



# FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY



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*For Immediate Release*

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## Austen to Dickens – A 19th Century Christmas Sampler Offered at Sully Candlelight Tours

Tickets are still available for Candlelight Tours at Sully Historic Site on Saturday, December 20, 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.

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 with a decorated Christmas tree, gifts and music.

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. A talented singer shares her beautiful voice and, accompanied by her father, will delight you.

Outside raise your own voice and join in signing with our Christmas carolers. Visit with Father Christmas and have your photo taken by the antique sleigh. Stop by the open hearth kitchen to see what holiday foods were enjoyed in the 1800s. Make your own holiday ornament to take home. Gather ‘round the roaring fire to roast marshmallows, sip hot cider and taste sugar cakes made from a recipe in Sully’s Open Hearth Cookbook. Do some last-minute Christmas shopping in our Squirrel’s Nest museum store and save 10% during December.

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.

Prepaid reservations are required and tickets are \$10. For information call 703-437-1794. Sign up online at [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully).

Sully Historic Site is located at 3650 Historic Sully Way, Chantilly, Va., 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.

