



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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*For Immediate Release*

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December 3, 2014

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PR-083

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## Glimpse Christmas Past at Sully Candlelight Tours

Tickets are still available for Candlelight Tours at Sully Historic Site on Saturdays, December 13 and 20, and Sunday, December 14, 2014. Tours start at 4:45 p.m. with the last tour at 7 p.m. As Sully recreates Christmas celebrations of the past, see the 1794 house and outbuildings lit by natural candlelight.

On December 13, Civil War soldiers will savor their Christmas meal around the campfire and open a Christmas box from home. Inside, hear music by Evergreen Shade, see what handmade ornaments will decorate the house and hear how a girl from Richmond plotted a course for Santa Clause so he could get around the Union blockade during the war.

On December 14, World War II soldiers and friends enjoy a Christmas party and dance to period tunes. Find out what treats are being sent to family members as they fight in Europe and talk with a soldier preparing to make the trip overseas. Discover how a delicious dinner was prepared in spite of rationing.

On December 20, explore Christmas in the 19th century from Austen to Dickens! In the early 1800s Christmas was a day for church and a time for parties and weddings. Hear some of Jane Austen’s observations of the holiday in the Federal period. As the century progressed, Christmas grew to more closely resemble the celebrations we know today. See dancers in the shimmering candlelight, experience the revival of the holiday spirit in Ebenezer Scrooge in our original puppet show and share the delight of a young visitor to Sully in 1885 when she saw her first Christmas tree.

During your tour, enjoy our special holiday exhibit, “The Nutcracker – not the ballet”. These colorful nutcrackers – old and new – have a fascinating history dating back to the third century B.C. German nutcrackers became popular in the United States after World War II when American soldiers brought them back as gifts.

Each evening visit the open hearth kitchen to see what holiday foods were enjoyed in times past. Make your own holiday ornament to take home. Sit by the roaring fire to sip hot cider and taste sugar cakes made from a recipe in Sully’s Open Hearth Cookbook. Snap a holiday photo on our antique sleigh and do some Christmas shopping in our Squirrel’s Nest museum store and save 10% during December.

Prepaid reservations are required and space is limited. Tickets are \$10. For information call 703-437-1794. Sign up on line at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully).

Sully Historic Site is located at 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly, VA 20151, off Rt. 28 (Sully Road) ¼ mile north of Rt. 50 and 5 miles south of the Dulles Toll Road.

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If accommodations and/or alternative formats are needed, please call (703) 324-8563, at least 10 working days in advance of the registration deadline or event. TTY (703) 803-3354.