

Colonial Williamsburg

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Spooky New Kids' Ghost Walk Kicks Off a Month of Halloween Frights and Fun

The new "Official Colonial Williamsburg Ghost Walk Junior" promises fun tales for little ones and grown-ups alike; "Haunting on DoG Street" returns Oct. 14 with two-week festival of frights that imagines the revenge of a victorious King George III



WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (Oct. 3, 2017) – The Halloween season kicks off this week when Colonial Williamsburg launches the first of three spooky new evening programs including its first new official ghost walk in nearly a decade, tailored especially for the smallest guests.

“The Official Colonial Williamsburg Ghost Walk Junior” invites guests of all ages to gather round and hear entrancing tales set in the streets and chambers of 18th-century America. This program is perfect for families with children 4 to 12 years of age and is offered 6-6:45 p.m. Thursdays-Sundays throughout October and Oct. 30-31.

“Each of us has a favorite spooky tale from childhood that added to the magic of the Halloween season,” said Leigh Jameson, creative lead for Colonial Williamsburg’s official ghost walks. “The Official Ghost Walk Junior captures this for our youngest guests, offering ghostly fun – without the nightmares.”

Other new evening programs promise frights for older and heartier souls: “The Trial of a Patriot” lets guests decide the fate of American patriots on trial for treason by King George III. The program runs twice nightly at the Capitol at 7:30 and 9 p.m. Oct. 14-16, 17, 19-21, 23-24, 26, and 29-31 and is not recommended for small children. Part of the Governor’s Palace Concert Series, “Monsters, Mayhem and Musick,” showcases the darker side of baroque music in a concert presented as a series of nightmares Oct. 17, 24 and 31 at 7:30 and 9 p.m. and is

recommended for children 7 and older.

Perennial evening program favorites “The Official Colonial Williamsburg Ghost Walk,” and “Ghosts Amongst Us” run nightly all month; “Cry Witch” Mondays, Tuesdays and Fridays; “To Hang a Pirate” Thursdays and Saturdays; and “Escape the King” Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays. These programs are not recommended for young children.

For the first time, “Halloween Harvest: Jack of the Lanterns” will illuminate the Historic Area from 6:30-9 p.m. Oct. 27-31 with more than two-hundred jack-o-lanterns along Duke of Gloucester Street. To fully experience the ambiance, “spooky” Halloween-themed carriage and ox-cart rides through the Historic Area are available Oct. 27-29.

This year’s “Haunting on DoG Street” imagines what might have happened if the American Revolution was put down by the British and King George III sought revenge, beginning with “The Trial of a Patriot” on Oct. 14. The month’s Halloween programs culminate in the one-night frightfest “The Mad Revenge of King George III” beginning at 7 p.m. Saturday Oct. 28. That night, guests will be immersed inside the victorious King’s mind through the halls and grounds of the Capitol as they descend into darkness.

“Guests can experience weeks of Halloween fun and festivities this October,” said Bill Schermerhorn, Colonial Williamsburg creative director of signature events. “The Historic Area will be transformed into a spooky 18th-century world turned upside down by the glow of jack-o-lanterns and cressets.”

The Art Museums of Colonial Williamsburg join in the Halloween spirit with a special exhibition of 13 items from the Foundation’s collections that capture 13 fears – including one that even afflicted George Washington himself. Special programs throughout the month include themed tours, storytelling events and musical performances, including the new tour “Poison or Porphyria: Was King George III Really Mad?” on Fridays and Saturdays October 20-28 and “Nevermore!” a musical program featuring the verse of Edgar Allan Poe on Oct. 31. Museums programs are suitable for all ages with the exception of “Poison or Porphyria: Was King George III Really Mad?” which is not recommended for small children.

For young fans of historical fantasy, the new Colonial Williamsburg book “The Magical American Revolutionary Society: The Secret History,” is available for purchase online and at Colonial Williamsburg retail shops. Authored by Schermerhorn with illustrations by Thomas Hammond, this fictional text is a thrilling extension of the Colonial Williamsburg Halloween experience with a storyline of magical happenings, traitors and spies. The publication is possible thanks to a generous donation from Mrs. Elaine J. Trigiano and the Trigiano Foundation.

Tickets for “The Mad Revenge of King George III,” recommended for guests ages 13 and older, are \$25. Special tickets are required for spooky carriage rides and for Colonial Williamsburg evening programs. Art museums exhibits, programs and tours are included in Colonial Williamsburg and Art Museums admission with the exception of “Nevermore!” which additionally requires a \$5 special ticket.

Programming is subject to change. Tickets, current information and instructions for ticketed guests are available by visiting Colonial Williamsburg ticketing locations, online at www.colonialwilliamsburg.com or by calling 855-296-6627 toll-free. Additional information is available by downloading the free Colonial Williamsburg Explorer App via the Apple App Store and Google Play, and by following Colonial Williamsburg on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/colonialwilliamsburg) and @colonialwmsburg

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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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