

# Fort McHenry Guard Fife and Drum Corps

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Fort McHenry National Monument  
& Historic Shrine



## NOW RECRUITING MUSICIANS!



### Official National Park Service Sponsored War of 1812 & Civil War Fife & Drum Corps

#### Fort McHenry Guard Fife and Drum Corps

A youth-oriented program of specially-trained National Park Service staff and Volunteer-In-Parks at **Fort McHenry National Monument & Historic Shrine**, the birthplace of "The Star-Spangled Banner," in Baltimore, Maryland. The Fort McHenry Guard Fife and Drum Corps portrays the U.S. Corps of Artillery from the War of 1812 as well as the 2<sup>nd</sup> United States Artillery from the Civil War. As the official fifes & drums of both the War of 1812 Bicentennial and Civil War Sesquicentennial, they bring to life the music of two crucial eras in our nations history.

#### What they did is what we do

Historically, musicians regulated a soldiers day, formed them for battle, and inspired them with national songs.

Using original manuals, historically accurate uniforms and instruments, our NPS musicians play the same reveille, duty calls, cadence, and popular songs heard 150-200 years ago – including the, "The Star-Spangled Banner!"

Musicians were paid more than the soldiers who fought in battle for several reasons. First, it was harder to teach a recruit to play the fife and drum than it was a for them to learn how to handle a musket or artillery. More importantly, musicians

were essential for forming troops going into battle and relaying commands over long distances.

Members of the Fort McHenry Guard Fife and Drum Corps have interpreted the role of duty musicians for over 25 years at Fort McHenry NMHS, and now bring that expertise to the national commemoration of the War of 1812 Bicentennial as well as the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Civil War.

To date, the Fort McHenry Guard has helped observe the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Fort Sumter, SC, Ft. McHenry, Baltimore, MD, Arlington House and Manassas, VA.

#### Currently accepting applications and taking auditions

The Fort McHenry Guard is now recruiting fifers and drummers!

Recruits must:

- be able to read music
- young men between 12 – 30 years of age
- in peak physical condition
- commit to a MINIMUM of 10 events between Memorial Day and Labor Day
- attend mandatory rehearsals

#### **CONTACT:**

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#### **VISIT:**

[www.fortmchenryguard.org](http://www.fortmchenryguard.org)  
[www.facebook.com/FtMcHenryNPS](https://www.facebook.com/FtMcHenryNPS)  
[www.nps.gov/fomc](http://www.nps.gov/fomc)

#### What you get



Volunteer service hours!

Travel to historic sites in the  
United States and Canada!

Letters of Recommendation  
from the National Park Service!

Meet dignitaries and celebrities!

Honor of playing music of the War of 1812  
and Civil War at the birthplace of our  
national anthem!

Uniforms, Equipment at no cost to you!

Experience as a National Park Service  
Volunteer-in-Parks living historian for your  
resume or portfolio!