

Interpretive Programming at Fort Stark Historic Site, Summer 2026

By Logan Spatola, Student Conservation Association Interpretive Ranger

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Welcome to Fort Stark State Historic Site! Located on Jerry's Point in New Castle, NH, this post was first fortified in 1746. Fort Stark was one of seven forts built to protect the early colonists at Portsmouth Harbor. Over the years, Fort Stark has been rebuilt and rearmed many times. The name Fort Stark came after the Battle of Bennington in 1777, in honor of the commander of New Hampshire's forces, John Stark.

Fort Stark Historic Site is open to the public from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm every day. This year, Fort Stark has been included in the Discover the Power of the Parks (DPP) program. On Wednesdays and Thursdays from mid-June to Labor Day, Student Conservation Association Interpretive Ranger Logan will be at the park to offer interpretive talks about the area and open the Ordnance Machine Shop Museum to visitors. For exact times and dates, please visit [New Hampshire State Parks - Discover the Power of Parks Nature Programs & Schedules](#)



Photo: The Fort Stark sign at the entrance of the park. Photo credit: Logan Spatola

Fort Stark is situated to overlook the Piscataqua River, Little Harbor, and the Gulf of Maine. The beaches are rocky, and although some visitors do swim there, you must be careful of the outgoing tide, which can be quite strong. Other recreational activities include fishing, kayaking, and even scuba diving.



Photo: A view of the Whaleback Lighthouse from Fort Stark. Photo credit: Logan Spatola



Photo: The breakwater between Little Harbor and the Gulf of Maine. Photo credit: Logan Spatola

The museum is housed in the Ordnance Machine Shop, which was built in 1910. Inside, visitors can explore artifacts and photographs from Fort Stark's history, including one of the 3-inch guns that once protected the harbor. After World War II, the fort was deactivated and transferred to the U.S. Navy, which used it as a reserve training center until 1980. It was later transferred to the state of New Hampshire and became a state historic site.



Photo: The Ordnance Machine Shop Museum. Photo credit: Logan Spatola



Photo: A 3-inch gun found at the Ordnance Machine Shop Museum. Photo credit: Logan Spatola

The SCA New Hampshire Conservation Corps (NHCC) AmeriCorps Program is a partnership between the Student Conservation Association, the New Hampshire Department of Natural & Cultural Resources, and AmeriCorps. Since 1994, SCA NH Conservation Corps has provided nearly one million hours of service to the lands and people of New Hampshire. Each year, 30 full-time volunteers contribute more than 50,000 service hours, providing environmental education programming to the state's residents and visitors and completing conservation service projects that improve and protect the state's cultural, recreational, and natural resources.

