

Jamestown Rediscovery

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Captain Brewster drills new recruits of all ages as they prepare to join Lord De La Warr's halberdiers.

Family-friendly programs at Jamestown are supported by the Jamestowne Society

JAMESTOWN, VA (June 18, 2025) –

Jamestown Rediscovery is fun for the whole family this summer! Children of all ages can experience the moment of discovery inside the Ed Shed, join the ranks of Lord De La Warr's halberdiers with Captain Brewster, and see artifacts brought to life by blacksmiths and woodworkers. A recent donation from the Jamestowne Society will support educational programs this summer, ensuring that every visitor learns something new and engaging during their trip to Jamestown.

A hands-on space for children, the Ed Shed is located just outside the walls of James Fort. The artifacts at the Ed Shed are real pieces of Jamestown history, giving visitors the unique opportunity to see, touch, and feel our shared past. This year, most of the sorting material will come from James Fort's First Well, also called the John Smith well. Smith wrote that in late 1608 or early 1609, the settlers "dugged a faire Well of fresh water in the Fort of excellent, sweet water which till then was wanting." The well was likely abandoned and then filled in with trash during the post-Starving Time clean-up of the Fort in 1610, creating a time capsule of the early

fort period. Visitors to the Ed Shed will help curators and archaeologists identify tiny artifacts from these layers, including European and Virginia Indian ceramic fragments, pipe stems, glass, small animal bones, and other materials. New this year is a weekly program called “GPR Tuesdays.” Every Tuesday, staff in the Ed Shed use a small ground-penetrating radar (GPR) scanner to help guests find artifacts hidden beneath the sand. GPR is a vital tool in excavations at Jamestown and this new program teaches budding archaeologists the magic of seeing beneath the surface. The Ed Shed is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9:00am to 4:30pm and is included with admission to the Preservation Virginia portion of Historic Jamestowne.

Back again this summer, Captain Edward Brewster is looking for recruits for Lord De La Warr’s corps of halberdiers! Captain Brewster first arrived in Jamestown in 1610 as the Captain of Lord De La Warr’s 50-man honor guard, made up of halberdiers (soldiers who carried the pole arm called a ‘halberd’). Every summer, Captain Brewster, interpreted by Director of Living History & Historic Trades Willie Balderson, comes to Jamestown for a recruitment drive. New recruits and children of all ages have the opportunity to learn the manual of arms for the halberd, “a most ancient and honorable pole arm,” and then practice their new skills inside the Fort. “Captain Brewster’s Kids” brings some of Jamestown Rediscovery’s most recognizable artifacts to life, like the halberd excavated from the Second Well, which likely belonged to an actual member of Lord De La Warr’s honor guard. “Captain Brewster’s Kids” is offered on Fridays at 12:30pm beginning June 13 through August 29 and is included with admission to the Preservation Virginia portion of Historic Jamestowne.

Other family-friendly activities at Historic Jamestowne include living history programs on blacksmithing, woodworking, and Virginia Indian culture on Saturdays and Sundays. Utilizing historically accurate tools, blacksmiths and woodworkers bring artifacts and archaeology to life and share the importance of historic trades at Jamestown, especially in the earliest days of the colony. Renowned Nanticoke historic interpreter Daniel Firehawk Abbott engages visitors of all ages with stories of Indigenous culture and knowledge and how Powhatan culture was impacted by the arrival of the English.

Jamestown Rediscovery is only able to offer a wide array of programs for families and school groups through the support of generous donors like the Jamestowne Society and others. To learn more about family-friendly programs at Jamestown, visit historicjamestowne.org.

Images [available here](#). All photos courtesy Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation.

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About Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation

The Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation preserves and shares the original site of James Fort and Jamestown, established in 1607. The Foundation is dedicated to uncovering, preserving, and sharing Jamestown’s diverse history, and highlighting its major contribution to the foundations of modern American society. Jamestown Rediscovery Foundation is a private 501(c)(3) nonprofit and jointly administers Historic Jamestowne alongside the National Park Service. Admission includes the James Fort site, New Town, and the Voorhees Archaearium Archaeological Museum, as well as walking tours, living history, and public programs. For more information about visiting Jamestown, please visit www.historicjamestowne.org or call (757) 856-1250.