



Capt. John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail

250 Signature Events In 2026 *We invite you to join us in commemorating the 250th anniversary of American independence*



Junior Ranger Day

April 19 • 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. • Historic Jamestown

Enjoy hands-on activities, crafts, games, and history-themed fun led by Jamestown High School's Rho Kappa Social Studies Honor Society. Explore the first permanent English settlement in North America and earn your Junior Ranger badge along the way!



Pedal the Parkway

May 2 • 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Colonial Parkway at Jamestown Island

Kick off your morning with a scenic bike ride, walk, or run along a seven-mile stretch of the Colonial Parkway. The parkway will be closed to vehicles between Hwy 199/Kingsport and Rt. 359 at Jamestown. Enjoy beautiful views and ranger-led outreach and educational activities along the way.



Decoration Day

May 30 • National Cemetery in Yorktown

Join park staff and the Yorkstar-Zedekiah Masonic Lodge for a meaningful day of remembrance at the Yorktown National Cemetery. Park rangers will offer educational activities that honor the significance of the day. The program will conclude with a solemn illumination honoring the unmarked burials.



Sail Yorktown Festival

June 12-14 • 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. daily • Yorktown

Set sail for adventure at the Sail Yorktown Festival! This official SailVirginia 2026 event transforms historic Yorktown with living history, tall ship tours, artillery demonstrations, and ranger programs. Discover where maritime heritage and Revolutionary history come alive. Learn more: visityorktown.org/sailYorktownfestival.



Independence Day

July 4 • Yorktown Battlefield

Celebrate America's 250th birthday where freedom was won! Enjoy a patriotic Main Street parade, special ranger-led programs, and a spectacular fireworks show over the York River at 9:15 p.m. Pack your picnic blanket and enjoy an unforgettable Independence Day—Yorktown style!



Entrance Fees

Colonial National Historical Park requires a visitor entrance pass for all persons, age 16 & older.

This pass provides access to the following resources managed by the park, including the Yorktown Visitor Center and Battlefield Tour Roads, Jamestown Visitor Center, Glasshouse, Island Drive Tour Road, New Towne, and recreational access along the Colonial Parkway. For more information: nps.gov/colo/planyourvisit/fees.



Before the Siege Living History Program

September 12-13 • Yorktown Battlefield & along historic Main Street

Step back into 1781 as living-history reenactors bring the British occupation of Yorktown to life with dynamic demonstrations of camp life, military drills, hands-on activities, and booming artillery fire. It's an immersive journey into the sights, sounds, and stories of wartime Yorktown!



Yorktown Day

October 19 • Yorktown Battlefield & along historic Main Street

Join us for the 245th Commemoration of the Victory at Yorktown, marking the decisive 1781 surrender that ended major combat in the American Revolution. The weekend features artillery salutes, living-history demonstrations, ranger programs, exhibitions, a festive parade, and wreath-laying ceremonies. Celebrate this milestone and experience the pride, pageantry, and history of Yorktown.

Daily Ranger Programs

Park rangers offer a variety of guided programs year-round at both Jamestown and Yorktown. Ask the ranger at the front desk for today's schedule. Self-guided walking and driving tours are also available. And don't forget to ask about our Junior Ranger Program!



Artillery Demonstrations

Feel the *boom* of History! Park volunteers conduct live artillery demonstrations at the Yorktown Visitor Center on select weekends. Witness the power, precision, and pageantry of Revolutionary War-era cannon firings—an unforgettable experience for all ages. Find the full schedule on our website and follow us on social media for updates.



Hours of Operation

Yorktown Visitor Center	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Jamestown Visitor Center	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Tour roads and grounds	9 a.m. – sunset	Jamestown Island grounds	9 a.m. – sunset
		Historic Glasshouse	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

All programs are subject to change or cancellation. For updated information, please reach out to us:



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