



Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour 2023 FAQs



Thank you for supporting the New Bern Historical Society's newest fundraising event, the Hallowed Ground Lantern Tour, March 23-25, 2023.

Event Basics

Q: How does this event work?

A: Check in at Battlefield Park at your specific arrival time. While you're waiting for your tour to start, you'll have time to visit the reenactors' living history display surrounding the pavilion.

Once your tour is called, you'll follow a guide with a lantern onto the wooded trail where you'll meet six characters from Civil War-era New Bern who will share their stories. When you finish the trail, you'll be directed to a large tent where you can sit and enjoy more tales and music from the Underground Railroad.

Q: Is this a military tour about the Battle of New Bern?

A: No. Although a couple of the characters took part in the battle, the tour tells a variety of inspiring stories about people and events during the 1862-1865 timeframe. All the characters represent real people who lived during that era and the scripts are largely based on their very own writings.

Q: Why is this not recommended for children under 7? Is it graphic or scary?

A: Not at all! But the combination of walking, standing, and historical stories that are not particularly humorous is difficult for young children with shorter attention spans, which can be distracting for the other guests.

Q: What are the walking conditions like?

A: The ungroomed wooded paths are gravel, wood chips, marl, and dirt. There are some tree roots, slight inclines/declines, and wooden steps. There are no seats along the path. Total walking distance is less than a mile. The paths are not suitable for mobility walkers, strollers or wheelchairs. If you have any concerns about your mobility, we recommend you visit the park and walk the trails before buying tickets.

Q: How should I dress for this event?

A: **Sturdy closed-toe walking shoes are a must!** Evening weather can cool very quickly so dress in layers and be prepared for rain or wind. We recommend you bring a flashlight.

Q: How long is the event?

A: With check-in, walking tour, and time in the story tent, it should be approximately 90 minutes. The walking portion alone is about an hour of combined walking and standing. Total walking distance is less than a mile.

Q: What is the rain policy?

A: This event will proceed in rainy conditions. It will **ONLY** be postponed in the event of very heavy rain or thunderstorm conditions. In the case of very heavy rain or thunderstorms, your ticket may be refundable.

Weather changes and refund policies will be posted to our website www.NewBernHistorical.org and Facebook page www.Facebook.com/NewBernHistoricalSociety and on our voicemail at 252-638-8558 by 3 pm each event day.

Q: Will there be food available?

A: No food or beverages are available for purchase. You may bring water on the tour. Alcoholic beverages are not permitted at this event.

Tickets

Q: How do I buy tickets?

A: There are **no paper tickets for this event** – it is all online. Go to our secure website at www.NewBernHistorical.org/tickets and click on the ticket link.

First, choose your night –Thursday, March 23, Friday, March 24 or Saturday, March 25. Then choose the arrival time you prefer.

You will be directed to check out and will receive an email receipt. No paper tickets are needed, but please do bring your receipt, either printed or on your smart phone, to check in.

Q: Can I buy tickets at the Historical Society or by calling your office?

A: Yes, of course, although no paper tickets are issued. To ensure you get the confirmation email and instructions, **if possible, please purchase online through our website**. It's super easy and secure. There is **no processing fee** and you do **not** need a PayPal account to check out.

Q: Why must I pick an arrival time? Why is the ticket not good for anytime that weekend?

A: Space on the trails is limited, the tour groups are very small, and parking is limited, therefore arrival times must be staggered.

Q: I don't know what my plans will be yet. Can I buy a ticket at the door?

A: It's best to buy in advance as we hope this will be a sellout! Each tour day at 3 pm we will update our voicemail (252-638-8558) to indicate whether that evening is sold out.

Q: Why is the latest arrival time 8:30pm?

A: In order to allow enough time to complete the entire event.

Q: I haven't received my ticket in the mail. Can I pick it up at the battlefield?

A: **No paper tickets will be mailed.** Be sure to print your receipt or have it pulled up on your smartphone when you check in.

Q: Are tickets refundable?

A: Tickets are not refundable, but you may transfer them to other people or change to a different time slot. Please call 252-638-8558 to coordinate any change.

Parking, Arrival & Check-In

Q: Where is Battlefield Park?

A: New Bern Battlefield Park is at [300 Battlefield Trail](#) in New Bern, just inside the Taberna subdivision. From New Bern, take Highway 70 toward Havelock. Go about 4 miles, then turn right onto Taberna Way, at the light by Dunkin Donuts. Go over the railroad tracks and take an immediate left onto Battlefield Trail.

From Havelock, take Highway 70 toward New Bern; go about 12 miles. After passing Eastern Carolina Nissan on the left, turn left onto Taberna Way, at the light by Dunkin Donuts. Go over the railroad tracks and take an immediate left onto Battlefield Trail.

Q: Where do I park?

A: As you enter Battlefield Trail, you'll be directed by parking attendants. Parking is along Battlefield Trail or on a grassy lot near the park. If it has recently rained, the grassy lot may be muddy. Parking is limited so car-pooling is encouraged. Any overflow parking will be directed to the Taberna Country Club where a courtesy shuttle will take you to and from the park.

Q: When, how, and where do I check in?

A: Please check in at the time of your reservation. You do not need to check in early. Time is built in before your actual tour for you to visit the reenactors' living history

display. Please be patient once you arrive, as we will be getting each small group out onto the trail as quickly as possible.

Check in is at the Visitors Center Pavilion at Battlefield Park. **Show your confirmation email or printed receipt at the check-in table.** If you are with a group, please wait for your entire group to gather so that you can enter together.

Q: What do I do after check-in?

A: You'll have a few minutes to check out the living history display by local reenactors while waiting for your tour to be called. Please be patient, as we will be getting each group out onto the trail as quickly as possible.

Health & Safety and Related Physical Conditions

Q: What are the walking conditions like?

A: The ungroomed wooded paths are gravel, wood chips, marl, and dirt. There are some tree roots, slight inclines/declines and a few steps. Total walking distance is less than a mile. There are no seats along the path. The paths are not suitable for mobility walkers, strollers or wheelchairs. If you have any concerns about your mobility, you should visit the park before buying tickets. **Sturdy closed-toe shoes are a must** and we recommend you bring a flashlight.

Q: Are there restrooms at the park?

A: Yes, there are restrooms at the park located in the pavilion.

Q: Are pets allowed?

A: **No pets** are allowed. If you require the assistance of a certified service animal, please call the office at 252-638-8558 prior to making a reservation.

For questions, please call the Historical Society office at 252-638-8558 or email us at adminoffice@NewBernHistorical.org.