

# Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
Williamsburg, VA 23187-1776  
[www.colonialwilliamsburg.com](http://www.colonialwilliamsburg.com)  
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## Colonial Williamsburg Celebrates Grand Opening of New Axe-throwing Range Saturday

### *Hands-on 18th-Century Education and Fun*

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (July 13, 2017) – Beginning July 15, Colonial Williamsburg invites guests to enjoy a new form of hands-on 18th century education and fun with the grand opening of its interpretive Axe-throwing Range, where time-travelers can experience a pastime popular with troops of the American Revolution.

“Our increasing numbers of Historic Area guests enjoy engaging, hands-on experiences that enrich their visit and support Colonial Williamsburg’s core educational mission,” said Colonial Williamsburg President and CEO Mitchell Reiss. “Like our popular kids’ archaeological dig, educational Musket Range and other new offerings, the Axe-throwing Range offers guests a chance to experience the 18th century like the people who created our nation.

“Kids - and kids of all ages - don’t try this at home, try it at Colonial Williamsburg,” Reiss offered jokingly.

So-called “belt” axes were standard-issue in many units of the American Revolution, when they were used for clearing brush, cutting wood for heat or cooking, and as an unconventional weapon in battle. Contrary to fictional depictions they were not thrown in combat. An axe thrown was an axe lost. Instead, axe-throwing was among troops’ downtime activities. It was even barred under one order to preserve Williamsburg’s trees.

Guests of Colonial Williamsburg’s Axe-throwing Range receive an interpretive presentation on the history of military axes during the period, followed by instruction on safe throwing at poplar stump targets, which they will find is more a test of skill and technique than of strength. Guests then move to individual lanes with corresponding targets, where they can test their skill under close supervision of site staff.

The Axe-throwing Range is located in the Historic Area at the intersection of Nicholson and Boutetourt streets. Programs begin on the hour and half-hour daily between 10 a.m. and noon, and then from 1-3 p.m. A special ticket is required; \$10 and \$9 for members of the military. Participation is limited to guests ages 12 and older. Guests younger than 17 must be accompanied by an adult age 18 or older.

Tickets and additional information are available at Colonial Williamsburg ticketing locations, online at [colonialwilliamsburg.com](http://colonialwilliamsburg.com) by calling 855-296-6627 and 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 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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