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Redcoats and Rebels Returns: Old Sturbridge Village Reenacts the Sights, Sounds and Spirit of Revolution

Immersive Weekend Will Capture America's War for Independence with Military Battles, Cannons, Campfires, Live Music and More

Sturbridge, **M.A.**, **July**, **28**, **2025** - As the nation nears its 250th anniversary of independence, Old Sturbridge Village, New England's premier living history museum, will transform its scenic, early American landscape into a revolutionary encampment for its annual <u>Redcoats and Rebels</u> on Saturday, August 2nd and Sunday, August 3rd.

The uniquely immersive and family-friendly event will transport visitors back to this pivotal time with reenactments of historic battles, military drills, camplife camaraderie and hundreds of translators portraying soldiers, artisans, and civilian followers. Guests will experience the thunder of live cannon fire, the rhythmic beat of marching drums, and the scent of gunpowder mingling with smoky campfires - all while witnessing the dramatic clashes and everyday efforts that shaped the nation's path towards freedom.

Unlike most popular New England military reenactments, Redcoats and Rebels visitors are encouraged to interact - such as participating in demonstrations, marching alongside soldiers and assisting in uncovering spies - with its authentically dressed interpreters as they represent the life of the military, farmers, tradesmen, and housekeepers during wartime. This includes learning about the intense work of prepping and engaging in battle as well as the daily necessities of cooking and baking, tending animals, making music and sleeping by campfire.

"Redcoats and Rebels is one of our most popular and unforgettable events," said Jim Donahue, President and CEO of Old Sturbridge Village. "With America250 fast approaching, we're committed to making this year's experience especially meaningful and thought-provoking. It's a rare opportunity to step into a defining moment in our nation's history and learn what life was like for those who risked everything in the fight for independence."

There will be nearly 40 Revolutionary War reenacting groups participating with *The Lexington Minute Men* leading the Americans and *His Majesty's 10th Regiment of Foot* hosting the British.

"The Lexington Minute Men are thrilled to once again be one of the host units for the Redcoats and Rebels weekend at Old Sturbridge Village," said Lexington Minute Men Captain Steve Cole. "This is an event we look forward to participating in every year, and it's a great time for families and history buffs who want to help in commemorating the legacy of our patriotic ancestors and see history come to life. We can't wait to see everyone there!"

This year's Redcoats and Rebels event is sponsored by Dexter-Russell, the largest and oldest manufacturer of professional cutlery in the U.S. Dexter-Russell is headquartered in the town of Southbridge, M.A.

A schedule with timed demonstrations, battles, and activities will be posted closer to the event date, which will happen rain or shine. Due to its popularity, visitors are encouraged to purchase tickets online and in advance at <u>osv.org/event/redcoats-rebels/</u>.

Media: High-resolution images and video content are available by request..

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About Old Sturbridge Village

Old Sturbridge Village, first opened to the public in 1946, is one of the country's oldest and largest living history museums, celebrating life in early New England from 1790-1840. It is the largest living history museum in the Northeast. More than 200,000 visitors interact with costumed historians each year, experience up-close demonstrations of early American trades, and meet heritage breed farm animals. Situated on 200 scenic acres, the Village is a collection of more than 40 historic buildings - including homes, meetinghouses, trade shops, working farms, restaurants, shops, and three water-powered mills.

Located just off the Massachusetts Turnpike and Routes I-84 and 20 in Sturbridge, Mass., Old Sturbridge Village is open year-round, but days and hours vary seasonally. For details, visit https://www.osv.org/plan-your-visit/.