



Pennsylvania  
Historical & Museum  
Commission

**Ephrata Cloister**  
632 West Main Street  
Ephrata, Pennsylvania 17522  
(717) 733-6600

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Experience Life In Early America**

EPHRATA, PA. – Benjamin Franklin certainly got the saying “early to bed, early to rise” right for families in Colonial America. Fortunately, the Historic Ephrata Cloister, 632 West Main Street, Ephrata, will not make you get up early to experience life in a Colonial American religious community. On Saturday, August 18, Family Day returns to the Ephrata Cloister from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

“The Cloister was more than just celibate members,” explained Michael Showalter, Museum Educator. “A small group of devoted individuals grew into a thriving community of not only 80 celibate members, but a supporting married congregation that lived in farms surrounding the Cloister.”

Family Day is devoted to demonstrating what life was like for members of the married congregation. Children can learn the process of butter making or taste rye bread—the staple of many settlers’ diets. Discover what passed for fashion in the 1700s and try on samples of clothing worn by colonial people. When the “work” is done, make sure to have some fun with colonial games and grab lunch as a family.

Historical interpreters will be on hand to discuss some of the many trades found throughout Colonial America and practiced here in Ephrata such as carpentry and weaving.

Admission for Family Day is \$10 for adults, \$9 for seniors, \$7 for students (age 6-17), \$5 for children (age 3-5), and free for Ephrata Cloister Associates and Pennsylvania Heritage members.

For more information, visit [www.EphrataCloister.org](http://www.EphrataCloister.org) or contact the Visitor Center at (717) 733-6600.

The Historic Ephrata Cloister is one of 26 sites on the Trail of History, allowing visitors to explore Pennsylvania’s rich cultural and industrial heritage. The Cloister is operated by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission with support from the Ephrata Cloister Associates, an incorporated non-profit organization.

To help support the historic site, the Ephrata Cloister Associates operates the Museum Store at Ephrata Cloister – open seven days a week throughout the summer – which includes treasures for all ages. There is no admission fee to visit the Museum Store.

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