

Volume 17, Issue 12

December, 2023

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## Did You Know....?

Each entry in the Table of Contents is linked to the article!

Simply click on the topic you're interested and go straight to it. This works for ANY of the previous newsletters as well! No having to page through the whole newsletter to get to the article(s) you're interested in. The wonders of technology.

Also, all blue, underlined text is hyperlinked to either a website or to the individual's email address.







## **January Newsletter Deadline**

If you wish to have an article published in the January Newsletter, please submit it to Fred Feltmann at faf1948@bellsouth.net no later than December 18th!

#### List of Abbreviations

FOKM - Friends of Kennesaw Mountain

KMNBP - Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park

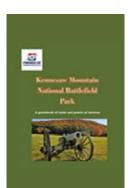
KMTC - Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club

NPS/KEMO - National Park Service/Kennesaw Mountain

VHP - Veterans History Project

VC - Visitor Center





## Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Guidebook

The Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Guidebook sponsored by the Friends of KMNBP is now available on Amazon.

"Earthworks" is published monthly jointly by the Friends of KMNPB & the Kennesaw Mountain Trails Club.

Editor: Fred Feltmann 678-315-5888

E-mail: faf1948@bellsouth.net

Additional Volunteers needed! Call today!

## **Kennesaw Mountain NBP Receives Open Outdoors for Kids Grant**

Kennesaw, GA – Effective starting November 13, 2023. Kennesaw Mountain NBP is proud to be one of the recipients of this year's Open Outdoors for Kids Grant from the National Park Foundation. Kennesaw Mountain's education program has served local community schools and organizations for well over a decade. This year's grant will allow the park to increase its reach and programming by hiring a 16-week public land corps intern and by providing funds for student field trip bussing.

Just last year, Kennesaw Mountain served over 2,000 students with in-park, curriculum based programming. With the addition of an intern, the park will be able to increase the scope of programming and provide outreach visits to local schools and community centers. Through additional bus funding, the park will also be able to increase its reach to communities that may not be able to visit otherwise.

"Children can experience diverse learning opportunities that parks offer when barriers like cutbacks in school funding for field trips are removed."- Liz Trabucco, NP Foundation.

The National Park Foundation's Open OutDoors for Kids program builds on a child's innate wonder and curiosity of the natural world, immersing students in national parks through field trips, classroom engagements, and educational activities. For more on the National Park Foundation and their support of the National Park Service, visit nationalparks.org.

Please contact the park at **770-427-4686** or visit the park's website at <a href="www.nps.gov/kemo">www.nps.gov/kemo</a> for further information. See page 6 for news release regarding this grant.



## Newsletter Sign-up

Would you like to receive our newsletter? To sign up, click on the following link: <a href="http://eepurl.com/gKjX1n">http://eepurl.com/gKjX1n</a> Complete and submit this form. You'll be added to our subscription list.

Wish to unsubscribe? Simply follow the instructions at the bottom of the email forwarding the newsletter link, and you'll be permanently removed from our mailing list. To re-subscribe, you will need to use a different email address - removal is permanent for the original email address!

Calendar of Events - Friends/KMTC

<u>Date Time Location Event</u>

**December** 

12/10 8:30 am - noon Pigeon Hill Parking Lot December Work Day

January, 2024

01/13 8:30 am - noon TBD January, 2024 Work Day - May be cancelled

because of weather! See page 19 for

weather policy.

01/16 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm Visitor Center Friends/KMTC Quarterly Board Mtg

01/20 8:30 am - noon Visitor Center Crew Leader Class

February, 2024

2/10 8:30 am - noon TBD February, 2024 Work Day

The Park staff is conducting Virtual Events on their Facebook Page - <a href="https://www.facebook.com/pg/KMNBP/posts/?ref=page\_internal">https://www.facebook.com/pg/KMNBP/posts/?ref=page\_internal</a>

See pages 7-8 for a listing of NPS-sponsored events for the month of December.

#### **Current Status Of Park**

All NPS outdoor events at Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park are being conducted.

All trails are open, except as noted, below. All parking lots are open. The Mountain Road parking lot is open when the Mountain Road is open.

Visitor Center is now open; masks are *optional*. The Visitor Center theater is open - the movie is being shown.

The Mountain Rd. is open to motorized vehicles on weekdays only (excluding major holidays)

The shuttle bus is now transporting visitor to/from the Visitor Center/Kennesaw Mountain Top Parking Lot on weekends.

#### **Trail closures**

The horse trail crossing on John Ward Creek on the Kolb Farm East Trail is closed until further notice because of the treacherous creek crossing there.



Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park 900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive Kennesaw, GA 30152

> (770) 427-4686 phone www.nps.gov/kemo

National Park Service, U.S.Department of the Interior, Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park, 900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive, Kennesaw, GA 30152, (770) 427-4686 phone,

## **Kennesaw Mountain** News Release

Release Date: Immediately

Contact: Marjorie Thomas, Marjorie thomas@nps.gov, 770-427-4686 x 231

#### John Ward Creek Crossing Closed to Horseback Riders

Kennesaw, GA – Effective immediately, the John Ward Creek crossing just south of the Illinois Monument is closed to horseback riders until further notice. This closure stems from a safety concern due to hazardous conditions relating to an unstable streambed. The closure affects the creek crossing between Milepost 3.5 and Milepost 4 of the Kolb's Farm East Trail.

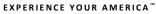
Superintendent Patrick Gamman states, "We are concerned for the safety of all park users. Crossing John Ward Creek at this section of the trail poses a risk that we want to alert our horse community to, as it could potentially cause harm to both horse and rider. We will be working as quickly as possible to mitigate this problem."

Please contact the park at 770-427-4686 or visit the park's website at <u>www.nps.gov/kemo</u> for further information.

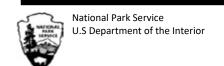
#### The National Park Service

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America's 423 national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at the NPS website, and on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube.

Work on the bridge replacement is currently winter - early 2024.



The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park 900 Kennesaw Mountain Drive Kennesaw. GA 30152

(770) 427-4686 phone www.nps.gov/kemo

## **Kennesaw Mountain** News Release

Release Date: Immediately

Contact: Kennesaw Mountain Education Division, kemo education@nps.gov, 770-427-4686

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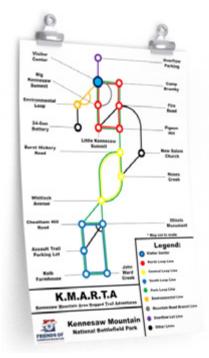
The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

## The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain Webstore

The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain is excited to announce our new webstore! Our first product is a unisex T-shirt, which is 100% cotton. The design on the back of the shirt shows Kennesaw Mountain and the Visitor Center. It is inspired by the New Deal travel posters from the 1930's. The shirt can be purchased online for \$20 at <a href="https://friendsofkmnbp.org/shop/">https://friendsofkmnbp.org/shop/</a>. Visit our website! *New items have been added!* 

## Andrew Bramlett





Some of the items for sale.







## Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park Interpretive Programs for December

\*All outdoor programs are weather- dependent.

\*Unless otherwise noted, all programs will be held at the Visitor Center

## Museum Tours every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday @ 2:00 pm!

## <u>December 9th, @11 am– Red- Tailed Hawks: Kennesaw Mountain's Bird of Prey</u>

Come out and enjoy a ranger-led program on the beautiful Red-tailed Hawk, one of Kennesaw Mountain's Birds of Prey. During the presentation, the ranger will help visitors become more familiar with this majestic animal by understand their habitat, family dynamics, and how we can help protect them for future generations.

\*This program is not at the Visitor Center; it will be held on the Kennesaw Mountain Overlook – shuttle service is provided.

\*\* The event will be held in the Visitor Center in the event of inclement weather.

#### December 10th, @11 am-Life of a Soldier

Life for the infantry soldier (Union or Confederate) was anything but easy. Long marches, bad food, and worse living conditions made it tough going for these young men. Join us as we lay out the gear that made such intense campaigning possible. You will see period- correct uniforms, weaponry and even get up close and personal with artifacts from the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain!

## December 16, @11-All About Artillery

Artillery was a vital component to the operations of both armies during the Atlanta Campaign and played a key role in several engagements during the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain. This short talk will discuss the importance of artillery in the Atlanta Campaign and some of the major advancements made in the field.

## December 17th, @11 am- Cheatham Hill Walk

On the morning of June 27th, 1864, the hills of Georgia exploded with the sounds of a terrific battle. Join us on this easy, Ranger- led stroll around one of the most significant areas of the Atlanta Campaign.

\*This program is not at the Visitor Center; parking is at the Illinois Monument parking lot

## December 23rd, @11 am- Mountaintop Hike

This ranger - led hike will take you roughly 1 mile up to the peak of Big Kennesaw Mountain. Along the way, you'll learn about the flora and fauna of the area and the history that shapes us from pre - history, through Civil War and on to today. The hike is semi - strenuous so bring water and good shoes!

## December 24th, @11 am- A Civil War Christmas

The holidays are usually a time when we join with our loved ones, reflect on the joys of the prior year, and look forward to the promise of the next one. Join our park rangers as they discuss how a Civil War soldier would have experienced the holidays.

## December 30th @ 11 am Western & Atlantic Railroad Talk

This history talk will discuss the major railroad central to the Atlanta Campaign. Being utilized by both sides, the Western & Atlantic Railroad was a major lifeline and transportation artery. This talk will be held in the park's Education Center located in the Visitor Center.

#### December 31st, @11 am- Picket Line Walk

The Battle of Kennesaw Mountain was a large scale offensive with many moving parts. One of the first actions of that day was a diversionary attack at the base of Kennesaw Mountain itself and part of the way up the slope. Join one of our rangers for a short walk along this line of battle as they detail the techniques, tactics, and aftermath of this fateful assault. This walk includes rolling, rocky terrain and is approximately 1.3 mile long.

\*\*\* For more program details, please contact Visitor Center at 770-427-4686, ext. 0\_







# The Friends of Kennesaw Mountain Are Looking For A Few Good Folks!

Like the Trail Club, the Friends have many opportunities for volunteers to provide services to the Park. Here are a few select ones:

**Butterfly Garden & Plant Nursery Coordinator -** This individual would work with the NPS staff at the park to coordinate volunteer projects around the Park

**160th Anniversary (2024) Coordinator -** This individual would head up a volunteer group to coordinate various activities with the NPS staff to conduct the 160th Anniversary of the Battle for Kennesaw Mountain.

Activities might be:

- Fundraising
- Parking
- · Food logistics for feeding the various volunteers
- · General logistics
- Publicity
- · Hospitality Services

**Endowment Fund Chair** - Coordinate/lead the activities necessary to establish an Endowment Fund for the Friends:

- Policies
- Publicity
- ·Establish a core group to manage it

#### **Legal Secretary**

For more information on these positions, contact Donald Olds - <a href="mailto:president@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org">president@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org</a>

## The Dipjar - New Donation Option!

The Friends are offering visitors at the Visitor Center another

option to donate - the Dipjar. Visitors will be able to use their credit card to donate \$25 to the Friends while at the Visitor Center. In addition, the Friends will have a portable version at various events sponsored by either the Friends or KMTC. The portable version will offer the opportunity to donate \$10 at these events.



Scott Mackay
President, Friends of KMNBP

## Friends/KMTC Organization Chart

The organization chart for the newly merged group is still a work in progress and will be finalized by the February Newsletter. For the time being, contact Donald Olds if you have any questions or are interested joining the Friends as a committee member.

Website - Friends

Website - NPS

Facebook Page - Friends

Facebook Page - NPS

Twitter

Instagram

\* updated

https://friendsofkmnbp.org/

www.nps/kemo.gov

https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofKMNBP

https://www.facebook.com/KMNBP

https://twitter.com/FKmnbp

https://www.instagram.com/FriendsofKMNBP/





The Friends of Kennesasw Mountain's mission is to raise funds to support programs and projects at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Your Membership helps to fund this mission.

Please join us.

## Our website is **FriendsOfKMNBP.org.**

Visit to find out more info, to donate, or to sign up for one of our Board positions or to register as a member of the Friends organization.

## **Our Mission:**

The mission of the Friends of Kennesaw Mountain is to work in partnership with the National Park Service and the local community to provide volunteers and raise funding to support activities such as:

- · Visitor & Away Events
- Transportation, Housing, and Feeding of volunteer groups (example: Living History, Student Conservation Association, Invasive Plants Team)
- Museum Upgrades and Indoor and Outdoor Exhibit Additions (& the Wallis House)
- Restrooms, Parking, and Picnic Area Facilities
- · Trails, Fire Roads, and Bridges Maintenance
- Educational Day Trips and Vacation Camps
- · Volunteer-In-Park Training Programs

The ultimate goal is to create endowments for the most significant expense items and move them toward a sustainable and perpetual self-funded status that reduces the need for these items to rely on federal budget support.



Become a supporting member of the Friends of Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park (KMNBP)

The Friends of KMNBP's mission is to raise funds to support programs and projects at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

#### These include:

Hiking/Equestrian Trail improvements and Maintenance Museum improvements and expansion

Living History Demonstrations

Additional parking and restrooms

Guest speakers

More

Our long term goal is to establish endowments to provide perpetual sources of funding for the programs that make the park special for all of us and generations to come.



Your annual membership will help us achieve our goals. We are a 501(c)(3) tax deductible organization. 100% of all funds received are put to use for and at the Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

Annual membership levels:

#### **Individuals**

- \$15 Corporal (Student)
- \$25 Sergeant
- \$100 First Sergeant
- \$300 Ordinance Sergeant
- \$500 Quarter Master
- \$1,000 Sergeant Major
- \$1,500+ General

#### **Businesses**

- \$150 Company
- \$300 Regiment
- \$500 Brigade
- \$1,000 Division
- \$15,000 Corps
- \$25,000+ Army



## Six Ways To Donate

You can support the Friends in 5 ways:

- Directly through our website <a href="https://friendsofkmnbp.">https://friendsofkmnbp.</a> org/giving-membership/donate/
- 2. Through PayPal <a href="https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/3750205">https://www.paypal.com/US/fundraiser/charity/3750205</a>
- Through Guidestar (Network for Good) <a href="https://www.nfggive.com/donation/83-4627827">https://www.nfggive.com/donation/83-4627827</a>
- 4. QR Code:



#### DipJar located in the Visitor Center - New!

**6.** Or, by mailing to:

Friends of KMNBP 905 Kennesaw Mountain Drive Kennesaw, GA 30152

Thanks for your support!

Please Use the pledge card on the following page when mailing in a donation.

Please check with your company to see if they will match your gift.



FY 2024 Fundraising Goals
Fundraising goals for FY 2024 are in the process of being developed. They will be publicized herein, in the February, 2024 Newsletter.

Friends of Kennesaw Mountain 2024 Pledge	One Payment Quarterly Payment	
Name Address City, State, Zip Phone Email  Complete and mail to: Friends of Kennesaw Mountain Attn: 2023 Pledge 905 Kennesaw Mountain Drive Kennesaw, GA 30152  Pledge: General Fund - F Trail Club - Living History - Endowment Fund Check one or des amount for each	\$150 Company \$300 Regiment \$500 Brigade	Monthly Payment  Does your company match? Y_N_  Invoice me (Monthly Quarterly)  Check enclosed (Payable to "Friends of KMNBP")  Credit Card Number:  Expiration date Security Code  I wish to remain anonymous



## November 11-23 Work Day

The workday was cancelled because of the weather conditions.

## December 9, 2023 Work Day

Our next workday is Saturday, December 9, 2023, we will be working on the New Salem Reroute installing at least 3 berms on the south side and one on the north side, closing the social trails on the south side, and resolving any other issues we see now that the trail is about six months old.

The next crew leader training class will be January 20,2024.

## Mike Collett

**Trails Director** 

#### "Other" Volunteers Needed!

Interested in being more active with the Trail Club (or the Friends), but don't want to do Crew Leader or Trail Ambassador work? See page **9** for a list of activities/functions needed to maintain the organizations and contact the various department heads to volunteer!

# Crew Leader & Trail Ambassador Positions Available!

Contact Mike Collett (regarding Crew Leader positions) or Kathy Van Valkenburg/Wendy Turner (Trail Ambassador positions) if interested.

A training class for Crew Leaders is scheduled for January 20, 2024, starting at 9 am. Additional details will be included in the January, 2024 Newsletter.

A training class for prospective Trail Ambassadors will be announced shortly. Contact Mike Collett, below, if you are interested or need more details.

Mike Collett - trails@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

Kathy Van Valkenburg/Wendy Turner -

ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

## A Special Thanks!

Each year we have various groups who come out and help us. Henceforth, we will make every attempt to list your group here for the current/past fiscal year. If you are participating as a group, be sure to let us know when you are registering!

Following is a list, in alphabetical order, of the groups who participated during Fiscal 2023 (October 2022- September 2023 and Fiscal 2024 (October 2023- Present):

#### **FY 2023**

ALLATOONA HS NJROTC
ATLANTA OUTDOOR CLUB (AOC)
GA TECH ROTC
HARRISON HIGH SCHOOL
HILLGROVE HS NJROTC
KING'S ACADEMY HS AFJROTC
KSU
VSII ALDUR DU OUEGA

KSU, Alpha Phi Omega KSU Volunteer Day Students Marietta HS Sportsmans Club



#### FY 2024

ALLATOONA HS NJROTC ATLANTA OUTDOOR CLUB HILLGROVE HS NJROTC KSU

#### This Past Month's Volunteers

THE NOVEMBER WORK DAY WAS CANCELLED BECAUSE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER.

## **2023/2024 Fund Raising**

All future KMTC fundraising will now be handled through the Friends - see pages 11 & 12 for options for donating.

Thanks to all who have contributed in the past to make the Trail Club a success. Please contribute to the Friends to continue our mission. You can designate the funds from your donation be directed toward specific areas of the Friends - see the pledge card - page 12.



## **Register for** Our Work

Days!

Be sure to register online for our Work Days at tinyurl.



Kennesaw Mountain Trail Club

com/27ef2vph. By registering, we can be better prepared with the amount of tools, bottled water, gloves, etc. on hand.

#### **Mark Your Calendars!**

Upcoming Work Day Schedule:

We are back in the business of trail maintenance! See the sign-up links, above. We are still limiting our numbers, but anyone one is now welcome to sign-up.

The Trail Club will provide supervision and tools. Volunteers should wear work clothes and closed toed shoes. Participants are encouraged to bring their own water, work gloves and masks. The NPS Volunteer Service Agreement and COVID forms are required, signed by a parent or guardian, if the student is under 18 years old. The forms are available on the trail club web site: <a href="http://www.">http://www.</a> kennesawmountaintrailclub.org/volunteer.php

For December's work day, parking and registration will be in the field near the Pigeon Hill Parking Lot, at the intersection of Old Mountain Rd. and Burnt Hickory. Registration will open at 8:30 am. Vehicle Entrance Passes will issued at registration.

If your school, church, business, or community organization

would like to schedule a special work day as a team building or public service activity, e-mail us at trails@ kennesawmountaintrailclub.org at least 4 weeks in advance. Trail work can be performed any day of the week.

We work closely with the Park Service and assist the park staff by providing critically needed volunteer effort to install signs, build bridges, and maintain the 20+ miles of trails. Since our beginning in 2002, the Trail Club has donated over 281,000 volunteer hours to Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield Park.

We hope to see you at a work day as soon as we return to our normal work days.

#### Cancellation policy

If rain is forecast for the work day, we will issue a cancellation notice on our website at least 24 hours before hand. In addition, during the winter months, if the temperature is forecast to be below 40 degrees, we will also issue a cancellation at least 24 hours prior to the work day.

## KMTC Contact List - Updated 12/6/23

## **Position**

Community Volunteer Director

Newsletter Editor

Information/Technology Director Trail Ambassador Co-Director Trail Ambassador Co-Director

**Plants Director** 

KMTC Website

**NPS** Website Facebook Page

Volunteer Sign-up website\*

\* updated

NAME

Rena Bailev Fred Feltmann Jerry Givan

Kathy Van Valkenburg Wendy Turner

Danny Leigh

E-MAIL

volunteerdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org comdirector@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org webmaster@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org ambassador@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org plants@kennesawmountaintrailclub.org

http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org/

https://www.nps.gov/KEMO

http://www.facebook.com/kmtcsocial

www.tinyurl.com/27ef2vph

## A Day In The Life Of A Trail Ambassador - Pt 1

11/8/23, photos by Kathy Van Valkenburg

This morning was a really beautiful day at the Visitor Center. We guided a group of 43 (a wide range of ages) home-schoolers on a field trip that encompassed Civil War history, environmental awareness, and for some of the young ones just an introduction to their National Parks. We hiked small groups out on the Environmental Trail and rotated with Ranger Jake's program on the Life of a Soldier. All the kids and the adults/parents enjoyed it and some stayed to then drive to the Mountain top.

Kathy Van Valkenburg



Just another autumn day at Kennesaw Mountain!









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<a href="http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org">http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org</a>





## A Day In The Life Of A Trail Ambassador - Pt 2

11/15/23 & 11/18/23, photos by Kathy Van Valkenburg

We had a fantastic day (11/15/23), above, with a group of 60 public school high school kids from an AP History class. Then on Saturday (11/18/23), below, there was an opportunity for Trail Ambassadors to help with a Ranger hike up the Mountain.

Kathy Van Valkenburg





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<a href="http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org">http://kennesawmountaintrailclub.org</a>

Sponsors/Partners Corner Many thanks to our Sponsors and Partners for their support!







http://americanhiking.org























## KENNESAW MOUNTAIN NATIONAL BATTLEFIELD PARK

