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**Contact:** Dan Fink, Vice President for Marketing and Public Relations

250 E. Market St., York PA 17403

717-848-1587 | [dfink@yorkhistorycenter.org](mailto:dfink@yorkhistorycenter.org)

[yorkhistorycenter.org](http://yorkhistorycenter.org) | [@YorkCountyHistoryCenter](https://www.facebook.com/YorkCountyHistoryCenter) | [@yorkhistory](https://www.instagram.com/yorkhistory) | [@YorkHistoryCenter](https://www.twitter.com/YorkHistoryCenter)

## **YORK COUNTY HISTORY CENTER IS A 2023 BLUE STAR MUSEUM**

***History Center museums to offer free admission to military personnel and their families this summer***

YORK, PA. – MAY 16, 2023 – The York County History Center announced it will join museums nationwide in the Blue Star Museums initiative, a program that provides free admission to currently-serving U.S. military personnel and their families this summer. The 2023 program will begin on Armed Forces Day, Saturday, May 20, and end on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 4. Find the list of participating museums at [arts.gov/bluestarmuseums](http://arts.gov/bluestarmuseums).

Blue Star Museums is a partnership between the National Endowment for the Arts and Blue Star Families, in collaboration with the Department of Defense and participating museums across America.

“The men and women currently serving in our armed forces are following in the footsteps of generations of servicemen and servicewomen,” said Joan Mummert, president and CEO of the History Center. “The stories of their lives are an important part of what we house here at the History Center, from the documents and records in our Library & Archives to the many uniforms, flags and other military artifacts in our Collections. We’re honored to be able to offer our resources for free through the Blue Star program, and we’re grateful to NEA, Blue Star Families and the Department of Defense for making the program available.”

“We thank the 2023 Blue Star Museums who invite military personnel and their families to experience the many wonders they have to offer, whether it’s a glimpse into the past, an encounter with awe-inspiring art, or a moment of discovery,” said Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD, chair of the National Endowment for the Arts. “The York County History Center is helping to enrich the lives of military families and build meaningful connections between our nation’s military and their local community.”

Blue Star Museums include children’s museums, art, science, and history museums, zoos, gardens, lighthouses, and more, and hail from all 50 states, District of Columbia, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The [current list of participating museums](#) will continue to develop over the summer as organizations are welcome to [register to be a Blue Star Museum](#) throughout the summer.

The free admission program is available for those currently serving in the United States Military—Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force, members of the Reserves, National Guard, U.S. Public Health Commissioned Corps, NOAA Commissioned Corps, and up to five family members. Qualified members must show a [Geneva Convention common access card](#) (CAC), [DD Form](#)



[1173 ID card \(dependent ID\), DD Form 1173-1 ID card or the Next Generation Uniformed Services \(Real\) ID card](#) for entrance into a participating Blue Star Museum.

Follow #bluestarmuseums on Twitter @NEArts and @BlueStarFamily. Follow the York County History Center on Twitter at @yorkhistory and on Facebook at @YorkCountyHistoryCenter.

### **About the York County History Center**

The York County History Center inspires the exploration of the history, people, and culture of our county, state and nation. As a non-profit organization it utilizes collections, historic sites and museums to help tell the American story. The History Center's collection encompasses more than 90,000 artifacts highlighting nearly 300 years of York's impressive history. These artifacts document the development, culture, and contributions of the York County community.

### **About the National Endowment for the Arts**

Established by Congress in 1965, the National Endowment for the Arts is the independent federal agency whose funding and support gives Americans the opportunity to participate in the arts, exercise their imaginations, and develop their creative capacities. Through partnerships with state arts agencies, local leaders, other federal agencies, and the philanthropic sector, the Arts Endowment supports arts learning, affirms and celebrates America's rich and diverse cultural heritage, and extends its work to promote equal access to the arts in every community across America. To learn more, visit [arts.gov](http://arts.gov) or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

### **About Blue Star Families**

[BlueStar Families \(BSF\)](#) is the nation's largest chapter-based military and veteran family support organization. Its research-driven approach fosters strong communities with a focus on human centered design and innovative solutions. Since its founding in 2009, BSF has delivered millions of dollars in benefits and impacted more than 1.5 million people each year. For more information, [click here](#) and follow along with Blue Star Families on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

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