

News Release**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****Date: March 10, 2026****Contact:** Taylor Henderson, 757/728-5316taylor.henderson@hampton.gov

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mmcgrann@hampton.gov**Hampton History Museum Hosts Free Day with Living History,
Gallery Talks, Hands-on Activities, Guest Lectures and MORE***Happening Saturday, March 14, 2026*

Hampton, VA – Travel through time, and soar to the moon and back with living history, gallery demonstrations, hands-on activities, crafts, games, and more at the Hampton History Museum’s free “Exploration Day: From the Sea to the Stars” event on Saturday, March 14, from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Throughout the museum’s galleries, activities explore the days of the Kikotan people before the arrival of the English, to Hampton’s pioneering history in aviation and space exploration. Historians and curators will answer questions and share their knowledge about items on display.

Event Schedule & Activities:

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. – Historical Interpreters bring to life celebrated heroes to tell their stories. Enslaved Harbor Pilot Cesar Tarrant (portrayed by Antonio Pitts), who served in the Virginia Navy, shares his experiences of the Revolutionary War. Hampton’s own “Human Computer” Mary W. Jackson (portrayed by Aviance Jenkins), one of NASA’s “Hidden Figures” made famous in the best-selling book and hit film, recounts her role in the race for space.

11 a.m. – “Behind-the-Scenes Museum Panel” brings together three generations of Hampton History Museum curatorial leadership: Mike Cobb, Allen Hoilman, Mariah Roederer and Will Pell to offer a glimpse into the curatorial process, interpretive goals and the evolving responsibilities of Museum stewardship.

12 p.m. – “Celestial Navigation Demonstration” museum educator Kris Peters leads an interactive activity demonstrating how mariners traverse the seas guided by the stars using an astrolabe. Participants can make their own astrolabe to take home so that they can always get your bearings.

1 p.m. – “Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow” Meet former NASA Administrator Clayton Turner as he shares Hampton’s NASA history and stories about the NASA Langley Space Center. He will lead a discussion of Hampton’s impact on humanities reach to new

frontiers and opportunities.

2 pm. –“From Work to Play: A History of Sail & Power in Hampton” focuses on Hampton's maritime history to explore how the boating community has shaped the city's culture, businesses and recreation. Hampton Yacht Club Waterfront Director, Maxwell Plarr, will talk about the roots of the sport of sailing and powerboating and the influence of politics, wars, and a desire to spend leisure time on the water.

More throughout the day, hands-on activities include beading inspired by Native artistry in the Kecoughtan Gallery; a “Moon Math” interactive experience to learn about the work of NASA's legendary mathematicians of “Hidden Figures” fame, and attendees can try their hand at unlocking a secret message using binary code in the 20th Century Gallery.

Even a landlubber can win the “Rain Gutter Regatta” by racing a miniature sailboat guests can make with materials supplied. Attendees can create an “Ocean in a Bottle” using various oils and food coloring to learn about waves and currents, and leave with a kinetic souvenir to take home.

This event will be the public's first opportunity to see a French Encampment scene added to the special “Revolutionary Hampton: Journeys of Liberty” exhibit. Here, one can explore and learn about French military life and activities in Hampton during the war for independence. Visitors are encouraged to “Discover their Revolutionary Self” with an interactive game to find out which of the diverse people profiled in “Revolutionary Hampton” most closely matches their goals for joining the fight for liberty.

Special activities are from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; free museum admission is all day, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

The Hampton History Museum is located at 120 Old Hampton Lane in Downtown Hampton. There is free parking in the garage across the street from the museum. For more information call 757-727-1102 or visit www.hamptonhistorymuseum.org.

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Images attached:

- Hampton History Museum Exploration Day1
- Hampton History Museum Exploration Day2
- Hampton History Museum One Sailboat
- Mary W. Jackson
- NASA Administrator Clayton Turner
- Hampton Yacht Club Waterfront Director, Maxwell Plarr

Partially bordered by the Hampton Roads harbor and Chesapeake Bay, Hampton, with the 344,000 sq. ft. Hampton Roads Convention Center and the award-winning Hampton Coliseum, is located in the center of Coastal Virginia and the Hampton Roads metropolitan area. Hampton is the site of America's first continuous English-speaking

settlement, the site of the first arrival of Africans in English North America, and is home to such visitor attractions as the Virginia Air & Space Science Center, Fort Monroe National Monument, Hampton History Museum, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.