Adjutant’s Report

By Galen Ewing

Thanks for all of your volunteer support for various activities this year. Our fiscal year totals include 409 volunteers donating 9,426 hours! The precious time you donate helps Fort Scott National Historic Site continue to be one of top notch sites in the country.

Candlelight Tour is fast approaching. If you have not filled out the Candlelight Tour interest form from the August newsletter, I have enclosed another interest form in this newsletter. Please mail or email it to me by October 22. Please plan on attending one of the Candlelight Tour meetings: either Saturday, November 10 at 2:00 p.m. or Wednesday, November 14 at 5:30 p.m.

The Fort Scott Fire Department is providing hands on fire extinguisher training in our RV/Bus parking lot prior to the November 14 volunteer meeting at 4:45 pm. Please let Galen know by November 3 if you will be taking part in this valuable training opportunity.

Tickets will go on sale Tuesday, November 1. Ticket prices are $8.00 and can be purchased with cash, personal check, or credit card (Master Card, Visa, or Discover).
Greetings everyone. If you have stepped outside lately, you may have noticed that it has turned just a tad chilly. I actually prefer that to 90 degree temperatures. I don’t leave work wringing with sweat.

The seasonal have all departed. Skip, Paul, and Sarah all had their last day on September 29. I thank all of them for a job well done and for all the hard work over the summer. Ryan left us the end of August to go to Andersonville NHS in Georgia for the winter, which put him right in the path of Hurricane Michael. He survived it just fine, I am happy to report.

Friday, October 19 marks the 40th anniversary of Fort Scott National Historic Site becoming a unit of the National Park Service! A special thank you for all the volunteers and staff who have been involved at the Fort over the last four decades.

Fort Scott will be honoring Veterans Day on Saturday, November 10. If you would like to be involved with programs and activities at the park marking this important holiday, let me know. Also, let me know if you are interested in participating in the color guard for the Fort Scott parade at 3:00 p.m. that day.

We are busy preparing for candlelight tour, which will once again be an audience-centered tour. Several of our volunteers will be taking on the role of tour leader this year; thanks to all of you. Our theme this year is from construction to auction, tracking the fort’s history in the 1840s. Each scene will involve the audience in some fashion, so spread the word. “Talk-up” dressing up (formal attire of period clothing) to anyone who is getting tickets for the CLT!

One of my goals this year is to totally revamp the upper elementary programs. We have been doing the same programs for several years now and it is time for a change. We want all the new programs to have some elements of interpretive dialogue and techniques that will encourage the audience to share their stories.

This is part of the overall philosophy of audience-centered interpretation, which is the direction the Park Service is taking. The idea is that every visitor who comes to our site is a unique individual with a story to tell. Their stories can become part of the park’s story.

One more thought related to audience-centered interpretation. Remember that when you are presenting a program, that it is not “your program”. I hear many interpreters from throughout the Park Service saying things like “my talk” or “my tour”. The programs we present are for the visitors; therefore, they are the visitors’ programs. Since each visitor is different, than each program could also be slightly different based on the visitor’s life experiences.
October is Fire Safety Month!

The U.S. Fire Administration reports that fires kill more than 4,000 Americans each year and approximately injure 20,000 more. U.S. fire departments respond to nearly 2 million fires each year, with three-quarters of them occurring in residences.


Fire is FAST! In less than 30 seconds a small flame can turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for thick black smoke to fill a house or for it to be engulfed in flames.

Fire is HOT! Heat is more threatening than flames. Room temperatures in a fire can be 100 degrees at floor level and rise to 600 degrees at eye level. Inhaling this super-hot air will scorch your lungs and melt clothes to your skin.

Fire is DARK! Fire starts bright, but quickly produces black smoke and complete darkness.

Fire is DEADLY! Smoke and toxic gases kill more people than flames do. Fire produces poisonous gases that make you disoriented and drowsy. Asphyxiation is the leading cause of fire deaths, exceeding burns by a three-to-one ratio.

Crawl low under any smoke to your exit--heavy smoke and poisonous gases collect first along the ceiling. Before opening a door, feel the doorknob and door. If either is hot or if there is smoke coming around the door, leave the door closed and use your second way out.
Candlelight Tour

We are recruiting volunteers for the 2018 Candlelight Tour, Dec 7 & 8. If you can help, complete and return this form. In the assignment category, mark your top three choices in order by placing a “1” in the blank next to your first preference, a “2” for your second choice and so on.

Name __________________________
Telephone ______________________
Address ________________________
________________________________
E-Mail __________________________

Assignments

Visitor Center:
  Greet visitors: _____
  Mark tickets: _____
  Timekeeper: _____
  Desk: ______

Tour Leader: _____

Tour Follower: _____

Living History Scene Roles:
  Civilian speaking role_____
  Civilian non-speaking_____
  Military speaking role_____
  Military non-speaking_____

Grand Hall Reception
  Greeter____  Decorator____
  Server____  Other_____

I will do anything ______

Volunteer meetings will be held on Wednesday, Nov. 14 at 5:30 p.m. or Saturday, Nov. 10 at 2:00 p.m. Assignments, background material and scripts will be distributed at the meetings. Living history clothing can also be checked out after the meeting.

The Fort Scott Fire Department is providing hands on fire extinguisher training in our RV/Bus parking lot prior to the volunteer meetings. November 10 the training will be at 1:30 pm, November 14 the training will be at 4:45 pm. Please let Galen know by November 3 if you will be taking part in the fire extinguisher training and which day you will be attending.

Please return the form to P.O. Box 918, Fort Scott, KS  66701, call 620-223-0310, or e-mail us at galen_ewing@nps.gov by October 22.

PLEASE NOTE ANY SPECIAL NEEDS IN A SEPARATE MESSAGE

Volume 32 Number 5                       Page 4