

# Jamestown Rediscovery

HISTORIC JAMESTOWNE

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## “Campers Really Dig Jamestown’s Past”

JAMESTOWN, Va. (August 2, 2022) –

This summer, Jamestown Rediscovery at Historic Jamestowne welcomed 17 campers in two groups to our archaeology Kids Camp. Campers ages 8 to 12 are working on a real archaeological dig alongside the Jamestown Rediscovery field team.

Over the course of the week-long camps, campers are learning about excavation methods, digital technology like Ground Penetrating Radar and GIS mapping, artifact identification, and historic trades. In their excavations in the North Field site, they have uncovered a variety of artifacts from different time periods, including fragments of glass wine bottles, plenty of iron nails, and European & Virginia Indian ceramics. Campers also uncovered an as-yet-unidentified iron object which may be associated with the Civil War and Fort Pocahontas. Iron is very fragile because of the degradation that happens underground, so the campers got to witness Senior Conservator Dan Gamble meticulously remove the object and whisk it off to the conservation lab, where it can be cleaned and X-rayed in the future. This was a unique opportunity to witness the science of archaeology in action.

Summer camp at Jamestown is one of the only sites where young learners can experience archaeology hands-on through participation in real excavations that help foster an interest in the history of Jamestown and early Virginia.

“We’re so glad to be hosting campers again this year,” said Natalie Reid, Staff Archaeologist & Ed Shed Manager. “Our summer camp is a unique experience where campers are working alongside field archaeologists on active projects to help us uncover the history of James Fort. The history they’re uncovering in the ground cements the history they’re learning in the classroom. It’s also really fun to see their excitement when they find their first artifact or watch them crack up calling corroded iron nails ‘cheetos,’ because they really look like Cheetos!”

“I was so impressed by the hands-on experience Jamestown Rediscovery put together for the kids. My child had something exciting to share at the end of every day and loved getting to really ‘do’ archaeology,” said Susannah Donahue, a parent of a camper. “It was the kind of high-quality, engaging opportunity that we look for in a summer camp.”

This week, Jamestown Rediscovery will host the second round of campers, who will be excavating in the North Field. JRF hopes to continue offering unique camp experiences each year. Announcements about 2023 programs will be available in early 2023. To learn more or sign-up for summer camp announcements, visit [HistoricJamestowne.org](https://www.historicjamestowne.org).

Photos with captions and crediting information can be found [here](#).

*About Historic Jamestowne/Jamestown Rediscovery*

*Historic Jamestowne (HJ) preserves the original site of the first permanent English settlement in America and is jointly administered by Jamestown Rediscovery and the National Park Service. Entrance tickets are available at the HJ Visitor Center from 9:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m., and the grounds remain open until dusk. General admission is \$25.00 per adult (which includes both Historic Jamestowne and Yorktown Battlefield for seven consecutive days). Children 15 & under are free. National Park Passes and Preservation Virginia Memberships are accepted; however a \$10 per person fee may apply. Entrance tickets and passes include admission to the archaeological site, the Memorial Church, the Voorhees Archaearium Archaeological Museum, as well as scheduled daily walking tours and public programs. For opening hours of the Dale House Café and information about special events, please visit [www.historicjamestowne.org](http://www.historicjamestowne.org) or call (757) 856-1250.*