

# Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
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## Colonial Williamsburg convenes visiting military music groups for Drummer's Call, May 17-18



Brendan Sostak, The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
Download high-resolution images [here](#)

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (May 6, 2024) – The Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums, along with seven visiting fife and drum units, will celebrate the tradition of military music during [Drummer's Call](#), May 17-18.

A mainstay of the Colonial Williamsburg's Fifes & Drums program for nearly 20 years, Drummer's Call highlights the nation's military and musical heritage by bringing together groups performing various periods of music including the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Experience this unique musical genre up close and in person and celebrate the musicians who keep the tradition alive today. All Drummer's Call events are free and open to the public.

The weekend begins with "[Successful Campaign](#)," an evening of traditional, patriotic military music performed by the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums Senior Corps and a special guest

at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 17, at the Governor's Palace Stage, located behind the Governor's Palace.

On Saturday, May 18, beginning at 12:30 p.m. The Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums will lead visiting corps in a [Grand March and Review](#) from the Capitol down Duke of Gloucester Street to Market Square. The musicians will congregate behind the Courthouse where each group will perform.

Participating groups include:

- [Adamsville Ancients Fife and Drum Corps](#)
- [Central York Middle School Fife & Drum Corps](#)
- [Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums Jr. Corps](#)
- [Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums Sr. Corps](#)
- [Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums Alumni](#)
- Field Musick of the American Revolution (no website)
- [Field Music School](#)
- [The Fifes and Drums of York Town](#)
- [Patriots Fife and Drums Corps](#)

Drummer's Call concludes with the [Williamsburg Military Tattoo](#), an evening march down Duke of Gloucester Street at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 18, featuring the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums joined by the visiting units.

## **Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums**

Founded in 1958, the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums perform in the Historic Area from mid-February through December and during special programs observing major holidays or events. The Fife and Drum Corps also performs in prestigious events outside of Williamsburg such as gubernatorial inaugurations, international military tattoos and parades such as the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums are comprised of youth from the local community aged 10–18. Students who are currently in 4th grade [can apply for the fall 2024 recruit class](#) if they reside in James City or York counties or the City of Williamsburg. Applications are due by May 31.

## **History of Fifes and Drums**

During the American Revolution, one fifer and one drummer were deployed as a regular component of a company of 75 officers and men. Field musicians, who could be as young as 10 years old, marched along with each company. Military field music acted as a melodic communication system that ordered the soldiers' day and sent vital communications through the chaos of battle. A single fifer and drummer could be heard from nearly a mile off. For more information on the history of fife and drum corps, visit [colonialwilliamsburg.org/explore/fifes-and-drums](https://colonialwilliamsburg.org/explore/fifes-and-drums).

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*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.*

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