

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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60th Annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Rings in the Holidays Dec. 19

Colonial Williamsburg and the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg have co-hosted the beloved community tradition in Market Square since 1959



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Dec. 10, 2019) – Colonial Williamsburg and the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg host their 60th annual Community Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Dec. 19 in Market Square.

Starting around 4:30 p.m. Kiwanis volunteers distribute candles to families gathered in front of the Courthouse on Duke of Gloucester Street. The traditional ceremony of classic holiday stories, songs and lights culminates in the illumination of a 40-foot spruce adorned by Colonial Williamsburg operations staff with nearly 7,500 lights. Appearances by Mayor Paul Freiling, Father Christmas and the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums are planned.

Colonial Williamsburg and the Kiwanis Club have co-sponsored the Community Christmas Tree Lighting ceremony since 1959. The program is free and open to the public; no tickets or reservations are required. Hot beverages and ginger cakes will be available for purchase at the event.

“Kiwanis’ mission is to make the world brighter one community at a time, and that is exactly what we feel this ceremony has accomplished the last 60 years,” said Antonija Simpson, president of the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg.

The community Christmas tree will be lit nightly through the Epiphany on Jan. 6, 2020, and Colonial Williamsburg’s Christmas guns will be fired at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve in Market Square.

“We hope the ceremony brings the community as much joy as it does our staff,” said Bill Schermerhorn, Colonial Williamsburg creative director of Signature events. “We’re especially excited to mark 60 years of partnership with Kiwanis.”

Additional information is available by visiting colonialwilliamsburg.com and colonialwilliamsburghotels.com, by calling 855-296-6627, toll-free, by following Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/colonialwilliamsburg) and [@colonialwmsburg](https://www.instagram.com/colonialwmsburg) on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/colonialwmsburg) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/colonialwmsburg).

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The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation preserves, restores and operates Virginia’s 18th-century capital of Williamsburg. Innovative and interactive experiences highlight the relevance of the American Revolution to contemporary life and the importance of an informed, active citizenry. The Colonial Williamsburg experience includes more than 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers, lodging, culinary options from historic taverns to casual or elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 45 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones and his son Rees Jones, a full-service spa and fitness center, pools, retail stores and gardens. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg’s educational programs and preservation initiatives.

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