

WINTERTHUR HONORS MILITARY THIS SUMMER WITH FREE ADMISSION AS A “BLUE STAR MUSEUM”

More than 1,800 Museums Across America Will Offer Free Admission to Military

Winterthur, DE—Winterthur announced today it will again honor U.S. military personnel and their families this summer with free admission as a member of the “Blue Star Museums” program, a collaboration of the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 1,800 museums across America.

Blue Star Museums offers free admission to all active duty members of the U.S. armed forces and their families to participating institutions beginning Memorial Day, May 27, 2013, and ending Labor Day, September 2, 2013. Winterthur will be closed on both of these Monday holidays in accordance with its regular operating hours for visitors, Tuesday through Sunday, 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. In a special salute to Independence Day, Winterthur again will offer free admission to all visitors on the 4th of July.

“Winterthur is honored to participate for the third consecutive year in Blue Star Museums, an important national initiative that offers cultural institutions a great way to thank our courageous active military personnel and their families,” said Dr. David Roselle, director of Winterthur. “Winterthur has been recognized as the premier museum of American decorative arts and has a beautiful 60-acre naturalistic garden and a research library that serves scholars from around the world. I hope our U.S. armed forces and their families will take advantage of this opportunity to enjoy a distinctly American gem.”

Winterthur’s latest exhibition, *Common Destinations: Maps in the American Experience*, takes visitors on a journey through the centuries to learn how maps shaped the identity of an emerging America. The exhibition includes traditional maps on paper and images of maps on objects including ceramics, playing cards, globes, puzzles, powder horns, fans, handkerchiefs, and more.

“Blue Star Museums is a collaboration between the arts and military communities,” said NEA Acting Chairman Joan Shigekawa. “Our work with Blue Star Families and with more than 1,800 museums ensures that we can reach out to military families and thank them for their service and sacrifice.”

“Blue Star Museums is something that service members and their families look forward to every year and we are thrilled with the continued growth of the program,” said Blue Star Families CEO Kathy Roth-Douquet. “Through this distinctive collaboration, service members and their families can connect with our national treasures with this unparalleled opportunity to visit some of the country’s finest museums for free.”

This year’s program involves participating institutions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and American Samoa, including more than 450 new museums this year. Museums are welcome to join Blue Star Museums throughout the summer.

The Blue Star Museums program is the latest in the NEA’s effort to bring quality arts programs to the military, veterans, and their families. Other NEA programs for the military have included the NEA/Walter Reed Healing Arts Partnership; Great American Voices Military Base Tour; and Shakespeare in American Communities Military Base Tour.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Winterthur—known worldwide for its preeminent collection of American decorative arts, naturalistic garden, and research library for the study of American art and material culture—offers a variety of tours, exhibitions, programs, and activities throughout the year. General admission includes a tour of some of the most notable spaces in the 175-room house, as well as access to the Winterthur Garden and Galleries, special exhibitions, a narrated tram tour (weather permitting), the Campbell Collection of Soup Tureens, and the Enchanted Woods children’s garden. \$18 adults; \$16 for students and seniors; \$5 for ages 2–11. Tickets are valid for two consecutive days.

Museum hours

10 am–5 pm, Tuesday–Sunday

Winterthur, located on Route 52, six miles northwest of Wilmington, Delaware, and five miles south of U.S. Route 1, is closed Mondays (except during Yuletide), Thanksgiving, and Christmas Day.

Winterthur is committed to accessible programming for all. For information, including special services, call 800.448.3883, 302.888.4600, or TTY 302.888.4907, or visit winterthur.org.



For more information about Winterthur's participation in the program, visit winterthur.org.

About Blue Star Museums

Blue Star Museums is a collaboration among the National Endowment for the Arts, Blue Star Families, the Department of Defense, and more than 1,800 museums across America. The program runs from Memorial Day, May 27, 2013, through Labor Day, September 2, 2013.

The free admission program is available to active duty military with appropriate government-issued ID and up to five members of their family. Some special museum exhibits may not be included in this free admission program. For questions about particular museums, please contact the museum directly. For a complete list of participating museums, visit arts.gov/bluestarmuseums.

About Blue Star Families

Blue Star Families is a national, nonprofit network of military families from all ranks and services, including guard and reserve, with a mission to support, connect, and empower military families. To learn more about Blue Star Families, visit bluestarfam.org.

About the National Endowment for the Arts

The National Endowment for the Arts was established by Congress in 1965 as an independent agency of the federal government. To date, the NEA has awarded more than \$4 billion to support artistic excellence, creativity, and innovation for the benefit of individuals and communities. To join the discussion on how art works, visit the NEA at arts.gov.

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