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# Reenactor Chronicles

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Great Lakes Region 1700-1840

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## Reenactor, history teacher honored as district Teacher of the Year in Ohio

By Vicki Johnson

Reenactor and middle school history teacher Kyle von Kamp was honored Tuesday by the Ohio Board of Education as the District 2 Teacher of the Year. He received his award during a ceremony in Columbus, Ohio, largely for his hands-on method of teaching eight-graders about the American Revolution. Instead of solely teaching dates and history from a textbook, von Kamp brings history to life at the [Willard Revolutionary War Encampment and Reenactment](#). In mid-May each year, his students don period clothing and learn about history by living it.

Next spring's dates are May 15-16. The weekend includes a student day on Friday when students from other classes visit the event, followed by a Friday night ball and awards ceremony. Students reenact events and battle scenes such as Lexington and Concord, Monmouth, Valley Forge, and Yorktown. Wearing



At top, reenactor Kyle von Kamp (left), middle school history teacher at Willard Local Schools, petitions British officers Johnny Højgaard (in red) and Erik Lysbjerg (in the British navy uniform) to recognize the United States as a separate country during an 18th-century festival at Gammel Estrup, Denmark, in summer 2024.

Above, von Kamp poses with a sign Tuesday announcing he is the Ohio Board of Education District 2 Teacher of the Year.

Below, von Kamp (back row, second from left) poses with his students during an event in September at Historic Lyme Village, Bellevue, Ohio.



period clothing, they learn about crafts and activities such as tin punching, paper making, land surveying, military drilling, hearth kettle cooking, food preservation, knitting, pottery and others.

Students research and create a first-person character sketch on a Revolutionary War soldier who moved to the Firelands of Ohio, and some students will earn the opportunity to attend a military ball with live music and spend the night in the encampment. On Saturday, students portray camp life for the community.

The event is open to visitors 8 a.m.-8 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday.

This year, teachers from other schools are invited to attend **"Revolutionary Education: A cross-curricular workshop for educators"** so they can see how the program works and how they can incorporate lessons into their history classes.

Read more [here](#).



# Pathways Women's Gathering Bellville, Ohio, Nov. 6-9



*Editor's note: 40-some women gathered at a private property location for this year's **Pathways Women's Gathering** and there were so many great photos to choose from, taken by so many great photographers. I couldn't decide which ones to use, so here's the group photo. What a great time with a wonderful group of ladies! See you next November! Vicki*

*Photo by Becky Waterman*

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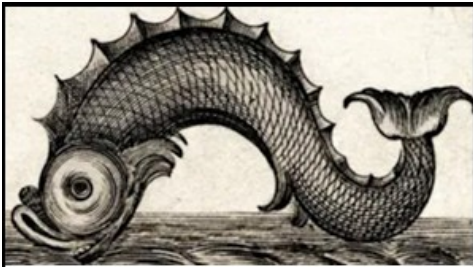
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## Holiday events

**Nov. 28-30 - Thanksgiving Weekend 2025 at the Museum,** Museum of the American Revolution, 101 S. Third St., Philadelphia, PA 19106.

<https://www.amrevmuseum.org/at-the-museum/events>. Visitors can explore a new special exhibition and to learn about the diverse roles of Native Americans during the American Revolution to close out Native American Heritage Month with talks and family



activities. Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Nov. 29 and Dec. 6 - 18th Century Candlelight Christmas Tours**, Pricketts Fort, 88 State Park Road, Fairmont, West Virginia 26554. Contact 304-363-3030, [www.prickettsfort.org](http://www.prickettsfort.org). 5-8:30 p.m. with last tickets sold at 7:30. Family-oriented guided Christmas tours of the 18th-century historic fort and 19th-century Job Prickett House. Visitors can see how our ancestors celebrated as staff members present many aspects of a colonial Christmas celebration. Tickets must be purchased at the visitor center, \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$4 for children ages 6-12.

**Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 - Daytime Christmas Tours**, Pricketts Fort, 88 State Park Road, Fairmont, West Virginia 26554. Contact 304-363-3030, [www.prickettsfort.org](http://www.prickettsfort.org). Noon-4 p.m., Family-oriented guided Christmas tours of the 18th-century historic fort and 19th-century Job Prickett House. Visitors can see how our ancestors celebrated as staff members present many aspects of a colonial Christmas celebration. Tickets must be purchased at the visitor center, \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$4 for children ages 6-12.

**Dec. 5 - Daytime Christmas Tour & Hearth Cooking Demo**, Pricketts Fort, 88 State Park Road, Fairmont, West Virginia 26554. Contact 304-363-3030, [www.prickettsfort.org](http://www.prickettsfort.org). 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Tickets must be purchased at the visitor center, \$8 for adults, \$6 for seniors, and \$4 for children ages 6-12.

**Dec. 6 - Christmas at the Fort – A Timeline Event**, Old Fort Wayne, 1201 Spy Run Ave., Fort Wayne, Indiana. Contact 260-437-2836, Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/HistoricFortWayne](https://www.facebook.com/HistoricFortWayne). Discover how Christmas was celebrated during war times throughout American history. What was it like in 1812 in Fort Wayne? What did they do in 1770 in Virginia? Talk with soldiers about how they observed the holidays. Visit with artisans as they present hand-crafted gift ideas. Find tasty treats and Old Fort merchandise at the bake sale. Open 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

**Dec. 6-7 - An 18th Century Christmas**, Fort Boonesborough, Richmond, Kentucky. Contact 859-527-3131, [https://www.fortboonesboroughlivinghistory.org/html/\\_event\\_schedule.html](https://www.fortboonesboroughlivinghistory.org/html/_event_schedule.html). Open 6-9 p.m. Friday and 1-4 p.m. Saturday.

**Dec. 14 - Historic Holidays - Fort Meigs Winter Festival**, Perrysburg, Ohio, noon-5 p.m., admission fee, <https://fortmeigs.org/holiday>

**Dec. 14 - Christmas with the Nevilles**, Woodville National Historic Landmark, Bridgeville, PA, noon-4 p.m., [www.woodville-experience.org](http://www.woodville-experience.org).

**Dec. 20-Jan. 4 - Winter Break 2025 at the Museum**, Museum of the American Revolution, 101 S. Third St., Philadelphia, PA 19106. <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/at-the-museum/events> Visitors can explore life during the winter months of the American Revolution with hands-on activities, engaging in-gallery talks and family activities. Open daily 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

*Please **email** your dates and event information for the holiday season (special tours, dinners, etc.) AND your 2026 events. The 2026 event list (so far) can be found **here**.*

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