

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Spends Day in the Park with Students, Celebrates New Jersey's History at Washington Crossing State Park

Gov. Christie Whitman today hosted a picnic for fourth grade students from throughout New Jersey at Washington Crossing State Park in Titusville, where the Governor and students toured historic attractions.

Situated on 991 acres, Washington Crossing State Park marks the point at which Gen. George Washington crossed the Delaware River into New Jersey from Pennsylvania on his way to the historic battle of Trenton, considered to be the turning point in the Revolutionary War. In addition to its historical significance, the park is known for its trails and wildlife habitat.

"A day in Washington Crossing State Park is a wonderful opportunity to learn about New Jersey's rich history, but it is also a lesson on our responsibility to be part of history, as well," the Governor said. "We have a duty to pass on to future generations a New Jersey that is as beautiful as it is today. By learning about nature and wildlife, we develop an understanding of the importance that open spaces and a clean environment have on our lives."

Among the activities which were brought to the park for the students were:

- Geological Survey with rock samples, fossils, sandstone and simple geological equipment
- Forest Resource Education Center which provided seed packets and allowed students to make their own leaf rubbings
- Bureau of Forest Fire Management display of fire fighting vehicles and equipment and "Smokey the Bear" handouts
- Mercer County Center for Wildlife provided birds and mammals that are being rehabilitated for release
- The Howell Living History Farm sponsored barnyard bingo games.

Since January, Gov. Whitman has spent at least one day per month teaching state government and history to fourth graders to demonstrate her commitment to volunteerism. The fourth grade students from every school which invited her to teach were invited to the picnic. About 700 students participated.