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Hampton Blackbeard Pirate Festival Returns to Downtown Hampton

June 3-5

Hampton, VA- Join the fun of Pirate History and Lore in Hampton, at The 21st Anniversary of the award-winning Hampton Blackbeard Pirate Festival. Join Blackbeard and more than 200 other authentically costumed pirate re-enactors, June 3-5 in Downtown Hampton. The Festival is free and open to the public. Food vendors will have on sale a variety of seafood and international dishes and festival grub like turkey legs, burgers, skewers, corn dogs, funnel cakes, shaved ice, kettle corn, and more.

During the late 1600s and early 1700s, pirates roamed the coastal waters of Virginia and North Carolina in search of ships laden with tobacco and other goods. The marauders terrorized waterways and unsuspecting cargo ships, capturing goods, sailors and ships. Captain Edward Teach, better known as Blackbeard the Pirate, was the most daunting of these menacing outlaws. Blackbeard was finally captured and beheaded in a violent sea battle in Ocracoke, North Carolina in 1718. His severed head was impaled upon a pole near the mouth of Hampton Creek, now known as Blackbeard's Point, to serve as an unyielding reminder that piracy would not be tolerated in Colonial Virginia.

The festival events include:

Pirate's Parlay

Friday, June 3, 6 p.m. — 8 p.m.

Mill Point Park, 100 Eaton St, Hampton, VA

Start hobnobbing with the Pirates on Friday night, June 3 at The Pirate's Parlay in the encampment at Mill Point Park on Eaton Street from 6 p.m. — 8 p.m. in Downtown Hampton. Wear your finest piratical attire for this free evening of dancing outdoors to the sounds of Clan MacCool, and hear tales of bounty hunting and folklore as you sit alongside pirates outside their temporary, humble camping quarters.

Blackbeard's Pirate Encampment

Saturday, June 4, 10 a.m. — 10 p.m.

Sunday, June 5, 12 noon — 6 p.m.

Mill Point Park, 100 Eaton St, Hampton, VA and Downtown Hampton Waterfront

On Saturday, June 4 and Sunday, June 5 continue your Pirate experience on the Downtown Hampton Waterfront. Explore Blackbeard's Pirate Encampment at Mill Point Park with living history interpreters teaching the skills of the sailor of the 1700s. Guests have the opportunity to learn how to use a cutlass, load a cannon, or sing a sea chantey at the Bunch of Grapes Tavern Stage. On Saturday, June 4 Blackbeard's Block Party, across from Mill Point Park, with musical guest The Tiki Bar Band playing from 7 p.m. — 10:30 p.m. Also on June 4, there will be the **Blackbeard Pirate Festival fireworks display at 9 p.m.** over the Hampton River.

Pirate entertainment this year includes:

- The Rusty Cutlass
- The Brigands
- Chaste Treasure
- Clan MacCool Band
- Field Musick Virginia Fife and Drum Corps
- Fins and Seashells

- The Natterjacks
- The Press Gang
- Captain Slackbeard & Cutthroatcrew
- Captain Jack Sparrow and Elizabeth Swann
- Circus Siren Entertainment Mermaids

Blackbeard Festival Pirate Lectures

Saturday, June 4, 2 p.m. — 4 p.m.

St. John's Church, 100 W. Queens Way, Hampton, VA

On June 4 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., scholars Dr. Jamie Goodall, author of "Pirates of the Chesapeake Bay: From the Colonial Era to the Oyster Wars" and Jeremy Moss, author of "The Life and Tryals of the Gentleman Pirate." Major Stede Bonnet, will offer free lectures at St. John's Church, sponsored by the Hampton History Museum. The Museum will also hold its annual Steam Punk Show on June 4 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and on June 5 from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

For information on dock space during the Blackbeard Festival please, contact marinas located in the Downtown Hampton area, including the Hampton Public Piers (757/727-1276), Customs House Marina (757/636-7772), Bluewater Marina (757/723-6774), and Sunset Boating Center (757/722-3325).

For more information on the Festival or other Hampton events and programs, contact the Hampton Visitor Center at (757) 727-1102, or the Hampton 311 Citizen Contact Center at (757) 727-8311 or visit blackbeardfestival.com.

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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.