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Meadowcroft Announces 2025 Public Programs

-The National Historic Landmark will offer a full slate of programming that includes its annual Atlatl Competition and Vintage Base Ball Day-

PITTSBURGH, May 14, 2025 – Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village, part of the Senator John Heinz History Center family of museums, has announced a full calendar of family-friendly public programming in 2025.

Just an hour's drive from Pittsburgh, Meadowcroft is the oldest site of human habitation in North America and a National Historic Landmark located in Avella, Washington County, Pa. Visitors of all ages can explore the Rockshelter, an archaeological wonder where the region's earliest inhabitants dwelled more than 19,000 years ago.

Meadowcroft's 2025 public program schedule includes:

- **May 25: Vulture: The Private Life of an Unloved Bird** – Join Meadowcroft for a special presentation by Katie Fallon of the Avian Conservation Center of Appalachia, featuring live raptors and insights from her book "Vulture."
- **June 14: Meadowcroft Atlatl Competition** – Beginners are invited to try the atlatl, a spear-thrower used by prehistoric hunters, and watch some of the world's best competitors from the World Atlatl Association compete for high score.
- **July 4: Independence Day Celebration** – Celebrate the spirit of America with historical demonstrations and period games at Meadowcroft's 18th-century frontier area and 19th-century rural village.
- **Aug. 16: Vintage Base Ball Day** – Come watch base ball 19th-century style with the Somerset Frosty Sons of Thunder and the Addison Mountain Stars using 1860s rules.
- **Sept 20-21: Washington & Greene Counties Covered Bridge Festival** – Visit Meadowcroft's 1871 Pine Bank Covered Bridge during this annual celebration.
- **Sept. 27-28: Frontier Heritage Weekend** – Get a first-hand look at the everyday lives of 18th-century frontier families during Frontier Heritage Weekend.

- **Oct. 5: Walk in Penn's Woods!** – In cooperation with the Pennsylvania Forestry Association, Penn State, Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources and others, Meadowcroft will serve as a host venue for the day of educational woodland walks to highlight Pa.'s forest and wildlife resources from prehistoric to modern day.
- **Oct. 25: Meadowcroft's Taffy Pull & Fall Celebration** – Visit Meadowcroft's historic log houses to learn about historic confection while you make an old-fashioned sweet treat to take home. Limited space is available, and an additional program fee applies. Advanced reservations are recommended.

For more information on Meadowcroft's programs and to purchase advance tickets, please visit heinzhistorycenter.org/events and select Meadowcroft in the drop-down menu.

Hours and Admission

Meadowcroft is currently open on weekends, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., through Memorial Day. During the summer season (Memorial Day through Labor Day) the site is open Wednesday to Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Following Labor Day, the site is open on weekends through Nov. 23.

Unless noted, all events are included as part of the regular admission price at Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village. Admission is \$15 for adults, \$14 for senior citizens (65+), and \$7 for children ages 6-17. Children under 6 and History Center members get in free. For more information, visit 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 in Pittsburgh 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 first inhabitants for shelter as early as 19,000 years ago. Meadowcroft's 19th-century village features a covered bridge, one-room schoolhouse, blacksmith shop, church, and two log houses that create a charming country village setting. The 16th-century Indian Village includes wigwams, recreated prehistoric artifacts, and hands-on activities related to American Indian agriculture. Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village is located in Avella, Pa., Washington County, within an hour's drive of Pittsburgh, Wheeling, W.Va., and Steubenville, Ohio.



Now open for its 56th season, Meadowcroft Rockshelter and Historic Village is a National Historic Landmark and the oldest site of human habitation in North America.

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