

These aren't your father's history lessons

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Mark your calendars for the eighth season at Golden's Clear Creek History Park. The historic park, situated along the banks of Clear Creek in downtown Golden, is offering a free day of frontier fun to launch the season from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 6.

The history park has new baby chicks and other child friendly games and activities. There will be interactive games such as hoop-and-stick, stilts and graces. In addition to the chicks and play, costumed characters will be on hand to demonstrate pioneer practices such as blacksmithing, butter churning and cooking on a wood stove.

Gardeners will be planting vegetables and herbs, and a one-room schoolhouse will be open for interested visitors. The park features six original 1800s buildings as well as the famous heirloom gardens and chickens.

Angela Sabott, spokeswoman and events and volunteer coordinator for the park, anticipates around 400 to 500 park visitors on opening day. While the retro schoolhouse and female chicks are some of the most popular attractions, the blacksmith workshop will likely be a big hit with younger park visitors.

"The antique tools are fascinating," Sabott said.

CLEAR CREEK HISTORY PARK

The park is open Saturdays in May. Starting in June, it is open 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sundays. Daylong workshops on frontier cooking and blacksmithing will be offered starting in May. Group tours are available. Regular admission is \$3 for adults, \$2 for children 6 to 16, and \$2.50 for seniors. Children under 6 are free. Call 303-278-3557 or visit www.clearcreekhistorypark.org for more information.



The community open event, sponsored by Wells Fargo, allows visitors to interact with history, to learn about the struggles of pioneer life and to witness Civil-War era lifestyles in action. The opening day events like gold panning are sure to be "lots of fun," Sabott said. The Gold Prospectors of the Rockies will send each visitor home with a free sample of gold.