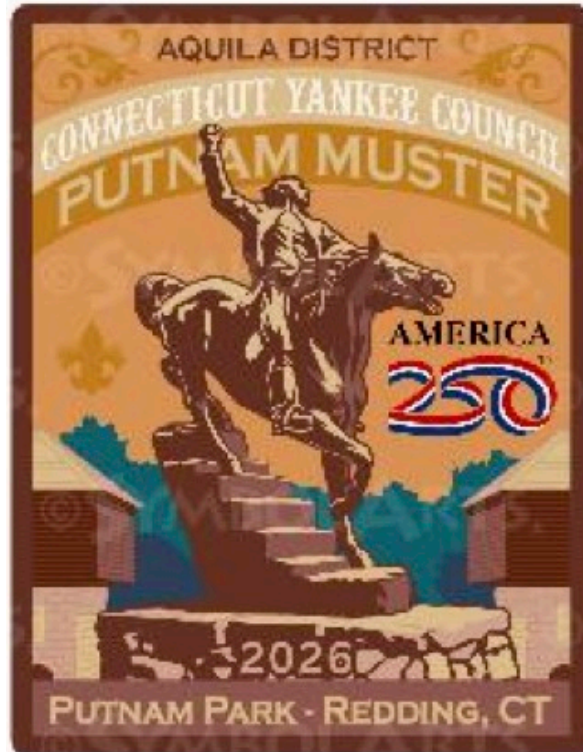


**Aquila District of the Connecticut Yankee Council
Presents
The Putnam Muster 2026
Celebrating 250 Years of American Independence**



Putnam Park

Redding, CT

May 15-17, 2026

History of the Encampment of Winter 1778-1779

<https://www.putnampark.org/park-history/>

General Israel Putnam's division of the Continental Army encamped in Redding in the winter of 1778-1779. This division was comprised of General Poor's brigade of New Hampshire troops under Brig. General Enoch Poor, a Canadian Regiment led by Col. Moses Hazen, and two brigades of Connecticut troops: 2nd Brigade Connecticut Line regiments commanded by Brig. General Jedediah Huntington, and the 1st Brigade Connecticut Line regiments commanded by Brig. General Samuel H. Parsons.

This division had been operating along the Hudson (Eastern New York) during the fall, and as winter approached it was decided that it should go into winter quarters at Redding, as from this position it could support the important fortress of West Point in case of attack, intimidate the Cowboys and Skinners of Westchester County, and cover lands adjacent to Long Island Sound. Another major reason was to protect the Danbury supply depot, which had been burned by the British the year before but resurrected to keep supplies going to Washington's army.

Colonel Aaron Burr, one of General Putnam's aides and a frequent visitor to Redding, had suggested that Putnam look over the area for a future winter encampment during a summer visit to General Heath's Brigade in Danbury. Putnam found the topography and location ideal. Three camp locations were marked and later prepped by artificers and surveyors under the direction of the Quartermaster staff: the first in the northeast part of Lonetown, near the Bethel line, on land owned by John Read, 2nd (now Putnam Park). The second was about a mile and a half west of the first camp, between Limekiln Rd. and Gallows Hill in the vicinity of present day Whortleberry Rd. & Costa Lane. The third camp was in West Redding, on a ridge about a quarter of a mile north of West Redding Station (vicinity of present day Deer Spring Drive & Old Lantern Road).

The main camp, which is now known as Putnam Memorial State Park, was laid out with admirable judgement, at the foot of rocky bluffs which fenced in the western valley of the Little River. 116 huts were erected to form an avenue nearly a quarter mile in length, and several yards in width. At the west end of the camp was a mountain brook, which furnished a plentiful supply of water; near the brook a forge was said to have been erected. The second and third camps were both laid out on the southerly slopes of hills with streams of running water at their base.

Each of the camps were strategically positioned to defend main highways in and out of town: Danbury to Fairfield; Danbury to Norwalk; Redding to Danbury and points north (stage coach route).

As to the exact location of Putnam's headquarters, authorities differ, but all agree in placing it on Umpawaug Hill. Some of Putnam's officers were quartered in West Redding. General Parsons' headquarters were at Stephen Betts Tavern on Redding Ridge.

The Putnam Muster is being held at Putnam Park in Redding, CT on May 15-17, 2026. It is a celebration of America and the signing of the Declaration of Independence 250 years ago. In 1976, the original Putnam Muster was held at the same location and this is part of our Scouting history. Cost is \$20 for adults and youth in Troops, Crews, and ships. Cub Scouts and their adult partners or families will be charged a fee of \$20.

Registration is now open!

<https://www.ctyankee.org/events/aquila-spring-camporee-26/>

Camping will be in the youth camping areas only and since there are no defined campsites at Putnam Park each unit will be given an area to camp and a map will be communicated to unit leadership prior to the event.

For Troops, Crews and Ships

- The Muster will be limited to the first 250 youth from Scouts, BSA Troops, Venturing Crews and Sea Scout Ships. Adults do not count towards this limit.
- Everyone will get a Putnam Muster patch and an event patch.
- Merchandise will be available for purchase prior to the event and can be picked up there. The link will be shared in April.
- Troops, Crews, and Ships will rotate around 9 stations in locations of historical significance around the park.
- No ground fires are allowed in the park except in designated fire rings in the park.
- Cooking only with stoves and following the Guide to Safe Scouting

<https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/>

For Cub Scouts

- In order to allow for as many Cub Scouts as possible to participate, there will be a morning and an afternoon session and each one will be limited to 100 youth.
- Cub Scouts will follow the main schedule.
- Everyone will get a Putnam Muster patch and an event patch.
- Merchandise will be available for purchase prior to the event and can be picked up there. The link will be shared in April.

You can access a map of the park here:

<https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/DEEP/stateparks/maps/putnpdf.pdf>

Special Considerations for Putnam Park

- No ground fires except in designated fire pits within the park.
- Parking is only allowed in designated areas.
- Cooking only with stoves and following the Guide to Safe Scouting <https://www.scouting.org/health-and-safety/gss/>
- All trash must be hauled from the park by each unit or individuals.

Program Notes

- Troops are expected to perform a skit or song that is related to America 250 at the campfire.
- Troops/Patrols will have to follow the schedule for the entire event to run smoothly.

Stations

All stations will be in the park and all units and Cub Scout families will have a map of all activities.

Meals

All meals are up to the unit and are to be prepared in your campsite.

Weather

Spring camping can present some challenges and everyone attending should be prepared for cool temperatures and rain. Each unit is responsible for preparing the youth and adults for the conditions of the Putnam Muster.

Camping

There are no defined campsites at Putnam Park so each unit will be given an area to camp and a map will be communicated to unit leadership prior to the event. Cooperation among units is a must. Trailers will be allowed in the camping area but must be dropped and towing vehicles will need to be parked in designated areas.

Registration/ Check in

On Friday night, beginning at 5:30 you can check in at the Muster Headquarters which will be in the lower youth camping area on the map. Text or call Dan Marazita at 203 873-9948 if you have any questions.

Any preordered merchandise will be picked up at Muster HQ along with unit packets with patches, schedules and maps.

Friday Night Schedule

5:30- 9:00	Registration at Event Headquarters/ Campsite set up
9:00- 9:30	SPL Meeting at Event Headquarters
10:00	Quiet Time in campsite
10:30	Lights Out

Saturday Schedule

7:00 AM	Reveille
8:00- 8:30	Set up/Breakfast
8:30- 9:00	Opening on the top of the hill by the flagpole
9:15- 12:15	Program Time
12:15- 1:30	Lunch
1:30- 3:45	Program Time
3:45- 4:00	Troop Time
4:00 - 5:00	Flag Muster on the top of the hill by the flagpole
5:00- 5:30	Scouts Own
5:30- 7:30	Dinner and Troop Time
7:30- 8:30	Campfire Program
8:30- 10:00	Troops in campsites
10:00	Lights Out

Sunday Schedule

7:00 AM	Reveille
7:00- 8:00	Breakfast
8:00- 10:00	Troops Depart

Troops will have their campsite assignment, copy of schedule and rotation with event areas identified prior to arrival and packets with patches and other information at the registration/ check in on Friday night or Saturday morning. Based on the numbers, your troop will be assigned into patrols so to even out the number of youth attending each station. There is no checkout on Sunday morning as troops are expected to leave their campsite cleaner than when they arrived. Event ribbons will be handed out at the Muster on Saturday Afternoon. Each unit is asked to bring their unit flag and American flag to the opening in the morning and the Muster in the afternoon.

Draft Saturday Troop Schedule and subject to change

	Event	Group 1	Group 2	Group 3	Group 4	Group 5	Group 6	Group 7	Group 8	Group 9
7:00	Reveille	Reveille	Reveille	Reveille	Reveille	Reveille	Reveille	Reveille	Reveille	Reveille
7:00-8:30	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast	Breakfast
8:30-9:00	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening	Opening
9:15-9:45	Period 1	Activity 1	Activity 9	Activity 8	Activity 7		Activity 5	Activity 4	Activity 3	Activity 2
9:50-10:20	Period 2	Activity 2	Activity 1	Activity 9	Activity 8	Activity 7	Activity 6	Activity 5	Activity 4	Activity 3
10:25-11:05	Period 3	Activity 3	Activity 2	Activity 1	Activity 9	Activity 8	Activity 7	Activity 6	Activity 5	Activity 4
11:10-11:40	Period 4	Activity 4	Activity 3	Activity 2	Activity 1	Activity 9	Activity 8	Activity 7	Activity 6	Activity 5
11:45-12:15	Period 5	Activity 5	Activity 4	Activity 3	Activity 2	Activity 1	Activity 9	Activity 8	Activity 7	Activity 6
12:15-1:30	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch
1:30-2:00	Period 6	Activity 6	Activity 5	Activity 4	Activity 3	Activity 2	Activity 1	Activity 9	Activity 8	Activity 7
2:05-2:35	Period 7	Activity 7	Activity 6	Activity 5	Activity 4	Activity 3	Activity 2	Activity 1	Activity 9	Activity 8
2:40-3:10	Period 8	Activity 8	Activity 7	Activity 6	Activity 5	Activity 4	Activity 3	Activity 2	Activity 1	Activity 9
3:15-3:45	Period 9	Activity 9	Activity 8	Activity 7	Activity 6	Activity 5	Activity 4	Activity 3	Activity 2	Activity 1
3:45-4:00	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time
4:00- 5:00	Flag Muster	Flag Muster	Flag Muster	Flag Muster	Flag Muster	Flag Muster	Flag Muster	Flag Muster	Flag Muster	Flag Muster
5:00-5:30	Scout's Own	Scout's Own	Scout's Own	Scout's Own	Scout's Own	Scout's Own	Scout's Own	Scout's Own	Scout's Own	Scout's Own
5:30-7:30	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time
7:30-8:30	Campfire	Campfire	Campfire	Campfire	Campfire	Campfire	Campfire	Campfire	Campfire	Campfire
8:30-10:00	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time	Troop Time
10:00	Taps	Taps	Taps	Taps	Taps	Taps	Taps	Taps	Taps	Taps

Events Information

- Each station will be based on the Revolutionary War and related to the America 250 theme.
- There will be a mix of stations that the youth will learn and others that will be active and require their participation.
- Each station may have as many as 40 youth traveling so each troop or patrol must exhibit the 12 Points of the Scout Law during the day.
- All Cub Scouts must be accompanied by an adult partner.
- Cub Scout families will be in the groups with Scouts, BSA/Crews/Ships and their adult partner is responsible for them.
- A Scouts Own Service will occur right after the Flag Muster.
- Google Calendar will be the main way to communicate onsite with event staff

<https://calendar.app.google/qDprhHooAbaEVa7Q6>