



WHAT'S NEW

A JUNETEENTH TO REMEMBER

Last month, the Park came alive as we welcomed thousands of visitors for our annual Juneteenth celebration, a weeklong series of events filled with food, music, storytelling, and pride in our Gullah Geechee heritage. Guests from across the region joined us to honor freedom and culture through choir performances, family-friendly fun, engaging historical presentations — and an unforgettable headline concert by R&B powerhouse Leela James. Her performance brought the crowd to its feet and was the perfect grand finale to our Juneteenth celebration.

We also celebrated our largest-ever Juneteenth 5K, with more registered participants than ever before. Thank you to all who came out to run, walk, dance, and celebrate with us!



Ms. Joyce Wright with one of our 5k participants

SCENES FROM JUNETEENTH



Special Thanks to Everyone who joined us for our 11th Annual Juneteenth celebration. From Naycha & B'uhds with the Hilton Head Audubon to our Annual 5k, we are grateful for every single visitor who shared this experience with us.

If you spent time with us during Juneteenth, we'd love to hear from you. Tell us your favorite part of your experience here in the park. info@exploremitchelville.org

A CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER



Photo Courtesy of The Washington Post

CHILDREN'S DAY

Children's Day at Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park was a powerful and engaging experience where young minds had the opportunity to explore the rich legacy of the Gullah Geechee culture.

Through cultural storytelling, hands-on archaeology activities, creative crafts, and interactive lessons, participants were able to connect with history in meaningful ways. Details of the camp were also shared on The Washington Post.

THE CAMPOUT EXPERIENCE

Rooted in the Gullah Geechee tradition of "seeking"—a sacred practice of reflection, connection, and spiritual awakening—this overnight gathering encouraged participants to pause, listen, and honor the journey of those who came before. With stories shared around the fire and quiet moments of introspection, the campout became more than just an event—it became a pathway to understanding the resilience, faith, and enduring spirit of Mitchelville. Families and students traveled from as far as Norfolk VA to participate in this unique opportunity.



A CELEBRATION TO REMEMBER



DRUM CIRCLE

The drum circle at Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park was a soul-stirring celebration of rhythm, memory, and heritage. Surrounded by the spirit of our ancestors, students and visitors gathered to learn, move, and honor the cultural heartbeat of the Gullah Geechee people.

With every beat, the circle echoed centuries of resilience—reminding us that drums don't just make music, they carry stories.

MORE VENDORS

This year's Juneteenth celebration welcomed a record number of vendors to Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park, creating a vibrant marketplace that reflected the richness of Gullah Geechee culture.

For the first time, our food court vendors were hosted in a dedicated space nestled among the ghosted structures—adding a deeper meaning to the experience as guests dined in the heart of what was once home for many of our ancestors. The expanded food court added new energy to the celebration and offered visitors a more immersive connection to culture, community, and history.





PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WASHINGTON POST

WE'VE BEEN FEATURED!

The story of Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park is one of resilience and strength. It's always great to share our history with people across the country. Huge thanks to our friends at The Washington Post for their feature story on Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park and our mission to preserve our unique culture.

From 1862 until the 1880s, Mitchelville residents had their own laws, a school, a general store and a police force. In its heyday, Mitchelville enjoyed national fame as an exemplar of freedom, democracy, citizenship and opportunity.



Photos Courtesy of The Washington Post



EXCITING NEWS **HARRIET IS STILL HERE!**



Unveiled during our February Freedom Day celebration, the Journey to Freedom statue honoring Harriet Tubman was only expected to stay at Historic Mitchelville Freedom Park for a few months. But the emotional connection to this sacred place—where Tubman once walked and where freedom was first realized for many—has made her presence here too powerful to part with just yet. We're proud to share that Hilton Head Island will now be the longest-standing location for this nationally touring sculpture.

This extended visit is a meaningful moment for our community and all who visit. Harriet Tubman's story lives on in the spirit of Mitchelville, and her presence offers a rare opportunity to reflect, learn, and be inspired. Come see her in person—book your tour today by emailing info@exploremitchelville.org.