

Colonial Williamsburg

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A Celebration Befitting the Nation's 240th

The Colonial Faire, a public auction and the Williamsburg Lodge Family Fourth of July Celebration culminate in a free fireworks demonstration over the Revolutionary City



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (June 29, 2015) – Colonial Williamsburg invites the community and guests from far and wide to a Fourth of July celebration befitting the nation's 240th birthday, culminating in a free evening fireworks display over the Revolutionary City.

Highlights of the celebration include the daylong Colonial Faire offering games and activities for patriots ages 14-and-under, a live afternoon auction of rare and one-of-a kind items on the Market Square Stage, and the Williamsburg Lodge Family Fourth of July Celebration – a family evening of food and entertainment that includes reserved fireworks viewing on the Palace Green.

“This year our nation celebrates a momentous birthday, its 240th,” said Colonial Williamsburg President and CEO Mitchell B. Reiss. “The success of the experiment that began on these very streets is one of history’s most remarkable stories. We tell that story every day, and this Fourth of July we invite our neighbors and the nation for a day of fun and fireworks to mark this milestone anniversary.”

Festivities begin July 3 with the program “To Be Free and Independent” at 4:45 p.m. on the Capitol Green, presenting Virginians’ declaration of independence from the crown on May 15, 1776. The year’s Summer Breeze Concert Series kicks off at 7 p.m. in Merchants Square with a special Sunday-night concert featuring the United States Air Force Band. At 8:30 p.m. the Fifes & Drums lead the Williamsburg Military Tattoo up Duke of Gloucester Street from the Palace Green to the Capitol. All three events are free and open to the public.

Special Fourth of July programming begins at 10 a.m. on Market Square with the Salute to the States, a military muster honoring the original 13. At 11 a.m., co-author Thomas Jefferson reads the Declaration of Independence on the Courthouse steps accompanied by the Fifes & Drums and a cannon salute. Both morning programs are free and open to the public.

Screenings of the 1972 musical comedy “1776” begin at 10:15 a.m. and at 1:30 and 4:45 p.m. at the Kimball Theatre in Merchants Square. The film version of the classic Broadway musical stars William Daniels, Howard Da Silva and Ken Howard and is rated PG. Tickets are \$5.

From 11:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. at various Historic Area locations, the Colonial Faire features activities including military drills, a tomahawk toss, races, crafts and games such as quoits. Participation in the Colonial Faire requires Colonial Williamsburg admission or an \$8 program ticket available for purchase at the Faire.

One-of-a-kind craft items, as well as select Colonial Williamsburg products, are available for purchase at the auction from 1-3 p.m. They include a weather vane and mahogany cradle crafted by Colonial Williamsburg’s Historic Trades and the very engraved bell used to announce the auction.

At 4 p.m., “I Hear America Singing” features the Runaway String Band performing old-time tunes from the mountains of Appalachia to the sidewalks of New York in the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg’s Hennage Auditorium. A special \$4 ticket is required.

A VIP Independence Day evening kicks off at 4 p.m. with the Williamsburg Lodge Family Fourth of July Celebration. Children’s games and activities take place on the Virginia Lawn until 7 p.m., and for guests 21 and over, a cash bar is available in the Virginia Room until 7:30 pm. “An American Original Buffet Dinner” is served from 5 to 7:30 p.m. with entertainment provided by the Jangling Reinharts. The Fifes & Drums escort guests to a reserved area of Palace Green at 7:45 p.m. Tickets are \$ 85.95, \$50.95 for youths ages 3-10, with free admission for children ages 2 and under.

On the Palace Green, “A Medley of Patriotic Entertainments” begins at 8:15 p.m., followed at 8:50 p.m. by performances by the Fifes & Drums there and on Market Square, both prime fireworks viewing locations. The demonstration, presented by Fireworks by Grucci of Bellport, New York, begins at 9:15 p.m., followed by a torch-lit Fifes & Drums march from the Palace Green up Duke of Gloucester Street to Botetourt Street.

Free parking is available at the Colonial Williamsburg Regional Visitor Center. Regular Colonial Williamsburg shuttle bus service runs every half hour between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. from the Visitor Center to regular stops. From 8 to 9 p.m. only express service is available between the Visitor Center and the Governor’s Palace stops. All service is suspended beginning at 9 p.m. and resumes with regular stops at 11 p.m. The pedestrian bridge from the Visitor Center to the Historic Area will close from 9 p.m. until after the display.

For more information and to purchase admission or event tickets, visit colonialwilliamsburg.com, call 1-855-296-6627, or visit Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/colonialwilliamsburg) and @colonialwmsburg on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/colonialwilliamsburg) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/colonialwilliamsburg).

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