

# Colonial Williamsburg

Colonial Williamsburg hosts public archaeology day Nov. 16

*Community invited to participate in hands-on activities with archaeologists from across Virginia*



Archaeology at Colonial Williamsburg's Custis Square. Photo by Brendan Sostak, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. Download high-resolution images [here](#).

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Nov. 4, 2024) – Dig into history with archaeologists from across Virginia on Nov. 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a day of archaeology at Colonial Williamsburg's [Custis Square site](#) located on the corner of Nassau and S. Francis streets across from the Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg. This free event presented by [The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation](#), [the Council of Virginia Archaeologists \(COVA\)](#), [the Virginia Department of Historic Resources](#), [the Archeological Society of Virginia](#), [the Southeastern Archaeological Conference](#), and [the Virginia Archaeology Charitable](#)

[Trust](#) will feature exhibits and hands-on activities with archaeologists from across Virginia in celebration of COVA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025.

"Archaeology offers a way of understanding history that reaches across barriers like age, race, or political orientation," said Jack Gary, executive director of archaeology at The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation. "Everyone's story is recorded archaeologically, so archaeology is for everyone."

Virginia archaeology spans more than 16,000 years and includes sites representing American Indian, European and African American cultures. Visitors to the Nov. 16 public archaeology day will have the opportunity to interact with archaeologists and their collaborative partners from over 30 organizations including the Pamunkey, Nottoway, Monacan, and Patowomeck tribes; James Madison's Montpelier & Descendant Community; Jamestown Rediscovery; Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, and Colonial Williamsburg. The City of Alexandria's Archaeology Museum will be onsite with hands-on activities related to four 18th-century ships recently excavated at the waterfront while archaeologists from the Department of Historic Resources will discuss shipwrecks recently discovered from the Battle of Yorktown. Guests will have the opportunity to observe ground-penetrating radar in action, view artifacts from sites around the Commonwealth, and talk to archaeologists excavating at Custis Square.

"The Council of Virginia Archaeologists is proud to play a role in celebrating fifty years of archaeology in the Old Dominion," said Dr. David Brown, president of COVA. "With over thirty organizations and communities joining us from across the state, we are proud to highlight the many contributions Virginia has made to better understanding the history of the American people."

"Archaeology is an important tool for learning about the past," said Dr. Elizabeth Moore, state archaeologist for the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. "It helps fill in the gaps written records cannot address and it produces objects that provide tangible and meaningful connections with the people who lived in the past.

Parking for the event is available in the Merchants Square area and at the Colonial Williamsburg Visitor Center where a [complimentary bus service](#) will take visitors to the Art Museums stop a short walk from Custis Square. For more information on parking options, visit [colonialwilliamsburg.org/visit/parking/](http://colonialwilliamsburg.org/visit/parking/)

The event is sponsored by Hurt and Proffitt, Mountain Valley Archaeology, New South Associates, Gray & Pape and generous individual donors.

Media contact: Ellen Morgan Peltz  
Colonial Williamsburg  
[epeltz@cwf.org](mailto:epeltz@cwf.org)  
757-220-7287

### **About The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation**

*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 and 18th-century inspired culinary options from historic taverns situated along historic Duke of Gloucester Street. Colonial Williamsburg Resorts complement the experience, offering guests five unique hotel properties including the iconic Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star, AAA Five Diamond Williamsburg Inn, newly renovated Williamsburg Lodge-Autograph Collection, Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel and Suites, the Griffin Hotel, and authentic 18th-century Colonial Houses. The resort offers a range of events and amenities including four historic taverns, 15 food and beverage outlets providing exquisite culinary experiences from casual to elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 36 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. and his son Rees Jones, a world-class full-service spa and fitness center, pools, meeting and flexible event spaces, and scenic gardens providing the perfect venue for weddings and special events. Merchants Square, built alongside the Historic Area in 1935 as one of the first planned shopping districts in the United States, features more than 40 specialty boutiques with products ranging from apparel to fine jewelry, art, specialty foods and gifts. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg's educational programs and preservation initiatives.*

– CWF –