

Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
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Colonial Williamsburg, Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg to Co-host 59th Annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

The beloved community tradition of stories, songs and lights returns Thursday, Dec. 20 and culminates with the lighting of the Market Square Christmas tree: a 40-foot spruce adorned with nearly 7,500 lights by Colonial Williamsburg operations staff.



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Dec. 11, 2018) – Colonial Williamsburg and the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg will co-host the 59th annual Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Market Square Thursday, Dec. 20 at 5 p.m.

Guests and the community are invited to gather just before 5 p.m. outside the Courthouse on Duke of Gloucester Street where candles will be distributed to families by Kiwanis volunteers. The traditional ceremony of classic holiday stories, songs and lights features an appearance by special guest Mayor Paul Freiling. The event culminates in the illumination of the 40-foot spruce adorned with nearly 7,500 lights by Colonial Williamsburg operations staff. Father Christmas is expected to make an appearance as Colonial Williamsburg's Fifes & Drums fill the air with music, closing the ceremony.

“This special holiday kick-off is a cherished event for our community,” said Missy Zimmerman, president of the Kiwanis Club of Williamsburg. “We are excited to partner with the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation again and fulfill Kiwanis’ mission to make the world brighter one community at a time.”

The community Christmas tree will be lit nightly through the Epiphany on Sunday, Jan. 6, 2019, and Colonial Williamsburg's Christmas guns will be fired on Market Square at 5 p.m. Christmas Eve.

“Colonial Williamsburg is thrilled to once again share this special tree lighting ceremony with the Williamsburg community,” said Bill Schermerhorn, Colonial Williamsburg creative director of signature events. “This beloved ceremony is a joyous start to the holiday weekend.”

Colonial Williamsburg and the Kiwanis Club have co-sponsored the community Christmas tree lighting since 1959. The event is free and open to the public; no tickets or reservations are required. Hot beverages and ginger cakes will be available for purchase at the event.

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 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 nearly 600 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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