

Geneva replica Viking ship to open for guided tours April 16

The first of eight monthly visit days for a replica Viking ship will be held from 1 to 4 p.m. Saturday, April 16, at Good Templar Park, 528 East Side Drive in Geneva.

Other visit days are May 21, June 19, 25, 26, July 16, Aug. 20, Sept. 17 and Oct. 15

A viewing platform allows visitors to see inside the ship, called the Viking, built in 1893.

The vessel is about 78 feet long, 17 feet wide and 6.5 feet high from the bottom of the keel to the gunwale. Its black oak planks are fastened together with thousands of iron rivets. At sea, the Viking averaged 10 knots and the hull was designed to flex with the waves.

The boat is an exact copy of the Viking ship Gokstad, built about 850. The replica was sailed across the Atlantic Ocean from Bergen, Norway, to Chicago for the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition.

Thirty-minute guided tours begin every 30 minutes. The last guided tour is at 3:30 p.m. Self-guided viewing is also available.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for teens. Parking is free.

Guided group tours are available by appointment. A two-week advance reservation is required. Cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children age 6 and above. The minimum fee is \$25.

Call (630) 753-9412 or email viking1893@gmail.com.

Visit days are scheduled on the third Saturday of April, May, July, August, September and October.

Special visit days will be announced for viewing during Geneva's Swedish Days Festival in June.

For more information, call 630-753-9412 or email viking1893@Gmail.com.

