



NEWS

from **Colonial National Historical Park**

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AMERICA’S DECISIVE REVOLUTIONARY WAR VICTORY CELEBRATED OCTOBER 16-17 Yorktown Victory Center & Yorktown Battlefield Weekend Military Interpretive Programs Yorktown Day Parade and Commemorative Ceremony on October 19

YORKTOWN, Va. – To mark the 229th anniversary of America’s decisive Revolutionary War victory at Yorktown, a variety of engaging hands-on military interpretive programs and tours will be held on Saturday and Sunday, October 16-17, at Yorktown Battlefield and the Yorktown Victory Center.

The weekend events are a prelude to the Yorktown Day parade and commemorative ceremony on Tuesday, October 19, in historic Yorktown and at Yorktown Battlefield to mark the official anniversary of the British surrender to American forces. In 1781, following a nine-day bombardment, British forces in Yorktown under General Charles Cornwallis requested a cease-fire and then surrendered more than 8,000 soldiers and sailors to the combined American and French armies, commanded by General George Washington. This was the last major military action of the American Revolution, effectively securing independence for the American colonies following a six-and-a-half-year military struggle.

October 16-17: Revolutionary War Interpretive Programs & Lecture at Yorktown Victory Center

The Yorktown Victory Center, a museum of the American Revolution, will feature military re-enactors, musket and artillery demonstrations, and hands-on interpretive programs at re-creations of a Continental Army encampment and 1780s farm during its annual “Yorktown Victory Celebration,” Saturday and Sunday, October 16 and 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Approximately 40 **Revolutionary War re-enactors** depicting American and British troops, including units with 7th Virginia Regiment of the Continental Line, James City County Militia, Redstone Rangers Militia, His Majesty’s 76th Regiment of Foot, the British Detached Hospital and Fort Vause Outfitters, will demonstrate military life and tactics throughout the weekend event at the Yorktown Victory Center.

The Fifes & Drums of York Town will perform traditional regimental military music at 11:30 a.m. and 1:30 and 3:30 p.m. Saturday in the museum’s re-created Continental Army encampment.

At 4 p.m. Saturday, **underwater archaeologist John Broadwater** will discuss the recent discovery and survey of a tenth Revolutionary War shipwreck in the York River. For nearly a decade in the 1980s, Dr. Broadwater directed a major shipwreck project in the river, in partnership with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR), that resulted in the ongoing Yorktown Victory Center exhibit “Yorktown’s Sunken Fleet” and an article in National Geographic magazine. The free public lecture, sponsored by DHR, will be held in the museum’s Richard S. Reynolds Foundation Theater.

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Visitors to the Continental Army encampment will be invited to experience Revolutionary War military life firsthand by enrolling in “**A School for the Soldier**,” offering opportunities to drill with wooden muskets and apply tactical skills in mock combat, as well as learn about soldiers’ provisions and sleeping quarters. The program also explores methods of troop communication, espionage during the war and the importance of earthworks during a siege. “School” sessions will be offered at 10:05 a.m. and 12:35 p.m. on both days; and at 3:35 p.m. on Sunday. Visitor participatory **artillery demonstrations** will be held at 11:05 a.m. and 3:05 p.m. each day.

At the re-created 1780s farm, visitors can take part in “**The Price of Liberty**” role-playing demonstration, beginning at 10:35 a.m. Saturday and 10:35 a.m. and 4:15 p.m. Sunday, offering insight to the sacrifices and hardships endured by Americans who sought independence, including military and political leaders, soldiers, farmers, merchants, women and slaves. At 2:05 p.m. each day, visitors can learn about the transition from farmer to soldier as they train as a member of the **citizen militia**. In addition, farm visitors can observe methods of **open-hearth cooking** at 12:05 p.m. daily, and play **18th-century games** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Yorktown Victory Center gallery exhibits feature a rare July 1776 broadside printing of America’s **Declaration of Independence**, provide eyewitness accounts of the American Revolution, describe the convergence of forces on Yorktown in 1781 for the climactic military engagement of the revolution, and examine the development of the Constitution and Bill of Rights and how people from many different cultures shaped a new society.

Participation in event activities is included with Yorktown Victory Center admission of \$9.50 for adults and \$5.25 for youth ages 6 through 12. Children under six are admitted free. A special History is Fun for the Holidays ticket and Yorktown Victory Celebration vacation package are available at <http://www.historyisfun.org/Vacation-Packages.htm>, combining seven days of unlimited admission to the Yorktown Victory Center and Jamestown Settlement, a museum of 17th-century Virginia, with a Yorktown Rewards Shopping Card with shopping discounts. The Yorktown Victory Center, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily year-round, is located on Route 1020 near the Colonial Parkway in Yorktown. The event is funded in part by the York County Arts Commission. For more information, call (888) 593-4682 toll-free or (757) 253-4838, or visit www.historyisfun.org/yorktown-victory-celebration.htm.

October 16-17: Anniversary Programs at Yorktown Battlefield

The **Yorktown Battlefield**, scene of the surrender concluding the climactic battle of the American Revolution, will offer a variety of special programs, tours and military demonstrations to mark the 229th anniversary of the British surrender at Yorktown. These special activities will highlight the 1781 siege of Yorktown and provide a look at the victory by General George Washington that secured American independence.

On Saturday at 11:15 a.m., **Alan R. Hoffman** will discuss his recent translation of *Lafayette in America* during a program at the Yorktown Battlefield Visitor Center. Learn about the fascinating account by General Lafayette’s private secretary of their 1824-1825 tour of the United States, including Yorktown. A book signing will follow, sponsored by Eastern National.

Also on Saturday, **Lamb’s Artillery**, a Revolutionary War re-enactment unit, will demonstrate the firing of a reproduction 18th-century siege cannon on the Yorktown Battlefield, at Colonial National Historical Park. The demonstrations will take place near the Yorktown Battlefield Visitor Center at 12:15 p.m., 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. Lamb’s Artillery represents Colonel John Lamb’s unit of the 2nd Continental Artillery that participated in the 1781 Siege of Yorktown.

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“**Siege at Night**,” beginning at 7 p.m. on Saturday night, will provide insights to the events on the battlefield after the sun went down and feature the firing of a six-pounder field cannon by the Royal Artillery and an 18-pounder siege gun by Lamb’s Artillery.

The Royal Artillery, depicting a unit of the British artillery at the 1781 siege, will return on Sunday for demonstrations at 12:15 p.m. 1:15 p.m., 2:15 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.

All programs begin at the **Yorktown Battlefield Visitor Center** (1000 Colonial Parkway) located at the eastern end of the Colonial Parkway, 12 miles from Williamsburg. On Tuesday, October 19, admission to Yorktown Battlefield will be free as part of the Yorktown Day celebration. Admission on Saturday, October 16, and Sunday, October 17, is \$10.00 per adult, under age 16 admitted free, which also includes admission to Historic Jamestowne. National Park Service passports are honored. For more information, call (757) 898-2410 or visit www.nps.gov/colo.

October 19: Yorktown Day Commemorative Events

Every year since the British surrender, there have been patriotic observances held in Yorktown on the anniversary of the surrender. The modern day observance traces its roots to 1922, when the Daughters of the American Revolution began an annual wreath-laying ceremony, which set the tradition upon which the current Yorktown Day is based. Today, the Yorktown Day Association, comprised of 13 civic, patriotic and government organizations, coordinates the traditional commemorative events.

The official **Yorktown Day parade** steps off at 10:30 a.m. The route will follow Yorktown’s Main Street and pass in front of the Yorktown Victory Monument, erected in 1881 to commemorate the military victory a century before. Included in the 35 parade units are representatives of all branches of the U.S. military, fife and drum corps, JROTC and NJROTC units, and patriotic organizations.

The **Patriotic Exercises** will commence at the Yorktown Victory Monument at 11:15 a.m. with the annual pageant of flags, a colorful display that includes the American and French national colors, the flags of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and the flags of the 13 Yorktown Day Association members. The keynote address will be given by Mark Schneider, historical interpreter for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation, portraying the French military leader the Marquis de Lafayette. At the conclusion of the Patriotic Exercises, a wreath will be placed on the Yorktown Victory Monument in memory of those who fought and died during the siege of Yorktown in 1781.

At 12:30 p.m., **The Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps** will perform on the Yorktown Battlefield near the National Park Service Visitor Center. A unit of the 3rd U. S. Infantry, The Old Guard is the oldest infantry unit in the active Army, predating the Constitution of the United States to 1784. As a unit of the Military District of Washington, the 3rd U.S. Infantry is charged with the unique mission of serving as the U.S. Army’s official ceremonial unit, performing tactical infantry missions and providing security for the nation’s capital.

At 2:15 p.m., a **1.5 mile ranger-guided tour** will discuss the surrender of the British army on October 19, 1781. The program will begin at the National Park Service Visitor Center and will retrace the route taken by the British army to the site of their ceremonial surrender.

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