

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Pomp and Circumstance Accompany Grand Opening of the New Glorieta Battlefield Trail**

*Celebration of Living History and Flag Day, June 14, at Pecos National Historical Park*



PECOS, NM—Historians and hikers alike can rejoice this June when a brand new trail opens to the public: the Glorieta Battlefield Trail at Pecos National Historical Park. A grand opening ceremony will be held on Sunday, June 14—Flag Day—to dedicate the trail and commemorate the 1862 Civil War battle. (A full schedule is attached.) The new trail is the result of two years of hard work and dedication by the National Park Service and the Friends of Pecos National Park.

“The opening of the Glorieta trail is an historic event for the people of New Mexico that commemorates their Civil War heritage,” says Kathy Billings, Superintendent of Pecos National Park. “This is the first time the Glorieta Pass Battlefield has been accessible for the general public; the National Park Service invites everyone to visit this wonderful historic site.”

Though many events will also be held on Saturday, June 13, the official Flag Day ceremony is on Sunday, June 14, 10 a.m.–noon, featuring a massing of colors presented by the Santa Fe chapter of the Military Order of World Wars and the New Mexico National Guard. Held both Saturday and Sunday, the events surrounding the trail dedication offer something for everyone, whether you’re an outdoor enthusiast, history buff, or want to experience the world of living history demonstration. Rangers and trail guides will offer trail tours, and nearly 60 living history demonstrators, who will be in camp for the weekend, will provide demonstrations on antique fire-arms and canons, medical and surgical information, cavalry drills and more. There will also be music by the New Mexico Territorial Brass Band and presentations by historians/writers Don Alberts (*Rebels on the Rio Grande*) and John Taylor (*The Battle of Glorieta Pass*).

The Battle of Glorieta Pass is historically significant because it prevented the westward expansion of the Confederacy.

“The main idea was to get to Colorado and get the gold,” says Bob Mallin, a retired plastic surgeon from New York, via Alaska, who presents living history demonstrations on Civil War medicine and surgery. “After Colorado, they were going to make a left turn and eventually take the whole Southwest, a hunk of Mexico, and the gold in California. They didn’t get to do that.”

When word came that a brigade of Texans was going to attempt to take their territory, the governors of New Mexico and Colorado arranged for several companies of volunteers to fight them off. The Texans were able to capture Santa Fe, but the troops intercepted them north of town and the Texans were forced to retreat after the New Mexico and Colorado volunteers burned their supply wagons. This action constituted a major strategic victory for the Union and guaranteed New Mexico's future status as part of the United States.

Mallin began giving living history demonstrations nearly 20 years ago, after moving to New Mexico and learning about the state's Civil War history and joining the Friends of Pecos National Historical Park and serving as secretary of the group. Using a Civil War surgeon's set that once belonged to an Albuquerque anesthesiologist, he has



given hundreds of presentations around New Mexico and other states about the medical and surgical aspects of the Civil War. Living history demonstrations are not the same as Civil War re-enactments; there will be no battles taking place at the opening of the Glorieta Battlefield Trail. The living history demonstrators are primarily concerned with historical detail, down to the threads used to sew period-accurate buttons on their authentic Union and Confederate uniforms.

Pecos National Historical Park is located 28 miles southeast of Santa Fe. Congress expanded the park to include the 682-acre Glorieta unit on November 8, 1990, for the express purpose of preserving and interpreting the Battle of Glorieta Pass and enhancing visitors' understanding of the Civil War and the Far West. More recent efforts by the National Park Service to open more of the park to hikers, as well as interest and action on the part of local historical groups, led to the construction of approximately 2.25 miles of trail with exhibit waysides. (Approximately one-third of the trail is ADA-designed.) Prior to this trail project, the public could only access the trail during scheduled tours, and limited historical information was available.

"We get frequent questions from visitors about the park's Civil War history," says Christine Beekman, Chief of Education and Visitor Services, "and we're thrilled to finally be able to offer a wealth of information. This is a direct opportunity to walk on the hallowed ground of the battlefield, and to be the caretaker of this is very exciting."

Partners in the Glorieta Battlefield Trail project include Glorieta Battlefield Coalition, Civil War Preservation Trust, United Daughters of the Confederacy, New Mexico Confederate Historical Society, Student Conservation Association, Western National Parks Association, Rocky Mountain Youth Corps, New Mexico State Parks, National Park Service Connecting Trails to Parks, the Eaker Family, the Vordermark/Teel Family, historians Don Alberts and John Taylor, and many other donors and volunteers. The grand opening ceremonies are coordinated by Friends of Pecos National Historical Park.

Admission to the Glorieta Battlefield opening weekend events is \$3/person; all National Park Service passes are accepted. The Visitors Center is located at 1 Peach Drive, two miles south of Pecos on NM Highway 63. For more information call (505)757-7241 or visit [www.nps.gov/peco](http://www.nps.gov/peco).

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To arrange interviews with living history demonstrators/Friends of the Pecos National Historical Park, or request digital images, contact Jennifer Levin at (505) 983-6994 or [jennbilly@msn.com](mailto:jennbilly@msn.com).

**Glorieta Battlefield Trail Opening**

**June 13-14, 2009**

**Pecos National Historic Park**

*\$3/person all National Park Service passes accepted*

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**Schedule of Events**

**Saturday, June 13 / 9 a.m.–4 p.m.**

- Public tours of Civil War Living History Camp at Forked Lightning Ranch
- Demonstrations by 60 Civil War living history demonstrators, including antique firearms, canons, medical and surgical information, and camp life
- Cavalry demonstrations featuring a dozen horses, living history demonstrators and authentic Civil War drills
- Civil War-era music by the New Mexico Territorial Brass Band
- Discussions of the Battle of Glorieta Pass and Civil War medicine by historians/authors Don Alberts and John Taylor
- Tours of the new Civil War Battlefield Trail in Glorieta, led by rangers and trail guides

**Sunday, June 14 / 9 a.m.–4 p.m.**

- **Flag Day Ceremony: 10 a.m.–noon**  
Presented by the Santa Fe Chapter of the Military Order of the World Wars (MOWW) and the New Mexico National Guard
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