Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village to Open for 2019 Season on May 4
- The National Historic Landmark brings history to life for visitors of all ages-

PITTSBURGH, April 17, 2019 – Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, part of the Senator John Heinz History Center museum system, will open for its 2019 season on Saturday, May 4.

Located within an hour’s drive from Pittsburgh in Avella, Washington County, Pa., Meadowcroft features an impressive, prehistoric Rockshelter recognized as the oldest site of human habitation in North America. In 2005, the U.S. Secretary of the Interior designated the 19,000-year-old site a National Historic Landmark.

A popular getaway for families in the tri-state region, Meadowcroft takes visitors on a historic journey through three re-created villages:

- In the 16th-century Monongahela Indian Village, visitors can step inside a wigwam, test their skills with the atlatl (a prehistoric spear-thrower), and learn about American Indian agriculture.
- At the 18th-century Frontier Trading Post, they can explore 1770s-era buildings and discover how American Indians and European settlers learned from each other.
- In the 19th-century Meadowcroft Village, they can enjoy a lesson in a one-room schoolhouse and watch a blacksmith forge red-hot iron.

In addition to experiencing living history, visitors can enjoy a stroll over the beautifully restored Pine Bank Covered Bridge. Originally constructed in 1871 and rehabilitated in 2017, it is one of about 20 surviving King-Post Truss covered bridges in the United States.

Meadowcroft to Host Exciting Lineup of Public Programs in 2019

From archaeology enthusiasts to sports fans, Meadowcroft’s lineup of 2019 programming has something for everyone. Highlights include the following:

- **Insider Tours of Meadowcroft Rockshelter:** On select dates, visitors can enjoy exclusive Insider Tours with James M. Adovasio, Ph.D., who achieved international acclaim with his archeological excavation of the Rockshelter in 1973. Dr. Adovasio will present a lecture and lead a special tour of the site on June 29, Sept. 7, and Nov. 2 at 10 a.m.; and on Sunday, Oct. 13 at 1 p.m. Reserve your spot at www.heinzhistorycenter.org/events.
• **22nd Annual Atlatl Competition, June 15:** Beginners are invited to try their hand at the atlatl, then watch some of the world’s top atlatl competitors compete for high score. This annual event is held in partnership with the World Atlatl Association.

• **Vintage Base Ball Day, Aug. 17:** Meadowcroft will host a “base ball” (originally two words!) game between the Somerset Frosty Sons of Thunder and the Addison Mountain Stars, featuring 1860s-era uniforms and rules.

• **Frontier Heritage Weekend, Sept. 28-29:** The 18th-century frontier was a dangerous and difficult place to live. Visitors can discover the skills necessary to survive and learn how American Indians and European settlers borrowed ideas from each other to build a better life in the Western Pennsylvania wilderness.

**Hours and Admission**

Throughout May, Meadowcroft is open Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m. and Sundays from 1-5 p.m. From Memorial Day through Labor Day, Meadowcroft is open on Wednesdays through Saturdays from noon to 5 p.m., and on Sundays from 1-5 p.m.

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

Special thanks to **EQT Foundation** for its generous support of Meadowcroft’s American Indian educational programming throughout its 2019 season and to our media sponsor, the **Observer-Reporter**.

For more information, visit [www.heinzhistorycenter.org/meadowcroft](http://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 19,000 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](http://www.heinzhistorycenter.org/meadowcroft).
Opening on May 4 for its 2019 season, Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village is a National Historic Landmark and the oldest site of human habitation in North America.

Visitors to Meadowcroft’s 19th-century historic village can step back in time to watch a blacksmith forge red-hot iron. Meadowcroft opens for its 2019 season on Saturday, May 4.

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