

*Walk with the
Generals*

**LEADERSHIP
BATTLEFIELD
RIDE PROGRAM**



armyheritage.org



ARMY HERITAGE CENTER FOUNDATION

The Army Heritage Center Foundation shares the stories of U.S. Army soldiers from all eras, fostering understanding and building meaningful connections between the military and civilian communities. We accomplish this through public outreach activities like community-building, resource-sharing, education, and philanthropic investments in the preservation of Army history.

info@armyheritage.org



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The Army Heritage Center Foundation (armyheritage.org) is a charitable organization separate from the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center. As a private, nonprofit, non-Federal entity, AHCF is not affiliated with the Department of Defense and has no governmental status.



LEADERSHIP BATTLEFIELD RIDE PROGRAMS



“No battle plan survives contact with the enemy.” Count Helmuth von Moltke

How resilient are you? How adaptable is your organization?

Join with us for a tailored program that uses experiential learning and immerses you in the past to explore strategic vision, leadership styles, innovation, and communication. The battlefield will become a laboratory of decision-making under the most extreme circumstances that will change you in ways only the past can help you imagine.



The Battle of Gettysburg July 1-Jul 3, 1863

Explore leadership styles and risk assessment with our network of Licensed Battlefield Guides in Gettysburg and our Certified Battlefield Guides in Antietam.

The Battle of Antietam September 17, 1862



SAMPLE ITINERARY

GETTYSBURG

8:30 am	Breakfast and Check-In
9:00 am	Onboarding: Leadership, Legacy, and Your Staff Ride Experience
10:00 am	Tour Logistics Briefing
10:30 am	Comfort Break
10:45 am	Tour Bus Loading & Departure for Gettysburg
12:00 noon	Lunch at Seminary Ridge Museum
12:30 pm	Guided Tour of Seminary Ridge Museum, Including Overview of the Battle on Day 1 from the Rooftop Cupola
1:30 pm	Gettysburg Battlefield Ride
5:00 pm	Gettysburg Museum and Visitors Center Cyclorama and Guided Museum Tour
6:00 pm	Closing Reception and Integrative Discussion
7:30 pm	Return to Carlisle

“Knew some about the battle, but the presentations and the analysis on site provided great depth.”

“Private access to Gettysburg museum and cyclorama was special!”

“The entire day was wonderful! Favorite was actually a toss-up between Seminary Ridge and Battlefield Ride. “

SAMPLE ITINERARY

ANTIETAM

6:00 pm	Opening Reception and Guest Lecture: Black Civilians and Noncombatants in Antietam at the Historic Mount Tabor Church
8:00 am	Check-in, Breakfast, and Bus Boarding
9:00 am	Departure from Carlisle with Orientation in Transit
10:00 am	Arrival at Antietam Institute
10:45 am	Antietam National Cemetery
11:30 am	Tolson's Church
12:30 pm	Lunch at Antietam Creek Winery
1:30 pm	Antietam Visitor's Center and Museum
3:00 pm	Battlefield Tour
6:30 pm	Dinner at Bavarian Inn with Integrative Discussion
8:00 pm	Bus Loading & Return to Carlisle

“Best staff ride I have participated in. Every phase was excellent. Trying to pick best/worst was difficult. I thought each segment was superb.”

“The energy and enthusiasm exhibited by foundation staff is infectious. It's obvious that you all enjoy what you are doing, are excited about preserving and sharing U.S. Army history”

OTHER PARTNER PROGRAMS

Carlisle: the City that Powered a Revolution

Enter the world of the colonial artificer and learn how technical innovation sustained the American Revolution.

**Working with our
network of partners,
we can enhance your
battlefield staff ride
with additional
experiences developed
by experts in their
fields.**

Leadership Lessons of The Battle of Yorktown

A living case study in leadership – either in Carlisle or on the road in Yorktown with our leadership partners.

Foundation-Guided Tour
of the U.S. Army Heritage
and Education Center

Crisis Management
and the Leadership
Lessons of World
War II

Genealogy, Family
Ancestry, and Personal
Papers Preservation with
Our Foundation Experts





THE BATTLEFIELD RIDE EXPERIENCE



“I can’t stop thinking about the amazing experience yesterday. I am so grateful to have been a part of it. I am from the Carlisle area but realized there was still much to learn about the USAHEC. I left the day feeling inspired and curious. I made new connections with interesting people. I was particularly struck by the correlation between the Gettysburg military leadership strategies and my own role as a leader in my company.”

“If someone asked me what the best part of the day was, I would be at a loss to answer. Every aspect of the day was thrilling.”

“A tremendous day of learning and inspiration!”

“Excellent day. Carefully thought out, timings were spot on, meals and support were flawless.”



AHCF BATTLEFIELD RIDE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT





OUR VISION

The Army Heritage Center Foundation envisions an America where every soldier's story is honored and where the bonds between those who serve and the society they protect are strong, enduring, and deeply understood.

Whether you served or you want to honor someone who served, your support helps us cultivate a civic and cultural environment that invests in the preservation of soldier stories—and learns from them.

This isn't just about history. It's about legacy. Leadership. Community.

Imagine: a future that encourages more thoughtful consideration of ideas like service, sacrifice, and the meaning and price of freedom. Expanded outreach to the growing number of Americans who are many degrees of separation from anyone currently serving in the military. Bridging generations through the stories of soldiers from earlier eras.

Together we can build that legacy.

OUR AHCF HISTORY

In 1999, Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera committed the U.S. Army to “the establishment of an Academic Research Facility and Army Museum at the U.S. Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania.”

In that same year, the Army Heritage Center Foundation incorporated under its legal name Military Heritage Foundation.

We preserve the memories of soldiers and their families, honor their service, and educate the public on the contributions of soldiers and the U.S. Army to our nation’s history. For more than 25 years, the U.S. Army Heritage and Education Center has been the primary--but not the only--beneficiary of our philanthropic contributions.



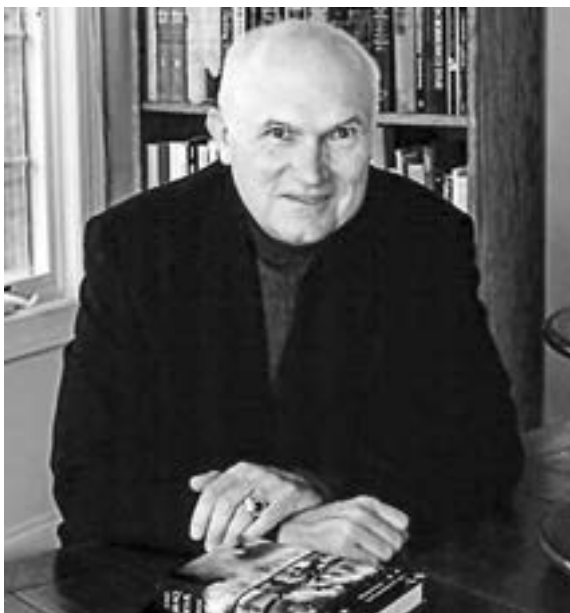
Our battlefield and leadership ride program began in 2017. The Commander of 2nd ROTC Brigade based in Fort Dix, NJ asked us to design a curriculum for an unfunded--but required--ROTC program: the Senior Cadet Staff Ride. In collaboration with Dr. Carol Reardon, George Winfree Professor Emerita of American History at The Pennsylvania State University, we developed an immersive learning experience in which ROTC cadets engage with the concepts of leadership and military operations by analyzing decision-making during battle. Cadets who participated in our staff rides explored how human beings act in times of crises and why adaptation to changing conditions is essential by applying the lessons of Gettysburg and Antietam to situations they will face as future Army officers.

Over the years, we adapted the Cadet Staff Ride model for executive management and leadership development training, drawing on our strong relationships with experienced military leaders, historians, and authors.

OUR BATTLEFIELD RIDE FRAMEWORK

We believe a staff ride is more than a battlefield tour. Historical battlefields are laboratories of leadership. Engaging with the lessons of the battlefield immerses us in an illustrative, complex experience that helps us understand how humans act in times of crisis, how adaptation to changing conditions is essential, and how leadership matters. In battle, leaders make rapid decisions with incomplete information and high stakes. Studying those decisions—why they were made, how they succeeded or failed—provides a framework to discuss the internal and external challenges we face as individuals or as organizational leaders.

Further, and more intimately tied to our mission of preserving soldier stories, each battle represents thousands of individual acts of courage, endurance, loss, and love of country. Conscious, deliberate memory becomes a form of stewardship—protecting their legacy for future generations. By applying their experiences to the contemporary day, we ensure the lessons of the men and women who served are not lost to time.



"The battlefield teaches
us timeless lessons
about the human
dimensions of conflict."
**Major General Robert
H. Scales, Jr.**

MISSION ALIGNMENT

Connecting past soldiers' experiences to participants' modern responsibilities and battlefield lessons to our organizational values.



HISTORICAL AND CONTEXTUAL INTEGRITY

Battlefield lessons are based on primary sources from multiple perspectives in a way that helps us understand why decisions were made in their time before drawing modern parallels.



LEADERSHIP RELEVANCE AND TRANSFERABILITY

We emphasize critical moments of leadership judgment, adaptability, or communication through a variety of leadership styles to show how those same principles apply in business, civic, or nonprofit settings.



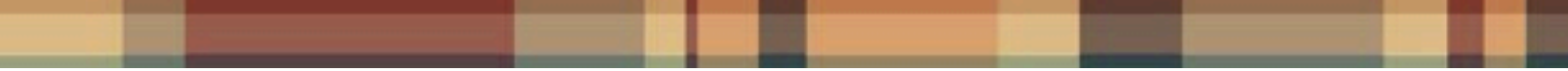
EXPERIENTIAL AND REFLECTIVE LEARNING

Our facilitators use the physical battlefield environment to spark empathy and perspective-taking. They encourage participants to visualize terrain, sound, and human experience to feel leadership pressure.



EMOTIONAL AND ETHICAL DEPTH

Battlefield scenarios will encourage reflection on duty, loyalty, and conscience to help us examine modern questions of responsibility and integrity.



OUR METHOD

This guide is designed for leaders, professionals, and citizens who want to explore how the lessons of the past illuminate the challenges of leadership today.

At Antietam commanders faced uncertainty, moral complexity, and the limits of communication. This experience invites us to ask: What would I have done? What do these choices teach us about leading today?

INDIVIDUAL GROWTH

- Effective communication
- Decision making under pressure
- Reduced hubris
- Resilience

ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE

- Vision-centric action
- Risk assessment
- Empowered initiative
- Silo reduction
- Adaptability

COMMUNITY LEGACY

- Civil-military bond
- Understanding the cost of war
- Honoring sacrifice
- Memory preservation

There is no single right way to lead.

Our approach

- Considers strategic versus tactical decision making
- Contrast broad vision with on-the-ground initiative
- Includes the perspectives of both formal and informal leaders, including NCOs, medics, chaplains, and civilians who led through influence rather than rank.

AHCF embraces and emphasizes active partnerships with parks, museums, historical societies, independent researchers, and leadership professionals for accurate content.

Site selection prioritizes safe, accessible battlefields with interpretive infrastructure.

We comply with all required permissions and treat public and private spaces with respect.



We designed this battlefield ride for diverse audiences and learning styles. Over the course of your time with us, you will experience:

- Progressive complexity that begins with clear, relatable stories before tackling abstract theory.
- The use of visual and spatial tools such as maps and diagrams to show maneuver and consequence.
- Psychological safety that ensures we will facilitate discussion respectfully because combat stories can evoke strong emotions.

“A good soldier, whether he leads a platoon or an army, is expected to look backward as well as forward, but he must think only forward.”

General Douglas McArthur (1933)



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