FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



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Every Kid in a Park extension to launch in Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area

Frederick, MD – Every Kid in a Park, a new national initiative providing free access to all public lands to fourth graders and their families, will be extended in the Heart of the Civil War Heritage Area (HCWHA) with a companion program at eleven non-federal sites. Created in honor of the National Park Service centennial in 2016, the Every Kid in a Park (EKIP) program is designed to foster the next generation of park visitors.

HCWHA, a certified heritage area encompassing parts of Carroll, Frederick and Washington counties, invites fourth grade students with an EKIP pass—accessible <u>online</u> or at any national park with an admission fee, including <u>Antietam National Battlefield</u> and <u>Harpers</u> <u>Ferry National Historical Park</u>—to "<u>Find Your Park</u>" in the Heart of the Civil War. The EKIP program will launch on Saturday, April 9 (<u>Bell & History Day</u> in Frederick County) and run through August 31, 2016.

The EKIP pass grants free admission to the incomparable national parks in the heritage area including <u>Monocacy National Battlefield</u>, the <u>Chesapeake & Ohio National Historical Park</u>, the <u>Appalachian National Scenic Trail</u>, the <u>Potomac Heritage National Scenic Trail</u>, Antietam and Harpers Ferry. In addition, these non-federal sites will honor the EKIP pass:

- <u>Barbara Fritchie House and Museum</u> (Contact <u>info@aushermanfamilyfoundation.org</u> to schedule a visit)
- <u>Carroll County Farm Museum</u> (does not apply during special events)
- <u>Catoctin Furnace Historical Society</u>
- Gathland State Park
- <u>Middletown Valley Historical Society</u> (Open during <u>special events</u> only)
- <u>Mount Olivet Cemetery/Francis Scott Key Monument</u>
- <u>Museum of Frederick County History</u>
- <u>National Shrine of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton</u>
- Schifferstadt Architectural Museum
- <u>Thurmont Historical Society</u> (Contact 301-271-1860 or <u>thurmonthistory@gmail.com</u> to schedule an appointment)
- Washington County Museum of Fine Arts

For more information about Every Kid in a Park and the companion non-federal extension, contact HCWHA staff at at <u>info@heartofthecivilwar.org</u>.

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