

June 2, 2020

COVID-19 Update

We hope you and your family continue to do well during this time. We are blessed that we have continued to have a small number of COVID-19 cases in northern Michigan and are excited that things have stabilized enough in the state that restrictions are being lifted and we can talk with more certainty about the upcoming season.

The staff at Mackinac State Historic Parks continue to work remotely during this time but is working hard to make sure the 2020 season is what you expect when sites open. Membership renewals and donations are still being processed and we are getting caught up in mailing our membership cards. We will be caught up by the time the sites open. Because of some changes in office operations once we go back to the office, it still may take us a few extra days to get membership packets out compared to our normal turnaround time. Each ticket location will also have a current membership roster available to them in case you don't have your updated card yet. You can just present your picture ID and they can verify your membership.

It is hard to keep up with the rapidly changing environment, so we wanted to take a few moments to provide some updates regarding the Mackinac State Historic Parks 2020 125th anniversary season and Mackinac Associates events.

Mackinac Associates events:

G. Mennen Williams Mackinac Celebration: This event has been rescheduled from June 20th to September 12th.

Red, White and Blue: This event is cancelled for 2020. It was felt there was still too much uncertainty to plan for an event this size given the information we had about a week ago. We had made this decision prior to the announcement on June 1st from the governor that further lifts restrictions on gatherings and events and event with loosened restrictions, the size of this event still falls outside the guidelines. In place we are planning a reception commemorating the 125th anniversary later in July.

125th Anniversary Reception: To celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Mackinac Island State Park Commission and Mackinac Island State Park, we look forward to bringing you a unique after-hours opportunity inside Fort Mackinac the evening of July 24th. An invitation will be sent with more details closer to the event.

Annual Meeting: This event is still scheduled for August 15th and will be an early afternoon event at 1:00 pm. This year's event will be held at the new pavilion just east of Fort Mackinac. In addition to our regular agenda we will be asking members to approve updated bylaws. We will be including the proposed revised bylaws with the meeting notice.

Please note these events may look slightly different for this year as we structure the events to meet social distancing guidelines, guidelines around serving food, and work to make the events as safe as possible for you and the staff involved in planning and hosting them. More details on what that will look like will be included in the specific invitations for events. For all events we will be mindful of the situation and guidelines in place for the State of Michigan and for Mackinac State Historic Parks as the event or activity nears and will make any further adjustments as needed or dictated by the guidelines.

Mackinac State Historic Parks opening dates:

Colonial Michilimackinac: Friday, June 12

Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse: Saturday, June 13

Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park: Monday, June 15

Fort Mackinac: Friday, June 19

The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum: Friday, June 19

Historic Downtown Mackinac: Friday, June 19

Mackinac Island Native American Museum at the Biddle House: TBD due to construction delays

While larger events celebrating the 125th anniversary have been cancelled, many smaller events will still occur with something scheduled every day of the season

The majority of the demonstrations and programs offered at the historic sites will take place throughout the season. However, some have been suspended for the 2020 season out of concern for the safety of visitors and staff, including the Adventure Tour at Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Tower Tours at Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse. For a full list of health and safety guidelines and program modifications please visit www.mackinacparks.com/covid-19.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Michelle Walk, Membership and Development Coordinator, at walkm1@michigan.gov or (231) 436-4100.