



For Immediate Release

CONTACT: Please see the Mid-Atlantic destination contacts in each section below.

2015 Marks a Year Full of Celebrations & Anniversaries for the Mid-Atlantic

U.S. Mid-Atlantic – 2015 is filled with a collection of celebrations and special anniversaries throughout the Mid-Atlantic states. This year, you can experience monumental history events, one-of-a-kind festivals, live entertainment and unique downtowns all while traveling through the destinations that make up the Mid-Atlantic.

Find a brief description of these events in Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia below. To learn even more about these destinations, and what the Mid-Atlantic has to offer, visit matpra.org. For more information on individual listings, please contact the state tourism office or visitors bureau listed.

Delaware

Kent County and Dover

From May 1-3, the Dover Days Festival celebrates its 82nd anniversary. One of the longest-running festivals in Delaware, this free admission event focuses on the history and traditions of Dover and Delaware and was named a Top 100 Festival in United States in 2014 and 2013 by the American Bus Association. *Kent County & Greater Dover Delaware Convention and Visitors Bureau, Lorraine J. Dion, ldion@visitdover.com, visitdover.com*

Southern Delaware

CAMP Rehoboth turns 25 this year. Dedicated to celebrating diversity, CAMP will hold a spectacular Silver Weekend Celebration Columbus Day weekend, Oct. 9-11. Also, Dogfish Head Craft Brewery turns 20. They're adding a new distillery on their Milton campus and planning fall anniversary celebrations (including a new beer!) *Southern Delaware Tourism, Tina Coleman, tinac@visitsoutherndelaware.com, visitsoutherndelaware.com*

Maryland

Annapolis & Anne Arundel County

In summer 2015, Annapolis Summer Garden Theatre celebrates its 50th season, and Schooner Liberte celebrates 20 years of sailing in Annapolis. Rams Head Group (restaurants and entertainment) marked its 25th anniversary in December 2014, and Live

Arts Maryland celebrated Music Director J. Ernest Green's 30 years at the helm in January 2015. *Annapolis & Anne Arundel County Conference and Visitors Bureau, Susan Steckman, ssteckman@VisitAnnapolis.org, VisitAnnapolis.org*

Baltimore

On July 4th, Baltimore will celebrate the 200th anniversary of its iconic Washington Monument, the first monument in America dedicated to George Washington. To commemorate the occasion, "A Monumental Bicentennial" will include an official re-dedication, an American Citizenship Naturalization Ceremony, tours of the monument and family-fun hands-on activities. *Visit Baltimore, Moneé Cottman, mcottman@baltimore.org, Baltimore.org*

Calvert County

Founded in 1925 by R.V. Truitt, the Chesapeake Biological Lab (CBL) celebrates its 90th anniversary. The oldest state-supported marine laboratory on the East Coast, CBL allows visitors to discover the ecology and natural resources of the Chesapeake Bay. Visit www.umces.edu/cbl/visitors-center-outreach for more information on CBL's special 90th Anniversary Seminar Series. *Calvert County Department of Economic Development, Joyce Baki, bakija@co.cal.md.us, ChooseCalvert.com*

St. Mary's County

Blue & Gray Days: The Final Prisoners of War Release", on June 13-14, 2015, marks the 150th anniversary of the release of the prisoners from Point Lookout Prisoner of War Camp. Explore this little-known, but compelling, piece of Civil War history at a site where over 50,000 Confederate prisoners were held during the war. *St. Mary's County Tourism, Andrew Ponti, andrew.ponti@stmarysmd.com, VisitStMarysMd.com*

Queen Anne's County

Come to Queen Anne's County for a romantic getaway weekend. Enjoy exquisite dining with waterfront views. For romantic flare stay in a quaint bed and breakfast. Visit the Environmental Center to bird watch or explore the Cross – Island Trail. No matter the occasion, QAC welcomes you. *Queen Anne's County Department of Tourism, Ashley Chenault, AChenault@qac.org, qac.org*

Pennsylvania

Butler County

2015 offers big anniversaries! The 75th birthday of the world's original Jeep, the Bantam Jeep, will be celebrated at the Bantam Jeep Festival in June. Butler Little Theater is celebrating 75 years of local community theater performances. Finally, the town of Zelienople will mark its 175th anniversary in late May. *Butler County Tourism &*

Convention Bureau, Patti Jo Lambert, pjlambert@visitbutlercounty.com,
VisitButlerCounty.com

Cumberland Valley

The Appalachian Trail Museum celebrates their 5th Anniversary in Cumberland Valley this year. Located in Pine Grove Furnace State Park, this is the only dedicated hiking museum in the country. View photos, unique exhibits and mingle with thru-hikers. After, head out on the famous trail for some hiking of your own. *Cumberland Valley Visitors Bureau*, Kristen Rowe, kristen@visitcumberlandvalley.com, visitcumberlandvalley.com

Endless Mountains

The Endless Mountains of Northeastern Pennsylvania will celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Nicholson Bridge with events planned for the weekend of Sept. 11-13, 2015. Known or the Tunkhannock Viaduct, this train bridge links two mountains and has been called one of the "architectural wonders of the world". *Endless Mountains Visitors Bureau*, Morgan Christopher, EndlessMountains.org

Franklin County

Many local places celebrate anniversaries this year as Totem Pole Playhouse celebrates 65 years, Chambersburg Ballet Company celebrates 15 years, Cumberland Valley School of Music celebrates 25 years, and the Pennsylvania Opry at the Star Theatre celebrates 25 years. The famous Benjamin Franklin statue also turns 150 this year. *Franklin County Visitors Bureau*, Lauren Cappuccio, lcappuccio@explorefranklincountypa.com,
explorefranklincountypa.com

Gettysburg

One of America's most renowned tour guide programs, the Licensed Battlefield Guides of Gettysburg, is commemorating its 100th anniversary in 2015. Over the past 10 decades, these men and women have brought history to life through their rich knowledge, great story-telling and passion for the Civil War's most famous battle. *Destination Gettysburg*, Carl Whitehill, carl@destinationgettysburg.com, destinationgettysburg.com

Hershey-Harrisburg

PA's Hershey Harrisburg Region honors the 150th Anniversary of the end of America's Civil War with events including a Grand Review at Simon-Cameron Mansion; statue dedication for local African-American soldier Ephraim Slaughter at The National Civil War Museum; and "Stories From the Heart" at the PA State Museum. *Hershey Harrisburg Regional Visitors Bureau*, Rick Dunlap, Rick@HersheyHarrisburg.org, VisitHersheyHarrisburg.org

Indiana County

Celebrate with us! Jimmy Stewart Museum marks 20 years of celebrity and worldwide visitors! Sip and toast 30 years with Windgate Winery in the Smicksburg Amish

countryside. Rustic Lodge salutes 70 years of fantastic banquets, reunions and weddings. "Go Live at 25!" ... the Lively Arts at IUP welcomes show-stopping performances! *Indiana County Tourist Bureau, Maria Jack, mjack@visitindianacountypa.org, VisitIndianaCountyPA.org*

Lancaster County

Visit Lancaster County this year during the 30th anniversary of the release of the movie, *Witness*. Take a late afternoon buggy ride through picturesque Amish farmlands or chat for a bit at an Amish-run roadside stand, and you'll understand why the film continues to captivate folks year after year. *Discover Lancaster, Joel Cliff, jcliff@discoverlancaster.com, discoverlancaster.com*

Laurel Highlands

For 50 consecutive summers, the Pittsburgh Steelers have held their annual training camp on the Saint Vincent College Campus in Latrobe. See why the second-oldest training camp site in the NFL is ranked No.1 by sports journalists. Fans have unprecedented access to players on the beautiful campus surrounded by mountains. *Laurel Highlands Visitors Bureau, Julie Donovan, jdonovan@laurelhighlands.org, laurelhighlands.org*

Lehigh Valley

The Borough of Nazareth, in the Lehigh Valley area of Pennsylvania, is celebrating its 275th Anniversary in 2015. The official kickoff will be May 7 at the Moravian Historical Society in Nazareth. Events include historical displays, celebrations, and more. *Discover Lehigh Valley, George Wacker, george@discoverlehighvalley.com, DiscoverLehighValley.com*

Pocono Mountains

Celebrate nature in the Pocono Mountains. Grey Towers National Historic Site will be celebrating the 150th birthday of the father of conservation, Gifford Pinchot; Kittatinny Cones is celebrating 75 years of pristine fun on the Delaware River and the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area is celebrating its 50th anniversary. *Pocono Mountains Visitors Bureau, Elizabeth Richardson, erichardson@poconos.org, PoconoMountains.com*

Virginia

Franklin County

Franklin County will join surrounding communities to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Smith Mountain Lake in 2016. A full year of festivities is being planned in recognition of the significant milestone. The lake, located in Virginia's Blue Ridge Mountains, offers 500 miles of shoreline and an abundance of family-friendly activities. *Franklin County Virginia, Tarah Holland, tarahholland@franklincountyva.gov, VisitFranklinCountyVa.org*

Lexington & Rock Bridge Area

Devils Backbone Outpost Brewery celebrates its third year in Lexington, VA. 2014 marked its third consecutive National Brewery of the Year title at the Great American Beer Festival. Its success prompted a \$3.25-million expansion project, doubling brewing capacity. Stop by for an honest pint and brewery tour. *Lexington and Rockbridge Area Tourism, Patty Williams, marketing@lexingtonvirginia.com, lexingtonvirginia.com*

Newport News

The Virginia Living Museum celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2016 with 50 special events/exhibits. The private, non-profit museum showcases 250 animal species native to Virginia, including 12 endangered or threatened; has 6,000 member families, and 500 active volunteers. It is one of only 10 institutions accredited by both AAM and AZA. *Newport News Tourism Development Office, Rebecca Cutchins, rcutchins@nnva.gov, newport-news.org*

Prince William County

Over the last five years the commemoration and 150th anniversary of the Civil War has inspired over 100 unique events, tours and living history activities. Although this year marks the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War ending, the deep seeded history found here will be present for years to come. *Discover Prince William & Manassas, VA, Nicole Warner, warner@discoverpwm.com, DiscoverPWM.com*

Richmond

This April marks the 150th anniversary of a transformative moment in our nation's history. The fall of Richmond on April 3, 1865 foreshadowed the end of the Civil War. Richmond will commemorate this anniversary with a weekend of exhibits, programs, tours and living history. The full schedule is available at www.OnToRichmond.com. *Richmond Region Tourism, Juliana Comer, jcomer@visitrichmondva.com, VisitRichmondVA.com*

Roanoke

Mill Mountain Theatre in Downtown Roanoke is celebrating their 50th Anniversary Season offering high-quality live entertainment with four main-stage productions including Hairspray, April 29-May 17, Beauty and the Beast, July 31-Aug 9, On Golden Pond, Sept. 30-Oct. 11 and 42nd Street, Dec. 2-20 on the Trinkle Main Stage. *Roanoke Valley Convention & Visitors Bureau, Catherine Fox, cfox@visitroanokeva.com, visitvablueridge.com*

Shenandoah Valley

Bryce Resort celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2015 with 50 events in 50 weeks. This family-friendly, four-season resort in the scenic Shenandoah Valley offers snow and grass skiing, tubing, golf, zip-line and a state-of-the-art mountain bike park. Commemorate this

special year with a variety of special events throughout the year. Shenandoah County, Jenna French, jfrench@shenandoahcountyva.us, shenadoahtravel.org

About the Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance

The Mid-Atlantic Tourism Public Relations Alliance is a cohesive unit of regional tourism partners encompassing Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington D.C. and West Virginia. The alliance strives to serve travel journalists by offering resources that ignore geographic boundaries, as do travelers. Common threads and regional highlights are identified to offer more saleable stories for journalists that are interested in offering the prospective of Mid-Atlantic destinations as a whole.