

National Park Service Department of the Interior

Manhattan Project National Historical Park Oak Ridge, Tennessee



November 2023

Thanksgiving A Week Late. Prior to the 1930s, Thanksgiving was held on the last Thursday in November, a tradition started by Lincoln in 1863. In August 1939, President Franklin Roosevelt moved the holiday to the second to last Thursday in November, attempting to drive consumers to the stores with more time before the Christmas holidays. With the break in tradition, confusion ensued, 32 states and the District of Columbia held Thanksgiving on November 21, 1940 and the 16 other states carved their turkeys on the 28th. Congress remedied this situation in late 1941 establishing Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday in November. During the war, Tennessee was one of eight states that continued to hold Thanksgiving on the last Thursday in November, a week later than the rest of the country in 1944.

In Oak Ridge, the holiday was celebrated with events at the various recreation halls, all scheduled after work hours. From formal dances, a magician, an open house with community sing and treasure hunt to an amateur night with \$100 worth of prizes for the performers, the goal was to make Oak Ridge “as much like home as possible on Thanksgiving Day” according to Mrs. Sally Cater, in charge of Recreation Service at Ridge Hall. *From Oak Ridge Journal, November 30, 1944.*

Dig into the Manhattan Project and Join Us on the East Quarry Trail head on Saturday, November 25 at 1 pm ET. Looking to stretch your legs after your Thanksgiving feast? Join us for a history hike on the North Boundary Greenway. Along the pet friendly hike, rangers will discuss the settlements that pre-dated Oak Ridge and the changes that shaped the area during the Manhattan Project. We'll pass by multiple pre-Oak Ridge homesites and a limestone

quarry. The 2.5-mile hike is on a former gravel road with a mild elevation gain of 150 ft. Visitors are encouraged to wear appropriate footwear and bring drinking water, for both you and your pet. There are no facilities at the trailhead. While this is a pet friendly hike, no pet is required to attend.



With meat shortages across the nation, the Army feared that Oak Ridgers would pack up and leave unless this was addressed. The Army raised beef & poultry on the federal reservation to alleviate some of the demand.

“Recess: A Photographic Exhibition of Recreation in the Secret City” will open on **December 12** and run through **February 11, 2024** in the **Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge’s Imagination Gallery**. Morale and absenteeism were prime concerns for wartime operations in Oak Ridge. Living in a newly

built city still in the throes of rapid construction, rationing and shortages of consumer goods, working on the top-secret war project, little evidence of their contribution to the war, all played to sow doubt for the 80,000 war workers of the Clinton Engineer Works. As a result, the army enlisted the Recreation and Welfare Association to keep the workers, and their families, active, social, and happy.



**Park Visitor Center Desk
at the
Children’s Museum of Oak Ridge
461 W. Outer Drive,
Oak Ridge, TN 37830
(865) 482-1942
or visit us:**

www.nps.gov/mapr
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