

COUNTY OF YORK

MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 1, 2025
TO: York County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Mark L. Bellamy, Jr., County Administrator
SUBJECT: *The American Revolution* Premiere



On Saturday, September 20, the National Park Service will host an exclusive sneak peek screening of *The American Revolution*, the latest documentary by award-winning filmmaker Ken Burns on the Yorktown Battlefield. This special premiere will feature never-before-seen excerpts highlighting the pivotal moments of the Siege of Yorktown, brought to life through Burns' signature storytelling and powerful visuals, set on the very grounds where history was made. This event aligns with broader VA250 efforts to commemorate the 250th Anniversary of the American Revolution.

Prior to the screening, guests can enjoy educational and family-friendly activities, as well as live music, creating a festive and educational atmosphere for all ages. This event is free and open to the public, and attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs for seating.

This memorable evening is made possible through the collaborative efforts of WHRO Public Media, Virginia American Revolution 250 Commission (VA250), York County, the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation, and Colonial National Historical Park.

Preliminary event planning is ongoing and will involve several logistical components, including traffic and parking operations. A key part of this will be providing sufficient infrastructure to accommodate parking for potentially thousands of attendees. The estimated cost for parking and traffic control equipment and services is approximately \$50,000. This estimate includes, but is not limited to, expenses for signage, lighting, traffic control equipment, and staffing.

We will continue to update the Board as planning progresses and more event details are finalized.

Meis/3374

Attachment:

- Colonial National Historical Park News Release – July 1, 2025



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Colonial National Historical Park
P.O. Box 210
Yorktown, VA 23690

757 898-2410 phone
www.nps.gov/colo

Colonial National Historical Park News Release

For Immediate Release: July 1, 2025

Contact: Sandra Tennyson, sandra_tennyson@nps.gov, 757-897-4598

[We The People Event - Colonial National Historical Park \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#)

Exclusive Sneak Peek Screening of Ken Burns' *The American Revolution* at Yorktown Battlefield

YORKTOWN, Va. — Colonial National Historical Park, in partnership with WHRO Public Media, York County Economic & Tourism Development, and the VA250 Commission, invites the public to a special screening of Ken Burns' highly anticipated documentary, *The American Revolution*, set against the historic backdrop of the Yorktown Battlefield.

Mark your calendars for Saturday, September 20, for this free event titled **We the People: a Yorktown Battlefield Event**. This unique experience will feature never-before-seen excerpts from the soon-to-be released film. These excerpts were created specifically for this premiere, offering an exclusive look at the pivotal moments of the Siege of Yorktown, a defining moment in America's fight for independence.

Prior to the film screening, attendees are invited to take part in the **Revolutionary Festival**, where they can enjoy a variety of engaging activities and live music, creating a fun and festive atmosphere for all ages.

"We are so excited to be hosting this once-in-a-lifetime event to experience an unforgettable evening of history and storytelling- on the exact place where it happened," said Superintendent Jerri Marr. "We truly appreciate our community partners for helping us bring this event to life and can't wait to see you there!"

Registration is required for this free event. For more information about the event and registration details, please visit our website: [We The People: A Yorktown Battlefield Event](#).

Join us for an inspiring evening under the stars as we celebrate our nation's history!

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www.nps.gov

About Colonial National Historical Park Established in 1930, Colonial National Historical Park preserves and interprets sites and stories fundamental to the founding of the United States and the roots of its national identity. The park encompasses **Jamestown Island**, site of the first permanent English settlement in North America, and **Yorktown Battlefield**, where American forces and their allies achieved victory in the last major battle of the Revolutionary War. These significant landmarks are linked by the 23-mile **Colonial Parkway**, designated as an “All-American Road” for its scenic and historical value. Learn more at www.nps.gov/colo.

About the National Park Service. More than 20,000 National Park Service employees care for America’s 430+ national parks and work with communities across the nation to help preserve local history and create close-to-home recreational opportunities. Learn more at www.nps.gov, and on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [X \(formerly Twitter\)](#) and [YouTube](#).

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