

2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

New Ways to Explore and Experience Poplar Forest

September 7

Stargazing

7:30 p.m.

Dr. Neal Sumerlin, former Director of the Belk Astronomical Observatory at the Claytor Nature Study Center at Lynchburg College (now University of Lynchburg), leads the charge in discovering Jefferson's love of astronomy with a look at the stars in the night sky from the south lawn! Reservations are suggested due to limited space available.

September 15

Peaks of Otter Hike with Mr. Jefferson

2 p.m. | Additional dinner and lodging package available

Discover one of Virginia's most legendary landscapes, guided by one of the most legendary Virginians—Thomas Jefferson himself. Through the partnership of the Peaks of Otter Lodge, the National Park Service and Poplar Forest, a limited number of guests will tour the scenic mountain peak of Sharp Top, with Mr. Jefferson providing his unique perspective on the cultural and natural histories it holds. Reservations are required, through Peaks of Otter Lodge.

September 17

Naturalization Ceremony

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Join Poplar Forest and the Blue Ridge and Poplar Forest chapters of the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR) in welcoming 30 new American citizens in honor of Constitution Day.

September 21

African American Family History Day

10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Join the Poplar Forest African American Advisory Group for an interactive experience designed to help you navigate historical records in search of your African American roots. Admission is free, however reservations are required as space is limited.

September 26

Mr. Jefferson's Salon Series: A Conversation on Race and Democracy

6:30–8:30 p.m.

Jefferson wrote the immortal words of the Declaration of Independence that have inspired people throughout the world to work for democracy. He also enslaved black men, women and children throughout his life. Nearly 200 years after his death, how has the legacy of racial slavery shaped our democracy? A panel of notable scholars will help us think through this question. Held at the Historic Academy of Music Theatre in downtown Lynchburg. Tickets include a post-salon reception; advance tickets highly recommended.

September 28

Evening Trail Hike

4:30–6:30 p.m.

Join Poplar Forest archaeologists as they take Jefferson's lead and "sally out" in the fields and woodlands of Poplar Forest. Reservations are suggested, as space is limited.

October 11 and 12

Archaeology Behind-the-Scenes Tours

Tours at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Join Poplar Forest's archaeologists for a 90-minute walking tour focused on the latest archaeological dig sites and discoveries on the plantation. Included is a stop in the Poplar Forest archaeology lab, which is typically closed to visitors. Comfortable walking shoes are necessary! Reservations are suggested due to limited space available.

October 18

Home School Day

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Home-schooled kids and their families are welcome to Poplar Forest for hands-on-history activities including brickmaking and quill pen writing, as well as special educational tours offered throughout the morning.

November 16

11th Annual Thomas Jefferson Wine Festival

11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Eat, drink, shop and explore a piece of American history when the Thomas Jefferson Wine Festival returns to Poplar Forest. The festival, which celebrates Jefferson's legacy as the father of Virginia wine, features tastings from over a dozen of Virginia's finest wineries. Advance tickets recommended.

MEMBERS GET 10% OFF ALL EVENT ADMISSIONS!

Learn more at poplarforest.org/membership.

Visit poplarforest.org/events or call 434.525.1806 for more information about the events listed here.

December 5–6, 12–13 and 19–21

Holiday Candlelight Tours

Thursdays at 5:30 p.m.

Fridays & Saturdays at 5:30 p.m.

& 6:30 p.m.

Tour the president's cherished hideaway decorated for the holidays on these hour-long tours detailing how the Jefferson family and their enslaved workers spent the holidays. Hearth cooking demonstrations will take place in the kitchen. Reservations required.

December 7

Holiday Candlelight Tour and Wine Reception

5:30 p.m.

Join us for a candlelit tour of the octagonal villa decorated for the holidays. Then retire to Mr. Jefferson's candlelit dining room and parlor for a festive wine reception. Reservations required.

December 14

Holiday Candlelight Tour and Wine Dinner

5:30 p.m.

Join us for a candlelit tour of the octagonal villa decorated for the holidays. Then retire to Mr. Jefferson's candlelit dining room and parlor for a multicourse dinner with wine pairings. Reservations required.