



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Colonial National Historical Park
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www.nps.gov/colo

Weddings at Colonial NHP

Special events, such as weddings held in National Parks, are allowed, when *“there is a meaningful association between the park area and the events, and the observance contributes to visitor understanding of the significance of the park area”*. [36 CFR 2.50(a)] The National Park Service will consider events which correspond with its mission to, "conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wild life therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner...as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations." [16 USC 1] A Special Park Use permit must be obtained in advance of any event held in the park.

A permit is required for all weddings. The Public Affairs Office is here to help ensure your event is appropriate and does not impact the park experience for the general public, nor interfere with park operations or jeopardize resource protection. The National Park Service limits available locations and maintains strict conditions for special events. Please read the park regulations and permit conditions for weddings and determine if they correspond with your event plans.

There is an application fee which must be submitted with the application form, and, in some cases, management costs for National Park Service staff to review and oversee events will be billed to permit holders. Some events require liability insurance coverage and a performance bond. Special Use Permit information and applications are available on the park's website, www.nps.gov/colo, or may be requested from the park's the Public Affairs Office at (757) 898-2409.

PARK REGULATIONS & CONDITIONS FOR WEDDINGS

- Access for other park visitors must not be impeded. The Special Use Permit is authorization for your event to take place on parklands and does not grant exclusive use of an area. The area identified in the permit will remain open to the public during the event. It is recommended that you consider less visited sites and schedule your event early or late in the day if you wish to increase the privacy of your event.
- No building interiors within the park are available for weddings and/or receptions. Permits will be issued only for outdoor events, and alternate locations in the event of inclement weather are not available.
- Locations in the park dictate maximum allowable group size. In keeping with the historic and memorial qualities of Colonial National Historical Park, wedding groups are limited to no more than 50 guests.
- In order to maintain the solemnity and dignity of memorial sites, weddings are not authorized in memorial areas, including cemeteries and the Yorktown Victory Monument.

EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

- To avoid interference with regular visitor use, weddings (including set-up and take down) in high visitation areas, such as the Moore House or Nelson House, may not be scheduled during operating hours.
- Available parking is limited, often crowded and not guaranteed. Parking spaces may not be “reserved,” and time restrictions are enforced for all vehicles. Car pooling or van shuttles are highly recommended. This will help ensure your guests arrive on schedule and at the correct location.
- A maximum of two hours may be scheduled. Please plan accordingly. This shall include set-up and breakdown time. No set-up will be allowed prior to the start time on your permit.
- Special Use Permits may be denied during periods of heavy use (e.g., 4th of July, Yorktown Day and Victory Weekend, Memorial Day, etc.)
- Decorations and equipment must be discussed prior to issuance of your permit. In general, weddings are not authorized to include any more equipment than up to ten folding chairs. The use of special equipment, such as tents, canopies, arches, or other decorations requires park administrative review and will not be allowed in certain areas. Costs for National Park Service review and consideration of proposed equipment for weddings will be billed to permit applicants.
- Special conveyances, including, but not limited to, horse drawn carriages, electric carts and hot air balloons are prohibited.
- In respect of other park visitors, amplified music is prohibited. Standing speakers, disk jockeys, public address systems or any other type of amplified device are prohibited.
- To protect parklands and wildlife, the releasing of balloons, doves or butterflies and the dropping of rice, birdseed, flower petals or other natural or artificial material is not allowed. Birdseed and flower petals provide an unnatural food source for park wildlife and may introduce exotic plant species. Because of the proximity to the James and York rivers, balloons are prohibited since they can be harmful to marine life. Releasing doves or butterflies is prohibited by law and will upset the natural balance of wildlife in the Park.
- Fires, candles, tiki torches and all other forms of open flame are prohibited.
- Affixing directional signage to existing buildings, property, signs, poles or plants is not allowed. Please respect the uncluttered views of the park. Any posted signs will be removed immediately by park personnel.
- Alcohol is prohibited in all park areas.
- All trash associated with your event must be bagged and removed from the Park. Permittees will be billed for staff time required to clean the area.
- Grounds maintenance and mowing of this park area is performed on a predetermined schedule and will not be completed specifically for your event.

- Colonial National Historical Park is a fee area and the use of certain areas requires an admission fee to be paid for all wedding participants and guests. These areas include all of Jamestown Island, and most of the Yorktown Battlefield, including the Moore House. The Colonial Parkway and National Park Service sites within the town of York are fee exempt. Contact the Public Affairs Office for a schedule of fees and fee areas.
- Use of the Jamestown Memorial Church is administered by Preservation Virginia. Contact Preservation Virginia at (757) 229-0412 for further information.
- The Beach Picnic Area at Yorktown is managed by York County Parks and Recreation, (757) 890-3500.