

Fact Sheet Regarding the Decision to Amend the Fee Structure at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center

Summary: The National Park Service (NPS) and the Gettysburg Foundation have decided to charge a single admission fee for venues at the Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center, including museum exhibits, the film, and the Cyclorama Painting. The Gettysburg Foundation will collect the fee as part of its responsibilities as operators of the museum.

The new “all-in-one” ticket is \$7.50 for adults--considerably lower than the \$12 previously planned for the film and Cyclorama programs alone. The fee allows the Foundation to create a higher value for visitors, and encourages multiple opportunities to enjoy the venues during their visit.

What are the new fees?

Adult	\$ 7.50
Seniors and Military	\$ 6.50
Adult group (16+ visitors)	\$ 6.50
Youth (ages 6-18)	\$ 5.50
Youth group (16+ visitors)	\$ 5.00

Please note the change in the Youth rate. It now includes ages 6 through 18, where the proposal had previously only included ages 6 through 12. This would make a visit more affordable for families and school groups of all ages.

Will you have a discount price for Senior Citizens and Military? Yes, \$6.50.

What will continue to be free? There will be no charge to enter the Visitor Center and Gettysburg National Military Park (the entire battlefield and the Soldiers’ National Cemetery). Use of

the Visitor Center, the Refreshment Saloon, the Museum Store, exhibits in the Theater and Museum Lobbies, and the Resource Room remain free. There is no charge for parking or for the numerous Ranger programs provided in the height of the visitor season. Students, scholars and visitors may still conduct research in the park’s archival and museum collections for free, by appointment.

What if I’m staying for multiple days?

In order to encourage longer stays in the Gettysburg area, multi-day passes will be available for the following fees:

Two-Day Passes

Adult	\$10
Youth (ages 6-18)	\$ 8

Three-Day Passes

Adult	\$15
Youth (ages 6-18)	\$12

Can I still afford to visit numerous times throughout the year? Yes. In order to accommodate the large numbers of repeat visitors to Gettysburg, a new annual pass will provide unlimited admission to all three venues for a year for \$32 per person or \$63 per family. The annual pass will include a complimentary membership in the Friends of Gettysburg. Current Friends members can use their membership card at the ticket counter for free admission.

Will you have complimentary tickets for group chaperones? For every ten students in a student group, one adult chaperone will receive free admission. For non-student groups, for every 40 visitors in a group, one person receives free admission.

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Community Appreciation Days – The Park and the Foundation are committed to welcoming our local communities on four fee-free community appreciation days per year. The dates will be announced in advance in the local news media and will include: Veterans Day; Martin Luther King Day; Presidents Day; and a “Back to School” day each year in early September.

Affordability for Underprivileged Schools – The Gettysburg Foundation intends to work with the philanthropic community to aid in funding school visits to Gettysburg for underprivileged schools in Harrisburg, York, and other areas in order to ensure that underprivileged school students are able to experience the new Gettysburg National Military Park Museum and Visitor Center.

Didn’t taxpayers build the facility and therefore it should always be free? – The majority of the funds used to build the new museum was raised by the Foundation and came from 40,000 private donors such as corporations, foundations, and individuals. And many National Parks – even those that were fully funded by taxpayers’ dollars – do have admission fees.

Since the majority of the artifact collections was donated shouldn’t the museum remain free? None of the collections acquired by the NPS through the generosity of hundreds of donors has restrictions against the charging of fees. In addition, entire National Parks have been created through donations, including Eisenhower National Historic Site and Acadia National Park. These sites frequently have admission fees.

Won’t the donors be upset to learn that you’re charging a fee for a museum that was supposed to be free? According to the Foundation, many of the project’s major donors support the idea of charging for the museum exhibits.

Will you honor Golden Age and Golden Eagle passes, now known as the America the Beautiful – National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Passes? No, since the fees collected in the new Museum and Visitor Center are not National Park fees, but Gettysburg Foundation fees.

How do these fees compare with other attractions in and around Gettysburg? The Park and the Foundation researched the fees for area attractions so that the new fees would be on a par with the going rates for the area.

Why is the lighting level in the museum galleries so dark? Specialists from the National Park Service Harpers Ferry Center will be looking at lighting levels in the museum to determine if we can brighten the lighting to make exhibits more readable without damaging the fragile paper and textiles in the cases.

What does the Gettysburg Foundation do with its revenues? The Gettysburg Foundation’s annual budget contains three distinct program areas: the Museum/Visitor Center operating budget, the Membership Programs and Development budget, and Capital Campaign budget.

The Membership Programs and Development budget and the Capital

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Campaign budget are self-sufficient and do not draw upon revenues from the operating budget, and are not affected by the collection of fees.

Revenues generated by the facility – from bookstore sales, food services, and ticket sales - are devoted exclusively to four obligations:

1. Pay down long-term debt on the facility.
2. Pay all operating and maintenance costs of the facility.
3. Establish building and equipment reserve funds.
4. Provide an annual donation to Gettysburg National Military Park and the National Park Service.

Salaries of the Foundation's senior management are allocated across all three budgets according to each employee's involvement in a particular budget area. For example, the Foundation President's salary is allocated among all three budget areas, as much of his time is devoted to Capital Campaign and Development efforts.

The Foundation not only operates the new Museum and Visitor Center on behalf of the National Park Service, but they are also in the midst of a \$125 million Campaign to Preserve Gettysburg.

Would revenues from the Electric Map have solved the revenue shortfall problems of the Foundation? No. By the time it closed, visitation at the Electric Map had fallen by more than 45% from its high point in 1994. Annual gross revenues from Electric Map ticket sales were less than \$778,000.

What's happening with the Electric Map? Weighing more than 12 tons, and covered with friable asbestos, the Electric Map is proving to be an engineering challenge for the National Park Service. The Park is committed to carefully removing the map from the Visitor Center building before demolition and carefully storing it for some future use in the park or possible transfer to another nonprofit organization for educational use.