

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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Colonial Williamsburg, Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg Co-host 58th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony Thursday, Dec. 21

Guests and members of the community are invited to kick-off the holiday weekend with a traditional ceremony of beloved stories, songs and lights



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Dec. 5, 2017) – Colonial Williamsburg and the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg join to co-host their 58th annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Market Square at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21, kicking off the holiday weekend.

Guests and the community are invited to gather outside the Courthouse on Duke of Gloucester Street, where complementary candles will be shared with guests to kick-off the traditional ceremony of beloved Christmas stories, songs and lights. Mayor Paul Freiling is scheduled to deliver the eagerly awaited signal for the audience to light their candles with help from Kiwanis volunteers. Next comes the climactic illumination of a 40-foot spruce adorned with 6,500 lights by Colonial Williamsburg operations staff. To close the ceremony, a special guest arrives by carriage as Colonial Williamsburg's Fifes & Drums fill the air with music.

"We are thrilled to again partner with Colonial Williamsburg and make this joyous community celebration possible," said Mary Beth Murphy, immediate past president of the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg.

The community Christmas tree will be lit nightly through Saturday, January 6, 2018, and Colonial Williamsburg's Christmas guns will be fired on Market Square at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve.

"We invite residents and visitors alike to share in this celebration as we all look forward to the height of the holiday season," said Bill Schermerhorn, Colonial Williamsburg creative director

for signature events.

Colonial Williamsburg and the Kiwanis Club have cosponsored the community Christmas Tree Lighting since 1959. The event is free and open to the public; no tickets or reservations are required.

Additional information is available by visiting colonialwilliamsburg.com and colonialwilliamsburghotels.com, by calling 855-296-6627 toll-free, and via the free Colonial Williamsburg Explorer app, which can be downloaded from the Apple App Store and Google Play. Information is also available by following Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/colonialwilliamsburg) and [@colonialwmsburg](https://twitter.com/colonialwmsburg) on [Twitter](https://twitter.com/colonialwmsburg) and [Instagram](https://www.instagram.com/colonialwilliamsburg).

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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 400 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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