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# Loyal Americans Regiment visits the Stony Point Battlefield

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STONY POINT — Uniformed soldiers marched in formation on the field as camp followers baked apple pies with a Dutch oven over a campfire yesterday.

In an event that continues today, visitors of the Stony Point Battlefield can experience the atmosphere of the 18th century through activities by the Loyal American Regiment, a New Jersey-based re-enactment group.

Its members are performing military drills and demonstrations, including musket firing and camp-life activities.

"If you just have a parkland, you don't get the sense of what it was like," said Tom Briggs, one of the re-enactment group members. "But if you talk to the people who've read up the books about the history and know about the uniforms and what the people went through, you can get better understanding of what it was like during the Revolutionary War era."

In May 1779, British forces captured the Stony Point peninsula and built a fort. In addition to 564 British soldiers, 69 Americans who were loyal to the king encamped at the field to operate the strategically important location on the Hudson River.

To recreate the atmosphere of about 230 years ago, Briggs and three other men wore replicas of Loyal American uniforms, while female members donned traditional dresses and bonnets.

In addition to scheduled lectures on Loyal Americans, visitors can ask questions of the re-enactment members, as well as historic site interpreters and volunteers.

The demonstrations drew many people.

"I used to come here as a kid," said Richard June. "But I haven't been here for years."

June said that his son, Jarrett, a fourth-grader at Stony Point Elementary School, became interested in the battlefield's history after a visit on a school field trip.

The two came to the battlefield yesterday to see the Loyal American Regiment's demonstration.

"This is very good," Richard June said. "Their uniforms look very authentic. It brings you back to that time."

## If you go

What: Loyal American re-enactment

Where: Stony Point Battlefield on Park Road, Stony Point

When: From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. today.

Musket drill at noon, military drill at 2 p.m.

Cannon demonstration at 3 p.m.

Fee: Parking is \$5.

Call 845-786-2521 for more information.