

CVBT Chancellorsville Battlefield Park Day 2012 Press Release

Central Virginia Battlefield Trust (CVBT) will host locally the 2012 national Park Day on the Chancellorsville Battlefield, Saturday, 31 March. Volunteers are needed to help pick up the huge amount of trash along the roads that run through the battlefield in addition to some monument maintenance work. Park Day is nationally sponsored by the Civil War Trust (CWT) and is underwritten with a grant from History™, formerly The History Channel, and is a "Take Pride in America" event.

Park Day 2012 at the Chancellorsville Battlefield will be one of more than 60 Civil War battlefields, parks and historical sites that are participating again this year. Chancellorsville Battlefield Park Day is one of 15 participating sites in VA and one of two local area battlefields that are participating, the other being Wilderness Battlefield. It is an opportunity to bring Civil War enthusiasts together locally and continue to carry out the CVBT mission of preserving endangered hallowed ground and by helping the Fredericksburg and Spotsylvania National Military Park (FSNMP) to keep our nation's Civil War sites and parks in top condition.

Volunteers who take part will receive a free commemorative t-shirt and scouts will receive a t-shirt or patch from the CWT. Scout leaders should contact CVBT in advance to order the proper number of shirts or patches. Contact e-mail is: Chancellorsville2012ParkDay@cvbt.org.

The Central Virginia Battlefields Trust will give a free DVD entitled "On the Front Line" to all participants as well. CVBT will also provide water to all volunteers.

Volunteers should bring work gloves and safety vests if they own them. The National Park Service will provide trash bags and other tools required for the various projects. Volunteers should meet at 9:00 a.m. at the Chancellorsville Battlefield Visitor Center. The visitor center is located on Route 3, 7.9 miles west from the I-95, exit 133. The visitor center parking lot turn in is .8 miles past the Chancellorsville/Ely's Ford Road intersection.

The event will proceed in the event of minor inclement weather. If there is a severe weather forecast or warning, the event will be rescheduled. Event rescheduling will be announced via the CVBT web site at www.cvbt.org and email as soon as a determination is made. For early registration or more information, contact Mark Wakeman at Chancellorsville2012ParkDay@cvbt.org

The Battle of Chancellorsville took place in May 1863. Chancellorsville is considered Lee's greatest victory, although the Confederate commander's daring and skill met little resistance from the inept generalship of Joseph Hooker. By aggression and skill while breaking the rules of war at that time, Lee divided his massively outnumbered Confederates repeatedly, eventually driving the Federal army from the battlefield. The cost was high. The Confederates suffered 14,000 casualties, while inflicting 17,000. Perhaps the most damaging loss to the Confederacy was the death of Lee's "right arm," Stonewall Jackson, who died 7 days after he was wounded during the battle.

The CVBT is an authorized 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to the preservation of Virginia's Civil War battlefields. Your contributions are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. Our tax ID number is available on our web site www.cvbt.org.