



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

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Information Release

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Get a Glimpse of Christmas Past at Sully Candlelight Tours

Tickets are available for Candlelight Tours at Sully Historic Site on Saturdays, December 12 and 19, and Sunday, December 13, 2015. 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 12, Federal and Confederate soldiers will savor their Christmas meal around the campfire and open a Christmas box from home. Inside, hear music of the Civil War era by Evergreen Shade, see how handmade evergreen decorations will festoon the house and hear how a child from Richmond plotted a course for Santa Claus so he could get around the Union blockade during the war.

On December 13, learn how Christmas was celebrated at the turn of the 19th century. In Jane Austen's time dancers filled the hall in the flickering firelight, rich foods filled the table, and parties and parlor games made the Twelve Days of Christmas a season of anticipation and excitement. Outside, join our Revolutionary War veterans and celebrate with the firing of the Christmas guns.

On December 19, explore Christmas in the Victorian Era. In the mid to late 1800s, Christmas grew to more closely resemble the celebrations we know today. Hear the children read *The Night Before Christmas*, 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. On the lawn, stroll through our interpretive Victorian market.

During your tour, enjoy our special holiday exhibit, "Santas of the World." The story of Santa is an endearing one and famous world-wide. Through a variety of objects discover the history behind this jolly old elf.

Each evening visit the open hearth kitchen to see what holiday foods were enjoyed in the 19th century. 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 more information, please call 703-437-1794. Sign up online at 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.



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.