

# Colonial Williamsburg

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
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## Colonial Williamsburg convenes military music groups from across the country for Drummer's Call, May 19-20



Image courtesy of The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation  
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WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (May 3, 2022) – Colonial Williamsburg's Fifes & Drums, along with fife and drum units from across the United States, will celebrate the tradition of military music during [Drummer's Call](#), May 19-20.

A mainstay of the Colonial Williamsburg's Fifes & Drums program for nearly 20 years, Drummer's Call highlights the nation's military and musical heritage by bringing together groups performing various periods of music including the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, and the Civil War. Experience this unique musical genre up close and in person and celebrate the musicians who keep the tradition alive today. All Drummer's Call events are free and open to the public.

The weekend begins with “[Successful Campaign](#),” an evening of traditional, patriotic military music performed by the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums Senior Corps and the Grand Republic Fife and Drum Corps, an 1890s-era corps based in Framingham, MA, at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, May 19, at the Charlton Stage.

On Saturday, May 20, beginning at 12:30 p.m. Colonial Williamsburg’s Fifes & Drums will lead visiting corps from around the country in a [Grand March and Review](#) from the Capitol down Duke of Gloucester Street to Market Square. The musicians will congregate behind the Courthouse where each group will perform.

Participating groups include:

- [Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums Jr. Corps](#)
- [Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums Sr. Corps](#)
- [Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums Alumni](#)
- [Field Musick Virginia](#)
- [Grand Republic Fife and Drum Corps](#)
- [Mountain Fifes and Drums Junior and Senior Corps](#)
- [The Old Guard \(US Army 3rd Infantry Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps\)](#)
- [William Diamond Jr. Fife and Drum Corps](#)
- [The Fifes and Drums of York Town](#)

Drummer’s Call concludes with the [Williamsburg Military Tattoo](#), an evening march down Duke of Gloucester Street at 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, May 20, featuring the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums joined by the visiting units.

### **Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums**

Founded in 1958, the Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums perform in the Historic Area from mid-February through December and during special programs observing major holidays. The Colonial Williamsburg Fifes & Drums are comprised of youth from the local community aged 10–18. While enrollment for the fall 2023 recruit class is now closed, students who will be in 4th grade during the 2023-2024 academic year [can apply for the fall 2024 recruit class](#) if they reside in James City or York counties or the City of Williamsburg.

### **History of Fifes and Drums**

During the American Revolution, one fifer and one drummer were deployed as a regular component of a company of 75 officers and men. Two boys, generally aged between 10 and 18, marched along with each company. Military field music acted as a melodic communication system that ordered the soldiers’ day and sent vital communications through the chaos of battle. A single fifer and drummer could be heard from nearly a mile off. For more information on the history of fife and drum corps, visit <https://www.colonialwilliamsburg.org/explore/fifes-and-drums>.

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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 600 restored or reconstructed original buildings, renowned museums of decorative arts and folk art, extensive educational outreach programs for students and teachers and 18th-century inspired culinary options from historic taverns situated along historic Duke of Gloucester Street. Colonial Williamsburg Resorts*

*complement the experience, offering guests five unique hotel properties including the iconic Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star, AAA Five Diamond Williamsburg Inn, newly renovated Williamsburg Lodge-Autograph Collection, Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel and Suites, the Griffin Hotel, and authentic 18th-century Colonial Houses. The resort offers a range of events and amenities including four historic taverns, 15 food and beverage outlets providing exquisite culinary experiences from casual to elegant dining, the Golden Horseshoe Golf Club featuring 36 holes designed by Robert Trent Jones Sr. and his son Rees Jones, a world-class full-service spa and fitness center, pools, meeting and flexible event spaces, and scenic gardens providing the perfect venue for weddings and special events. Merchants Square, built alongside the Historic Area in 1935 as one of the first planned shopping districts in the United States, features more than 40 specialty boutiques with products ranging from apparel to fine jewelry, art, specialty foods and gifts. Philanthropic support and revenue from admissions, products and hospitality operations sustain Colonial Williamsburg's educational programs and preservation initiatives.*

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