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Media Release

Tips for Visiting The Battle of Lexington Reenactment

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MEDIA RELEASE: For immediate publication

Preparing for your visit to the 249th Anniversary of “The Shot Heard Around the World”

You will find the reenactment of the Battle of Lexington a special occasion. It takes place Monday, April 15, 2024 starting at 5:30 am on Lexington Common in Lexington Massachusetts (Rain date is Saturday, April 20, 2024 at 5:30 am). Patriots' Day in Lexington is a full day of music, entertainment, food, games and fun set amidst living history. The Battle of Lexington Reenactment, the most popular event of the day, dramatizes the iconic battle where John Parker led his militia company to stand up in defiance to an overwhelming British Army.

New this year, starting at 5:15 am, the Lexington Minute Men have partnered with the Ladies Association of Revolutionary America (LARA) to bring to light the impact of April 19th on the whole community with a dramatic reenactment of the Civilian Evacuation. On hearing that a patrol of the British Regular Army was approaching the town, the women and children as well as some men of Lexington left their homes seeking safer places to wait when the British column marched through town.

If you decide to attend the reenactment, here are some things you'll need to know.

Expect uneven terrain. The Lexington Common is not completely level. Wear comfortable walking shoes and plan for mud, gravel and slopes. **NO LADDERS ARE ALLOWED ANYWHERE, EVEN ON PAVED SURFACES!**

Dress for the weather. The reenactors may have to wear wool, but you do not. Bring hats, gloves – whatever will make you comfortable. Closed toe shoes will be comfortable, whatever the weather, because you'll be doing a lot of standing in the early morning dew over grass, dirt, and gravel.

Plan to stand for long periods. If you're watching the battle reenactment, there will not be bleacher seating available. You'll need to get to the Common well before the battle begins to get a space. Consider bringing a camp chair or blanket to sit on. Be aware that you will have to park far away from the Common so you'll have to carry your camp chair all day.

Think about meals before you arrive. Food is typically available at great pancake breakfasts available after the event, but you might want to pack a sandwich or snack, particularly if you need to eat at set times.

Prepare for porta-potties. There's no other way to accommodate crowds.

Expect crowds. You'll be amazed at the number of people who turn out for historical reenactments

Talk with the reenactors. They are usually more than happy to answer your questions. There are certain pickets that ring the Common who are trained to answer your questions and share their knowledge of the events.

Don't try to do everything. The Battle of Lexington is one of a series of events - many occur on Saturday, April 13, 2024 at the Battle Road events. The Minute Man National Historical Park has a number of events. Lexington Historical Society also hosts a number of events. There's more going on than you'll be able to see in one day. Select your must-see events and plan your day around them. After all, you can always come back next year to enjoy the things you missed.

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