



Old Fort Harrod A Living Experience

Harrodsburg state park has living history, climbing tree, outdoor drama, more

HARRODSBURG, KY – Old Fort Harrod State Park – where Kentucky was born – commemorates the first permanent settlement west of the Allegheny Mountains. Living history demonstrations with a blacksmith, broom maker, candle maker and other costumed interpreters take visitors back to the 18th century, to a time of frontier life, blockhouses and hearthside cooking. Activities for families and kids, pioneer-themed events and an outdoor drama bring the park to life.

1774 comes to the 21st century

In March 1774, Captain James Harrod and 32 determined, brave men left Pennsylvania and set out for Kentucky to claim lands and make a settlement. After a long and adventuresome journey, on June 16, 1774, Harrod and his men laid out a town, naming it Harrodstown. Today, Old Fort Harrod is a replica of the original fort built by Harrod.

In 1989, new walls of 10-foot-high yellow poplar replaced the original replica's aging 1927-built walls. The cabins and blockhouses are furnished with handmade utensils, furniture, crude tools and agricultural implements used by pioneers. Craftsmen in authentic costumes portray pioneers who lived in the fort and demonstrate some of the daily tasks performed such as weaving, basketry, woodworking, broom making and blacksmithing. Live animals may be found in the corral located in the center of the stockade walls.

Besides hosting living history demonstrations, Old Fort Harrod invites kids to play on the centuries-old Osage Orange tree, one of the finest climbing trees they'll ever scale. There's also a Little Tikes state-of-the-art fort-themed playground that also accommodates guests with disabilities. The gift shop is well-known for its array of souvenirs that kids love and can buy with their mad money.

On July weekends, visitors can buy tickets to the park's outdoor drama, "James Harrod: The Battle For Kentucky," and in August, attend the Pioneer Days Festival.

At the Mansion Museum, a Greek Revival home built in 1830 also located on park grounds, visitors will find everything from Civil War relics to music boxes. The museum displays an outstanding collection of paintings, Indian artifacts, a gun collection and memorabilia relating to Abraham Lincoln.

Also within the park grounds are the Lincoln Marriage Temple, which houses the cabin where Abraham Lincoln's parents were married on June 12, 1806; and a memorial depicting the exploration of the Northwestern Territory by George Rogers Clark, dedicated in 1934 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt; and the oldest cemetery west of the Alleghenies, containing graves of 500 pioneers.

Old Fort Harrod State Park is located on the corner of U. S. 127 and U. S. 68. The grounds are open year-round. The fort is closed Thanksgiving, Christmas week through New Year's Day and January-March. **Regular hours** (Mar. 1-Nov. 30): Park grounds – 8 a.m.-dusk, daily. Fort/Gift Shop/Lincoln Marriage Temple – 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wed.-Sat., 12-5 p.m. Sun. Museum Tours (Apr. 16-Oct. 31) – 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Fri. and Sat., 2 p.m. Sun. **Winter hours** (Dec. 1-Feb. 28): Park grounds – 8 a.m.-dusk, daily. Fort/Gift Shop/Lincoln Marriage Temple – 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri. Museum – Closed. Admission is charged to the fort.

For more information, contact Old Fort Harrod State Park,
www.Parks.ky.gov/parks/recreationparks/fort-harrod/default.aspx, 859-734-3346. Visit the [website](#) to see Calendar of Events. Address: Old Fort Harrod State Park, 100 S. College Street, Harrodsburg, KY 40330.