

National Park Service | Chesapeake Bay Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail



News and Updates about the Trail and the War of 1812
Bicentennial in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington, DC

Winter 2011

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What is the Star-Spangled Banner
National Historic Trail?



Learn more about the Star-Spangled Banner Trail and related initiatives at our [Trail website](#).

Chesapeake Bay
Gateways and
Watertrails Network



Get to know the [Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails](#) along the Trail and throughout the Bay while biking, fishing, paddling, or just relaxing.

John Smith Trail



The Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail closely follows the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail. By water or from land, you can retrace this 400-year-old history [right now](#).

Public Workshops Coming This Spring

Tell us how you think the trail and byway should develop

Last November, many of you participated in the first round of workshops and gave us your ideas for trail opportunities, important sites, and visitor experiences on the trail. We have used your input to draft several alternatives for how the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Byway will develop and be managed over the next twenty years. At the workshops this spring, we will share these alternatives and ask for your preferences. Your input will help us develop a strategy for trail development that incorporates the opinions and preferences of residents and partners in Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. This fall, we will circulate a draft comprehensive management plan containing the preferred alternative and ask for your review.

Your input is greatly appreciated and important to us. The Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Byway will best serve the public when it reflects the best ideas of the people who live here. An announcement about workshop locations and dates will be made soon.



Public workshop, November 2010, in Benedict, MD

Create Great Interpretation!

Interested in developing new War of 1812-related interpretation for your visitors? Download the new Star-Spangled Banner Trail [Interpretive Plan](#) for guidance on telling stories that resonates with your visitors.

A Star-Spangled 200



[Learn more](#)

about the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission.

Virginia's Bicentennial Commission



Learn more about the [Virginia Commission on the Bicentennial of the War of 1812](#).

New Visitor Center Open at Fort McHenry

On Thursday March 3rd, Fort McHenry opened the doors of their new state-of-the-art visitor center. Several thousand people helped celebrate with cake, music, cannon fire, and fireworks!

The environmentally friendly building will also serve as a visitor contact station for the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and Byway. Read about the opening night celebration in [this article](#) by Vince Vaise, Fort McHenry's Chief of Interpretation.



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The plan includes interpretive themes for War of 1812 storytelling; suggested visitor experiences and scenarios to help you imagine what a trail visitor might do and learn at your site; goals for creating a successful visitor experience; a Trail-wide action plan; and a template for creating your own interpretation action plan.

For more information, contact [Suzanne Copping](#) or [Abbi Wicklein-Bayne](#).

Virginia War of 1812 Heritage Trail Legislation Passed



The Virginia legislature has passed [a bill](#) to establish The Virginia War of 1812 Heritage Trail. The trail would utilize the historic marker program as a catalyst to link locations and sites significant to the American War of 1812 to highlight and commemorate Virginia's role, participation, and contributions to the success of the war.

The legislature also authorized the issuance of [special license plates](#) marking the bicentennial. Proceeds of sales will support the operation and programs of the Virginia Bicentennial of the American War of 1812 Commission.

Public Art Project

The Maryland State Arts Council will receive "Requests for Qualifications" for the [Francis Scott Key Bridge Public Art Project](#) until March 18, 2011. This large-scale interpretive project is open to artists and professional design teams (including artists, designers, artist-led team, architects, landscape architects, etc.) located in the United States. The Key bridge spans Baltimore's harbor near the spot where Key witnessed the bombardment of Fort McHenry on September 13-14, 1814. The bridge provides travelers a panoramic view of Baltimore harbor and will serve as a gateway for an international flotilla of gray hulls and tall sailing ships arriving in June 2012 to kickoff the national bicentennial in Maryland. The Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission is coordinating the Key Bridge Public Art Project with the Maryland State Arts Council and the Maryland Department of Transportation.

For more information, contact [Kate Marks](#) at the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission.

2011 Financial Assistance Award Program

The National Park Service Chesapeake Bay Office is accepting applications from sites and water trails designated as partners of the Chesapeake Bay Gateways and Watertrails Network. The funding priority for 2011 is on projects that create new or enhanced public access to the Bay or tributaries. [Applications](#) are due in the NPS Chesapeake Bay office by 4 pm on April 4th.



An informational call to discuss the application process will be held on Wednesday, March 16th from 1:30 to 3:00 pm. All parties interested in submitting an application are encouraged to attend the call. RSVP to Greg_Ogilvie@nps.gov to receive call-in details. For more information on the application process, Greg can be reached at 410-260-2488.

Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission unveils fundraising efforts for Star-Spangled 200



In tandem with the opening of the new Fort McHenry Visitor Center, the Maryland War of 1812 Bicentennial Commission announced the launch of a \$25 million campaign to fund events commemorating the 200th anniversary of the Star-Spangled Banner and Maryland's role in the War of 1812 and to enhance the historical and cultural resources associated with the war.

The Commission has designated the not-for-profit Star-Spangled 200, Inc. (SSB200) as the entity that will lead its fundraising efforts through corporate and individual donations. The Commission and SSB200 will also coordinate to leverage revenues received from the minting of a commemorative coin by the U.S. Mint.

President Obama signed the Star-Spangled Banner Commemorative Coin Act into law August 16, 2010. Available in January 2012, the sale of the coins could provide up to \$8.5 million for bicentennial events and legacy projects. The dollars raised from the coin sales are only available on a one-to-one matching basis.

"The commemorative coin dollars are only part of a total campaign to raise \$25 million to elevate Maryland globally as a premier location to live, work and visit during this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity," said Governor Martin O'Malley. "These dollars will be contributed by the corporate community and individuals that are invested in celebrating Maryland's pivotal role in American history."

The SSB200 also unveiled its new website, www.starspangled200.com, where it will announce bicentennial celebration updates, enable donations, offer bicentennial merchandise, and more.

Thank you for your interest in and support of the Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail and the upcoming Bicentennial!