

Booker T. Washington

Annual Programs & Special Events 2019

National Monument
Hardy, Virginia

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior



Find Your Park February Programs

Join park rangers on Saturday, February 16 and Saturday, February 23, at 11:00 a.m. and again at 2:00 p.m. for special programs celebrating Black History Month!

On Saturday, February 16 – 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. join us for “In the Beginning....The Origins of Black History Month Honoring Dr. Carter G. Woodson” program will focus on the origins of today’s “Black History Month” from the original “Negro History Week” that Dr. Woodson started!

On Saturday, February 23- 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. join us for “Beyond the Slave Cabin Door: Creating a Sense of Place” will focus on how slaves resisted slavery both passively and aggressively escaping the harsh realities of slavery.

March into Women’s History Month

On March 23 and 30 at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., join living history presentations on the women from both Booker T. Washington’s family and the Burroughs’ family who owned the plantation. Jane (Booker’s mother) was a mysterious woman who had to balance both the demands of her enslavement and the raising of her children.

On Sunday, March 31, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the park’s visitor center, take a peek into women’s lives in the mid-19th century through the program, “Til’ Death or Distance Do Us Part.”

April/May School Tour Season & Friends of Booker T. Washington National Monument Legacy Dinner

Curriculum-based programs are offered free of charge Wednesday-Friday. Teachers can call the park at 540-721-2094 to schedule a tour.

K-1st Grade-Down on the Farm
2nd Grade-Resources: Past & Present
3rd Grade-Tools of the Trade
4th/5th Grade-War on the Homefront
6th-8th Grade-Cast Down Your Bucket!
10th-11th Grade-Clash of the Titans (DuBois vs. Washington)

The Friends of Booker T. Washington NM Annual Legacy Dinner will be held on April 27, 2019 from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. at Trinity Ecumenical Church. The group supports park programs with the proceeds from this dinner. The guest speaker will be Cheyney McKnight, a public historian and historical interpreter, who will provide the program “Not Your Momma’s History.” There will be a silent auction, music, and door prizes. For tickets, sponsorships, and advertising information, please contact Lisa Lietz at 301-704-2309. Friendsofbowa@gmail.com

Healthy Walks and Talks May - September

Join a Carilion Healthcare or Virginia Cooperative Extension representative on Thursdays May 30, June 13, June 20, August 1, August 22, and September 19, at 9:45 a.m. for a discussion on health while taking a hike in the park!

Juneteenth Celebration of Freedom



June 15, 2019 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

On June 19, 1865, General Gordon Granger arrived in Texas to issue General Order #3. This order did what the Emancipation Proclamation intended to do in January of 1863; enslaved people were freed! Celebrations erupted in Texas! These celebrations became known as Juneteenth. Join us as we celebrate our freedom with a FREE gospel concert, children’s activities, food vendors, and a Living History Guild presentation that recreates the moment Booker T. Washington experienced emancipation!

July The Trifecta

#1 The Founding of Tuskegee Institute: Presentations and discussions for roughly an hour will showcase the founding of Tuskegee Institute on Thursday the 4th, Friday the 5th and Saturday the 6th. Program is for all ages and does not require registration.

#2 Jr. Ranger Wednesdays will be offered FREE of charge on Wednesdays including July 10, 17 and 24 from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.! Fun and interactive programs for youth ages 6 – 12 allow them to discover the significance of Booker T. Washington and introduce them to the mission of the National Park Service. Programs will be listed on the park website and available at the park visitor center by the close of the 2019 school year. Pre-registration is required.

#3 Eco-Camp Saturdays in July! July 13, 20 and 27 from 9:15 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Pre-register your child for fun and educational camps with Master Naturalist volunteers. These are hands-on scientific learning activities for children ages 6 to 12. Each week there will be different subjects children will learn about at Booker T. Washington National Monument.

Memorial Day thru Labor Day Weekend Talks/Walks

Talks and walks will be offered Saturdays and Sundays at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. for the weekends from Labor Day until Memorial Day.

August/September Food, Fiber, & Flowers

The heirloom gardens will be in full bloom! Take a walk through the park's gardens or participate in one of the park's tobacco programs, heirloom garden tours, or herb garden programs. Observe heirloom varieties of garden vegetables and fruits. Booker T. Washington National Monument will offer exciting programs for history buffs, gardening enthusiasts, or anyone who likes to be outside and learn about historical gardens. Join park rangers and master gardener volunteers for walks or talks in the park's gardens and grounds to learn more about the nature of subsistence farming, gardening, and medicinal uses in the 1850's through the food, fiber, and flowers that Booker T. Washington experienced during his childhood in slavery on the Burroughs Plantation.

Booker T. Washington's lessons in self-reliance began on the 207-acre tobacco farm in Halesford, Virginia. Life on the rugged, small slave-holding plantation was geared towards survival. Work was abundant, and leisure was scarce. Master and slave alike relied on the success of crops and the knowledge of their uses to meet their subsistent needs. The plants and animals of the plantation would feed, clothe, and treat illnesses of the people who lived there.

October is Archaeology Month



A Children's Archaeology Program for ages 6-12, will take place on Saturday, October 5, 2019 at 11:00 a.m.

On October 12, 2019 at 11:00 a.m., Archaeologist James Nyman, National Park Service Manager of Northeast Region Archaeology, will provide a program on the history of park archaeology and the Sparks Cemetery archaeology project that was conducted at Booker T. Washington National Monument in December 2018.

Join Archaeologist Karen McIlvoy on Saturday, October 19, 2019 from 2-3:30 p.m. for "Exploring the Archaeology of Slavery at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest." Over the past 30 years, archaeologists at Thomas Jefferson's Poplar Forest have been able to excavate and interpret many sites related to the experiences of the enslaved African Americans who lived and worked on the property. This presentation explores some of these key archaeology sites and emphasizes the impact these individuals had on shaping the history of Poplar Forest.

November 2, 2019 Harvest Time Event

10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

HISTORY COMES ALIVE at Booker T. Washington National Monument! Experience mid-19th century craft and farm demonstrations by accomplished living history re-enactors. Children's activities and food vendors complement a fun and educational family event you will not want to miss! This event is **FREE!!**

Booker T. Washington National Monument will offer a dynamic educational and fun family event for visitors of all ages that portrays life on a mid-19th century slave-holding tobacco plantation during the late summer "harvest time." Come explore the park's structures, gardens and grounds and experience the culture of subsistence and cash crop farming that Booker T. Washington would have experienced during his childhood in slavery on this farm. The special event will include costumed demonstrations of tasks that would have been performed on the mid-19th century farm such as: blacksmithing, knitting, open hearth cooking, and spinning.

Old-time bands, a petting zoo and children's activities will be included in the day's events. Food and drinks will be available for purchase. Free horse-drawn wagon rides will be offered! Visitors of all ages are invited to attend this program. Admission to the park is **FREE**, and no reservations are required. The event will be conducted outside, so please dress appropriately for the weather. This is an event you will not want to miss!

December 7, 2019 An Old Virginia Christmas

3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Attend this evening living history program to learn the perspectives of enslaved and free families that lived on the Virginia tobacco plantation where Booker T. Washington was "born and freed." What was Christmas like in the mid-19th century in Virginia? What kind of discussions were going on in the kitchen cabin where Booker lived and in the Big House next door? Enjoy children's crafts early in the evening from 3:00 – 4:00 p.m., living history programs, old time music, and light refreshments. Please dress in layers, since this program takes place indoors and outdoors.

