Play Ball! Meadowcroft to Host Vintage Base Ball Game

- The Somerset Frosty Sons of Thunder will take on the Addison Mountain Stars following rules commonly used during 1860s ballgames -

PITTSBURGH, Aug. 8, 2018 – Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, part of the Smithsonian-affiliated Senator John Heinz History Center museum system, will host a Vintage Base Ball Game on Saturday, Aug. 18, from noon to 5 p.m.

Visitors can celebrate America’s pastime as they cheer on the Somerset Frosty Sons of Thunder and the Addison Mountain Stars, who will wear vintage uniforms and play by the rules commonly used during the 1860s.

The first recorded game of base ball (originally written as two words) in the Pittsburgh region was played between an Allegheny City team and a Pittsburgh team on Oct. 8, 1857 on the West Commons in Allegheny City (today’s North Side).

The National Association of Base-Ball Players in New York adopted a rulebook on March 14, 1860. Its rules differ from modern rules in several ways, including:

- Gloves were not commonly used.
- Players were referred to as “ballists.”
- A batter was called a “striker.”
- A fly ball caught after one bounce resulted in the batter, or striker, being called out.

Throughout the day, Meadowcroft visitors can also step inside a wigwam in a recreated 16th Century Monongahela Indian Village, watch a blacksmith forge red-hot iron in the 19th Century Meadowcroft Village, and tour the Meadowcroft Rockshelter, a National Historic Landmark and the oldest site of human habitation in North America.

Admission is $15 for adults, $14 for senior citizens, and $7 for students and children ages 6-17. Children ages 5 and under and History Center members get in free.

Meadowcroft thanks EQT Foundation for its generous support of educational programming throughout Meadowcroft’s 50th season.

For more information, visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org/meadowcroft or call 724-587-3412.
Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village operates in association with the Senator John Heinz History Center, an affiliate of the Smithsonian and Pennsylvania’s largest history museum. Meadowcroft, a National Historic Landmark, is the oldest site of human habitation in North America and features a massive rock overhang used by the region’s earliest inhabitants for shelter more than 16,000 years ago. The 16th century Monongahela Indian Village includes wigwams, recreated prehistoric artifacts, and hands-on activities related to agriculture. Two 18th century structures help to spotlight the similarities and differences between the everyday lives of European settlers and American Indians in the Upper Ohio Valley. Meadowcroft’s 19th century village features a covered bridge, one-room schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, and church that create a charming country village setting. Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village is located in Avella, Pa., Washington County, within an hour’s drive of Pittsburgh. For more, visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org/meadowcroft.

The Somerset Frosty Sons of Thunder will take on the Addison Mountain Stars during a Vintage Base Ball Game at Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village on Saturday, Aug. 18.

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