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Two Opportunities Available to Fire Michilimackinac’s Weapons

MACKINAW CITY, MI – Every day, interpreters at Colonial Michilimackinac offer dynamic musket and cannon demonstrations for the public to enjoy, but what if you could be the one firing those weapons?

Colonial Michilimackinac offers guests two opportunities to do just that: a morning cannon salute, at 9:30 a.m., or, after the fort closes for the evening, the chance to fire four of Michilimackinac’s weapons.

“These special programs allow our visitors to get a firsthand look at the historic weapons of Michilimackinac, as well as a personalized, hands-on experience,” said Chief Curator Craig Wilson. “Lots of people watch our interpretive staff fire a variety of weapons for demonstrations every day, but the morning cannon and Guns Across the Straits programs allow a guest to actually experience those weapons up close and learn a bit more about how they were used at Michilimackinac in the 18th century.”

The morning cannon salute serves as the official opening of Fort Michilimackinac for the day. Guests are greeted by an historic interpreter at the Colonial Michilimackinac Visitor’s Center and walked to the cannon platform. They will assist in preparing the cannon, and, at 9:30

a.m., will fire a salute shot out over Lake Michigan. This program costs \$75 and includes admission to Colonial Michilimackinac. Reservations are available until October 6.

“Guns Across the Straits” is a more immersive program, which includes the opportunity to fire all four of Michilimackinac’s weapons. This includes the short land musket, wall gun (a really big musket), the Coehen mortar, and, as the finale, the cannon. This takes place at the end of the fort’s day, and two tickets to Colonial Michilimackinac are included. This program takes closer to an hour and includes a more intimate opportunity to learn the history of the site and weapons from a Michilimackinac interpreter. “Guns Across the Straits” is priced at \$200, and the opportunity is available until October 5. This experience also includes two admission into Colonial Michilimackinac.

Reservations for the programs can be made by calling (906) 847-3328 Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and need to be made at least 48 hours in advance. More information about both programs can be found at mackinacparks.com/fire-michilimackinacs-weapons.

Colonial Michilimackinac is a 1770s fort and fur trading village located in Mackinaw City, Michigan. It was originally constructed in 1715, and later torn down and moved to Mackinac Island. What remained was burned. The site was transferred to the Mackinac Island State Park Commission in 1909, and the current reconstruction began in 1960. It is also home to one of North America’s longest ongoing archaeological digs.

Support for most Mackinac State Historic Parks programs comes from Mackinac Associates, friends preserving and sharing Mackinac’s heritage. Discounts on both programs are available to Mackinac Associates members. A downloadable version of this release can be found [here](#). Additional pictures available upon request.

Mackinac State Historic Parks, a family of living history museums and parks in northern Michigan's Straits of Mackinac, is an agency within the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. Its sites—which are accredited by the American Alliance of Museums—include Fort Mackinac, the Biddle House, The Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, Historic Downtown Mackinac, and Mackinac Island State Park on Mackinac Island, and Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Michilimackinac State Park in Mackinaw City. Mackinac State Historic Parks is governed by the Mackinac Island State Park Commission, established in 1895 to protect, preserve and present the parks' rich historic and natural resources for the education and recreation of future generations. Visitor information is available at (231) 436-4100 or online at www.mackinacparks.com.

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