are in an open state of rebellion. With word of Congress' actions spreading quickly across Virginia, sit with Capt. Martin and Sgt. Hord as they examine this new declaration and determine how the actions of those in the East will affect the lives of those in the West.

July 4th
Reading of the Declaration of Independence at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Unbroken: Heroines of the Virginia Frontier

Across western Virginia, women journeyed into the untamed wilderness not for glory, but for hope. They established new homes and created opportunities for generations to come. Travel the trace to Martin's Station and join the women of Powell's Valley as they harness the unbreakable spirit and pay homage to the women who birthed a new and free nation.

July 9th – 10th

Virginia for Liberty

Patriots. Tories. An open state of rebellion amongst the tide water. Five days after the Second Continental Congress severed ties with England, the Declaration of Independence arrives in Joseph Martin's western station. Many gather to hear the news. To hear of Liberty. Join these courageous men and women and celebrate this new hope in splendid frontier fashion.

July 9th
Program begins at 7 p.m.

The Long Hunt

In London, fashion is the focus of the elite. Beaver hats and doe skin gloves are symbols of wealth and social standing. These fineries of London, however, are imported from Virginia. Meet with Mr. Henry Skaggs as he returns from the western side of Brush Mountain and explore the art and business that is hunting the Virginia red deer.

August 13th – 14th

The Three Sisters: A Native American Harvest

Tribes of the Southeast relied on vegetables for daily survival. The planting and harvesting of crops became an absolute necessity that required a vast knowledge of seeds, plants, and the land. Journey to the Native American town as the fall harvest is prepared and discuss the effort that is needed to feed a community.

August 20th - 21th

The Thread of Independence

The Battle of Bunker Hill is now infamous. The effects of revolution are spilling onto the Virginia frontier and men have begun to muster. Knowing many will journey east, a heartfelt symbol of home is given both as a reminder and a warning. Come and join the women of Martin's Station as they talk of the sacrifice and hardship to come while they sew the very symbol with which this new nation will solidify freedom.

September 10th

As The Hammer Falls

The blacksmith is one of the most important tradesmen on the frontier. With ties to England severed, all imports to the American colonies have abruptly ended. Firelocks, swords, axes, and knives are now necessary but in short supply. Blacksmiths across Virginia are being called upon. Without their knowledge, skill, and willingness to serve, the hopes of Congress may be lost. Watch as the blacksmiths at Martin's Station demonstrate their craft and talk about supplying a company at the onset of revolution.

September 10th – 11th
