Meadowcroft to Open for 52nd Season on July 1
- Extended hours and new health and safety procedures will be in effect throughout the 2020 season -

PITTSBURGH, June 25, 2020 – Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, part of the Senator John Heinz History Center’s family of museums, will open for its 52nd season on Wednesday, July 1, following an extended closure caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Located in Avella, Pa., just an hour’s drive from Pittsburgh, Meadowcroft offers a one-of-a-kind outdoor experience for families, history enthusiasts, and nature lovers. Visitors can enjoy a much-needed escape while exploring the site’s three recreated historic villages and the prehistoric Rockshelter – a National Historic Landmark recognized as the oldest site of human habitation in North America.

“Meadowcroft is not only a hidden gem in Washington County, but it is also the perfect place to bring your family while practicing social distancing and experiencing nature,” said David Scofield, director at Meadowcroft. “The health and wellness of our visitors and staff is our top priority, and the new procedures we’ve implemented will ensure a rich, positive, and safe experience for all.”

Several new policies and procedures are now in place for Meadowcroft’s July 1 opening, including:

- Encouraging all visitors to practice social distancing (at least six feet from other guests and groups);
- Enhancing sanitation protocols, including the regular cleaning of restrooms and high-touch areas throughout the day;
- Requiring that all visitors and staff wear a cloth face covering while occupying indoor spaces, including restrooms and the Visitor Center, and when near others;
- Providing hand sanitizing stations in key locations throughout the site, including near picnic tables and restrooms;
- Limiting and monitoring the number of visitors permitted in indoor spaces (50% capacity) so that social distancing can be maintained, and
- Disinfecting items used in hands-on activities such as atlatl and tomahawk throwing between each use.

**Extended Hours in Effect July 1**

Beginning July 1 through Labor Day, Meadowcroft will operate under extended hours of **10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays through Sundays**. The site will be closed on Mondays.
After Labor Day in September and October, the site will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays.

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.

Admission will be available at Meadowcroft’s Visitor Center. No advance tickets are required.

For more information, please visit www.heinzhistorycenter.org/meadowcroft/visit.

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.

Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village in Avella, Pa., will open for its 2020 season on July 1 with extended hours and new health and safety procedures in place.

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