

AMERICA'S DECISIVE 1781 REVOLUTIONARY WAR VICTORY AT YORKTOWN CELEBRATED OCTOBER 15-19 WITH TOWNWIDE EVENTS & INTERPRETIVE PROGRAMS

Yorktown Day Parade & Commemorative Ceremony October 19 in Historic Yorktown

YORKTOWN, Va., October 11, 2022 — The 241st anniversary of America's decisive Revolutionary War victory at Yorktown will be celebrated Saturday through Wednesday, October 15-19, with a multi-day salute of events and activities at the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown, Yorktown Battlefield and Historic Yorktown leading to Yorktown Day commemorative events on October 19.



Yorktown Day, on Wednesday, October 19, will feature the return of the patriotic Yorktown Day Parade at 10:30 a.m. on Main Street and will be followed by the official commemorative ceremony with patriotic exercises at the Monument to Victory and Alliance, also known as the Yorktown Victory Monument.

On October 19, 1781, following a nine-day bombardment, British forces in Yorktown under General Charles Cornwallis requested a cease-fire and then surrendered more than 8,000 soldiers and sailors to the combined American and French armies commanded by General George Washington. This was the last major military action of the American Revolution, effectively securing independence for the American colonies following a six-and-a-half-year military struggle.

AMERICAN REVOLUTION MUSEUM AT YORKTOWN – OCTOBER 15 Special Event Features Revolutionary War Programs, Artillery Firings & Musical Performances

At the [American Revolution Museum at Yorktown](#), stories of citizens and soldiers of the American Revolution unfold daily at the expansive history museum through immersive films, exhibition galleries and outdoor re-creations of a Continental Army encampment and Revolution-era farm. During “Yorktown Victory Celebration” on October 15, visitors can enjoy musical performances and take part in interpretive demonstrations, including cooking, fabric dyeing, and military tactics on land and sea.

Artillery demonstrations, showcasing the varied roles of an artillery crew, will take place in the outdoor amphitheater at 11 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4 p.m., each followed by the crew firing a salute in honor of the victory at Yorktown. Visitors can enjoy musical performances by the Fifes and Drums of York Town at 11:30 a.m. and 3 p.m. in the Continental Army encampment. At 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., guests can “meet” French general Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, in a first-person portrayal by Michael Halbert.

The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown and Museum Shop, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, are located on Route 1020 in Yorktown. The event is included with museum admission: \$18.00 for adults, \$9.00 for ages 6-12, and free for children age 5 and under. Residents of York County, James City County and the City of Williamsburg, including William & Mary students, receive complimentary admission with proof of residency. On October 19, free museum admission will be offered to active duty, reserve and retired military personnel and up to three direct family members with military identification. Event activities are presented in part by the York County Arts Commission and the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, Inc. Annual Fund. For more information, call (757) 253-4838, follow @jyfmuseums or visit jyfmuseums.org/yorktownvictorycelebration.

WREATH-LAYING CEREMONIES – OCTOBER 18
Historic Yorktown

On Tuesday, October 18, wreath-laying ceremonies, sponsored by The Royal Canadian Legion, Lord Louis Mountbatten, Earl of Burma, Post 180 (USA) of Virginia, will honor British and Loyalist soldiers. A 10:45 a.m. ceremony honoring the British will take place in the garden at the Nelson House at the plaque of General Charles Cornwallis, followed by an 11:30 a.m. ceremony honoring the Loyalists at the Queen's Rangers commemorative plaque along the York River waterfront.

YORKTOWN DAY PARADE & PATRIOTIC EXERCISES – OCTOBER 19
Yorktown Battlefield & Historic Yorktown

The modern-day observance of Yorktown Day traces its roots to 1922, when the Daughters of the American Revolution began an annual wreath-laying ceremony, which set the tradition upon which the current Yorktown Day is based. Today, Yorktown Day commemorative events are co-sponsored by the Yorktown Day Association, comprised of 13 civic, patriotic and government organizations, and the National Park Service, Colonial National Historical Park.

Morning **wreath-laying ceremonies** will be held at the French Cemetery, sponsored by The American Friends of Lafayette and The Friends of Rochambeau; the French Memorial, sponsored by the French Wars Veterans Association; and the grave of Governor Thomas Nelson Jr., sponsored by the Virginia Society, Sons of the American Revolution.

The official **Yorktown Day Parade** will begin at 10:30 a.m. The route will follow Yorktown's Main Street and pass in front of the Monument to Alliance and Victory, erected in 1881 to commemorate the military victory a century before. Included in the 35 parade units are representatives of all branches of the U.S. military, fife and drum corps – including The U.S. Army Old Guard Fife & Drum Corps – JROTC and NJROTC units, and patriotic organizations. This year's parade is sponsored by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation and Colonial National Historical Park.

At 11 a.m., Colonial National Historical Park **wreath-laying ceremonies** at the Monument to Alliance and Victory will honor British, French and Canadian forces in memory of those who fought and died during the siege of Yorktown in 1781.

Patriotic exercises will commence at the Monument to Alliance and Victory at 11:15 a.m. with the annual pageant of flags, a colorful display that includes the American and French national colors, the flags of the 50 states and the District of Columbia, and the flags of the 13 Yorktown Day Association members.

YORKTOWN BATTLEFIELD – OCTOBER 19
Self-Guided Battlefield Tours

Colonial National Historical Park - Yorktown Battlefield, including battlefield tour roads and grounds, site of the climactic 1781 siege, are open daily 6 a.m. to sunset. The Yorktown Battlefield Visitor Center, with historic exhibits and the park film, is open daily 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., along with the Eastern National Park Store. Visitors can join a park ranger for ranger-led programs daily and view the program schedule online or at the visitor center. A free Yorktown Tour Guide app is available to help visitors explore the story of the siege, at nps.gov/york/yorktown-guide-app.htm.

On October 19, from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., the Nelson House, Dudley Diggs Home, Swan Tavern and Poor Potter sites, located throughout the village of Yorktown, will be open for self-guided tours. Yorktown Battlefield also will offer free admission as part of the Yorktown Day celebration.

The Yorktown Battlefield Visitor Center is located at 1000 Colonial Parkway at the eastern end of the Colonial Parkway, 12 miles from Williamsburg. Visitors are also encouraged to follow the park's Facebook and Instagram for posts and programs related to Yorktown Day. For more information, call (757) 898-2410 or visit nps.gov/colo.

VISITING HISTORIC YORKTOWN
Take the Yorktown Trolley to Enjoy Weekend Events & Outdoor Activities

Throughout the weekend, Historic Yorktown visitors can enjoy several outdoor activities, such as sails aboard the **Schooner Alliance** at the Riverwalk Landing piers as well as bicycle, paddleboard and kayak rentals and Segway tours from **Patriot Tours & Provisions**. On Saturday, October 15, visit the **Yorktown Market** from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. to enjoy spectacular views of the York River and live music while shopping for seasonal produce, fresh-baked goods, meats, fresh-cut flowers and a beautiful display of work from local artists.

Along Water and Main streets, the Watermen's Museum will hold its **Victory at Yorktown Weekend** with living-history programs, maritime and folk music, arts and crafts, children's activities and vendors. On October 16, witness **Battle of the Chefs**, as teams portraying the British and the American and French allies compete in this historic and free annual event.

The **Gallery at York Hall** will present performances by acoustical guitarist Lou Vangieri from 12 to 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, October 16, and book-signing events by three authors from 12:30 to 3:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 19. The **York County Historical Museum** on Main Street will be open from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

On October 14, 16 and 19, **Mobjack Bay Coffee Roasters** will offer several ticketed historic walking tours and talks, including visits to Yorktown Battlefield Surrender Field, exploring everything from the beginning of the Yorktown campaign to the climactic final week of the siege. Enjoy food and drinks in Mobjack Bay Coffee Roasters' historic setting with a backyard fire pit that's toasty and warm. For more information about Historic Yorktown events and programs, call (757) 890-5900 or visit visityorktown.org.

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Images (shown from left to right)

The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown will present artillery firings and interpretive programs on Saturday, October 15, during its "Yorktown Victory Celebration" event. Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation photo.

Patriotic exercises during the Yorktown Day commemorative event will feature a Colonial National Historical Park wreath-laying ceremony at the Monument to Victory and Alliance, also known as the Yorktown Victory Monument. York County Tourism photo.

The annual Yorktown Day commemorative ceremony on October 19 will feature honor guards and a parade of flags honoring the momentous 1781 victory at Yorktown and the American and French alliance. York County Tourism photo.

The popular Yorktown Day Parade, which will kick off at 10:30 a.m. on October 19 along Main Street in Yorktown, returns this year to feature 35 parade units and representatives of all branches of the U.S. military, fife and drum corps, and patriotic organizations. York County Tourism photo.

MEDIA CONTACTS FOR YORKTOWN VICTORY WEEKEND

American Revolution Museum at Yorktown (Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation)

Tracy Perkins, (757) 253-4114 or tracy.perkins@jyf.virginia.gov

Yorktown Battlefield (Colonial National Historical Park)

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Historic Yorktown (York County Tourism Development)

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