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For Immediate Release

Highlighting the Past, Present and Future of the Savannah River Site: Explore Ellenton and Dunbarton on SRS Historic Tours

AIKEN, S.C., February 1, 2024 – Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS) is inviting approximately 900 members of the public to hop on board one of 15 remaining general driving tours and eight historic tours of the Savannah River Site (SRS).

Visitors can gain an understanding about the Department of Energy's (DOE) facilities, missions and workforce that changed the face of nearby counties and helped the United States during the Cold War. Guests also will learn about current and future DOE Environmental Management and National Nuclear Security Administration missions at SRS.



Tour participants view an informational display during a recent historic tour of Ellenton in 2023.

The historic tours of Dunbarton and Ellenton are a relatively recent addition to the tour lineup and have proven to be immensely popular. These tours are designed to educate and remind current SRS employees and the general public of the sacrifices the former residents of these towns had to endure during their displacement, which was necessary to make room for the building of SRS.

George Wingard, Program Coordinator for the Savannah River Archaeological Research Program and a historic tour guide said, "My hope is those who visit come with an open mind and leave with the knowledge of how important the history prior to the SRS is to so many that had to be displaced and that they still feel reverential about their former communities. "

All SRS historic tours also include a walking tour of the SRS Curation Facility. This facility preserves and protects historic artifacts from both the Cold War and pre-acquisition history.

From a Cold War perspective, it's important to share with the general public the national role the Savannah River Site played to help win the Cold War. The work done early on created a strong foundation for the continued national security missions the site continues today.

"Anyone can take something away from the tour," said Melissa Hanson, Curator, SRS Cold War Historic Preservation Program and a historic tour guide. "We often have employees who bring

their family to see where they work. We have people who have just moved here and want to get a better understanding. We try to make the tour interesting and easily accessible.”

Due to high demand, the number of historic tours has doubled this year; there will be eight available in 2024. Four tours will stop at the Dunbarton town site. Four will be at the Ellenton town site and include a driving tour of C Reactor. In addition, two full walking tours of the streets of Ellenton have been added this year. Those tours will feature the old townsite and several historic markers throughout the Ellenton area.

Go to www.srs.gov and click on the registration button to get more information or sign up for a tour. For further assistance, call (803) 952-8994.

Each public tour can accommodate up to 34 people. Each historic tour has a limit of 50. All are filled on a first come, first served basis. Anyone can sign up for the tour; however, participants must be 18 years of age or older and U.S. citizens. Participants must register individually for a tour.



George Wingard explains the history of former home sites in Ellenton to tour participants.

2024 SRS Public and Historic Tour Dates

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| January: Thursday, Jan. 18 |
| February: Thursdays, Feb. 1 and 15 |
| March: <i>Historic Tours</i> – Tuesday, 12 and 19 Thursday, 14 and 21 <i>Ellenton Walking Tours</i> - Thursday, 28 |
| April: Thursdays, April 4 and 18 |
| May: Thursdays, May 9 and 23 |
| June: Thursdays, June 6 and 20 |
| July: Thursdays, July 11 and 25 |
| August: No Tours |
| September: Thursdays, Sept. 12 and 26 |
| October: <i>Historic Tours</i> – Tuesday, 8 and 15 Thursdays, 10 and 17 <i>Ellenton Walking Tours</i> - Thursday, 31 |

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| November: Thursday, Nov. 7 |
| December: Thursday, Dec. 5 |

Savannah River Nuclear Solutions, a Fluor and HII partnership company, is responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, located near Aiken, South Carolina.

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