

[<< Back](#)



Georgia to celebrate birthday at History Festival

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SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) - Georgia is planning to celebrate its 279th birthday with a February festival dedicated to the state's long history.

The Georgia History Festival kicks off Feb. 2 in Savannah, where the state began as the 13th British colony in 1733. Many of the 2012 events focus on the life of Girl Scouts founder Juliette Gordon Low, who grew up in Savannah.

Leading up to Georgia's actual birthday on Feb. 12 will be Savannah's annual Georgia Day parade, which features school children in period costume marching through the city's downtown historic district.

The Georgia Historical Society and other organizations will host Super Museum Sunday on Feb. 5, when Savannah's museums and other historic sites open their doors to the public for free.

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