

# Colonial Williamsburg

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The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

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## **Independence Day Returns to Colonial Williamsburg with a Bang**

### **Family-Friendly Programming, Moments of Reflection and the Return of Patriotic Fireworks Mark America's 245th Birthday**

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (June 21, 2021) – Colonial Williamsburg and the city of Williamsburg invite the community to spend the day on Duke of Gloucester Street as the region commemorates July 4 in grand style with special programming, family activities on the Art Museums Lawn and the return of fireworks over the Governor's Palace.

"This year, more than any other in recent memory, it is important to come together as a community and reflect upon the significance of our nation's 245th birthday. As we enjoy time with our families and friends on Independence Day, let us also remember the sacrifices made by so many people -- enslaved and free -- to build our great nation. We still have much work ahead of us as we continue our march toward a more perfect union so that every American feels a connection to this most patriotic holiday," said Cliff Fleet, president and CEO of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation.

Independence Day programming begins on Community Appreciation Day with "A Community Salute to America" on Saturday, July 3 at 8 p.m. The United States Air Force Heritage of America band will perform patriotic favorites during a one-hour concert on the Art Museums Lawn. The concert will be followed by a special video presentation, produced by the City of Williamsburg, William & Mary, and Colonial Williamsburg, that honors the frontline workers, first responders, and local organizations who rose to meet the challenges our community faced over the past year and a half.

"So many across our community supported one another in new ways and inspired us all as we navigated unprecedented times. We are enormously grateful for our regional partnerships and these dedicated and caring individuals," said William & Mary President Katherine A. Rowe.

"This is also an important moment of reflection for our nation, as we aim to tell more fully the

histories of countless individuals who have strengthened and upheld our democracy – many of whose contributions have previously gone unrecorded.”

On July 4, programming begins at 9:30 a.m. starting with Thomas Jefferson's reading of the Declaration of Independence on the Capitol West balcony. Prior to the reading, guests are invited to have a casual breakfast with Thomas and Martha Jefferson at King's Arms Tavern. Visit [colonialwilliamsburghotels.com/fourth-of-july/](https://colonialwilliamsburghotels.com/fourth-of-july/) for details on the breakfast and other dining and hospitality experiences.

Programming continues throughout the day, including a special showing of [“Created Equal”](#) that explores Black perspectives on the Declaration of Independence, the revolutions it inspired, and the ongoing struggle for equality and freedom in America. “Created Equal” also will be performed Fridays and Saturdays throughout the month of July.

Starting at 1 p.m., celebrate Chowning's Tavern's 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary at its July 4 Beer Bash with chef- and brewer-attended stations that guide guests through beer pairings and fine cuisine.

Family-friendly activities on the Art Museums Lawn in the afternoon conclude with a live performance by Good Shot Judy at 7 p.m. Fireworks commence at 9:20 p.m. with a grand display above the Governor's Palace and surrounding areas. Colonial Williamsburg's July 4 programming schedule and admission ticket information, including a special discount on Good Neighbor Passes, are available at [colonialwilliamsburg.org/july4](https://colonialwilliamsburg.org/july4).

“After a year when so much had to be cancelled due to the pandemic, I am pleased that the public can join the city and Colonial Williamsburg this July 4 to enjoy fireworks over the Governor's Palace once again,” Williamsburg City Manager Andrew O. Trivette said. “We're excited to have this opportunity to welcome people back to Williamsburg.”

July 4 also marks the final night of “Honor & Reflection,” a contemplative multimedia installation at the ongoing excavation of the historic First Baptist Church's first permanent location on South Nassau Street in the Historic Area. “Honor and Reflection” opened June 19 as part of Juneteenth programming. It is free and open to the public from 8:30 – 10:30 p.m. Visit [colonialwilliamsburg.org/juneteenth](https://colonialwilliamsburg.org/juneteenth) to learn more about Juneteenth and the light installation.

Visiting guests who stay at one of Colonial Williamsburg's official hotels receive up to two complimentary Colonial Williamsburg length of stay admission tickets, plus up to \$350 in resort outlets savings coupons. Details are available at [colonialwilliamsburghotels.com/fourth-of-july](https://colonialwilliamsburghotels.com/fourth-of-july).

It remains Colonial Williamsburg's policy that guests who are not fully vaccinated must wear masks indoors and are encouraged to do so outdoors. Visit [colonialwilliamsburg.org's planning calendar](https://colonialwilliamsburg.org's-planning-calendar) for a complete, up-to-date list of open sites and programming.

The health and safety of guests and staff is Colonial Williamsburg's highest priority, and site operations and programming are subject to change to ensure compliance with state COVID-19 guidelines. [Colonialwilliamsburg.org](https://colonialwilliamsburg.org) lists additional guest comfort and safety guidelines to provide the safest experience for guests, the general public and Colonial Williamsburg's staff.

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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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