



MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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Summer Camp Benning Broadens Reach for 2014 Program

Museum expands camp to include 6- to 8-year-olds

Columbus, Georgia – May 27, 2014: Slots are filling fast for the National Infantry Museum's Summer Camp Benning, and this year will be more exciting than ever.

The NIM will be hosting the camp for the fifth year in a row, with six sessions making up the activities. This year, however, the museum will be adding an all-new session for children ages 6-8.

Each of the six sessions follows a different theme to give campers a well-rounded experience in military history and life as a soldier. The upper level session is reserved for our 8th and 9th grade students who will participate in our Counselor-In-Training course.

Fees are \$200 per camper. Some scholarships are available. For more information, call the Education Department at 706-685-5814. Registration can be done by phone, at the museum, or online at www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org/special-events.

The 2014 sessions are as follows:

***New This Summer* June 30-July 3 2014 (8:30 am-1:00 pm)**

"Boots On The Ground" (Ages 6-8)

Our youngest campers will have the opportunity to explore US military history from the Revolutionary War to WWI. This camp, which runs for four half days, will introduce campers to the basics of what being a soldier is all about, while learning about what they would have experienced on a day to day basis.

June 16-20, 2014 and July 21-25, 2014 (8:15 am-4:30 pm)

"Objective: The Last 100 Yards" (Ages 9-15)

Step back in time to experience the U.S. military like never before. Follow the battles from the Civil War to current day engagements in Afghanistan as told through the museum's signature exhibit, *The Last 100 Yards*. This camp includes three half-days at Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center, focusing on the importance of water conservation. Campers will

walk in the footsteps of Soldiers, participating in reenactments and engaging with veterans about their experiences in the military.

June 23-27, 2014 (8:15 am-4:30 pm)

“An Adventure Through Time” (Ages 10-15)

Dive deeper into each major conflict in U.S. military history. From learning about the Spanish-American War to advanced tactics that help Soldiers today stay safer and faster on the modern battlefield, campers see first-hand what it takes to secure our freedoms. Mock Vietnam reconnaissance missions will establish the importance of teamwork, leadership, and communication between campers.

July 7-11, 2014 (8:15 am-4:30 pm)

“Follow Me!” (Ages 11-15)

Almost every Soldier will pass through Fort Benning for training during their military career. Before it was claimed as the Home of the Infantry, Fort Benning was inhabited by Creek Indians. Learn not only how the area grew into a local treasure by exploring the Fort Benning Gallery in-depth, but also the ecology that surrounds us. Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center will partner with this camp to discover local edible plants, native animals such as the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, and the topography. To be a successful Soldier and citizen, one must understand the terrain!

July 14-18, 2014 (8:15 am-4:30 pm)

“Leadership Camp” (7th grade students and up)

The Army Values instill eight distinct qualities in a Soldier. Campers will leave with a greater understanding of how each is instrumental to being a great leader. Hands-on exercises will challenge campers to work as a team and make hard decisions. Strategies and principles from key military leaders will be dissected and taught how to be applied to solve daily obstacles. Local veterans will also discuss the meaning of ethics and honor. An off-site service project may be conducted during camp.

June 2-6, 2014 (9:00 am-4:00 pm)

Counselor-in-Training (8th and 9th grade students only)

A course developed for youth who are interested in becoming camp counselors at the National Infantry Museum. Candidates must have attended at least one Summer Camp Benning session a previous summer. CIT's will attend staff training and one Summer Camp Session (listed above) as a camper of his/her choosing. CIT's must also volunteer to work a minimum of Summer Camp session in 2014. In addition to expanding leadership skills, CIT's will discover communication techniques with peers and productive decision making processes.

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The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center at Patriot Park, a 200-acre tract linking Columbus, Georgia, and the Maneuver Center of Excellence at Fort Benning, is the first world-class site to pay tribute to the U.S. Army Infantryman and those who fight alongside him. As the only interactive Army Museum in the United States, the museum showcases the contributions of the Infantry Soldier in every war fought by the U.S. by offering immersive participation and engaging visitors in the unique experiences of the Infantry Soldier. The complex also includes a parade field, memorial walk of honor, authentic World War II Company Street and 3-D IMAX[®] Theatre. For more information, visit www.nationalinfantrymuseum.org.