



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Independence National  
Historical Park

143 S. Third Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19106

Public Affairs Office

215- 597- 0060 phone  
215- 597- 0042 fax

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## Independence National Historical Park

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For Immediate Release

For more information contact:

Jane Cowley, 215- 597- 0060

### Celebrate Independence at Independence National Historical Park

Where better to celebrate the founding of our nation than in the place where it all happened? This year promises even more exciting and patriotic events, so join us as we celebrate our nation's birthday at the birthplace of the nation, Independence National Historical Park!

#### **Independence Hall and Liberty Bell Open Late!**

In honor of our Nation's Birthday, Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell Center will stay open beyond regular hours. From Tuesday, July 1 – Saturday, July 5, both buildings will be open from 9 am to 8 pm. No tickets are needed at the Liberty Bell Center. At Independence Hall:

- Tickets are needed for daytime hours (9am – 5pm). Free tickets are available at the Independence Visitor Center at 6<sup>th</sup> and Market Streets.
- No tickets are needed to see Independence Hall on July 4
- No tickets are needed to see Independence Hall during our late hours, between 5 pm – 8 pm.

#### **Pops on Independence – Free Outdoor Concert!**

On **Thursday, July 3**, at 8:30pm, join the Philadelphia Pops for a free outdoor concert. It doesn't get much better than rolling out a blanket, breaking open a picnic basket and settling in for an evening of al fresco entertainment with **Peter Nero & the Philly POPS** performing in the shadows of Independence Hall. Under the baton of the two-time Grammy winning maestro, the Philadelphia POPS delight audiences with a playful blend of patriotic tunes, popular classics and new favorites. And none other than Thomas Jefferson will make an appearance to read the powerful words he wrote in the Declaration of Independence.

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## **Independence Day Ceremony**

On **Friday, July 4, at 10am**, the City of Philadelphia sponsors its annual Independence Day Ceremony in front of Independence Hall. Join INDE Superintendent Cynthia MacLeod, Philadelphia Mayor Nutter, and special guests to honor our nation's proud history.

## **Let Freedom Ring!**

On **Friday, July 4, at 1pm**, the Pennsylvania Society of the Sons of the Revolution and the Society of Descendants of Signers of the Declaration sponsor the annual Let Freedom Ring ceremony. At 2pm, bells across the country will ring to commemorate the 232<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. This nationwide event is set off by the symbolic tapping of the Liberty Bell by 8 young descendants of original signers of the Declaration. Watch the ceremony, including special guests, in the shade on the south side of Independence Hall, from 1 – 2 pm, or come into the Liberty Bell Center before 1:30 pm to watch the symbolic tapping (building capacity is limited, so admission will be on a first- come basis).

## **Declaring Independence!**

On Tuesday, July 8, at noon, stand on Independence Square to participate in a re-enactment of the first public reading of the Declaration of Independence. Join the crowd to hear a costumed Park Ranger, portraying Colonel John Nixon, read the Declaration of Independence to the public, as Nixon did on July 8, 1776. Free copies will be given out so that you can follow along and cheer or jeer. An American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter will be present.

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