

**News Release
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**Hampton Carousel Offers Free Rides and Commemorative Coins in
Honor of National Carousel Day July 25**

Hampton, VA - In celebration of National Carousel Day the Hampton History Museum will offer free rides on the historic Hampton Carousel, and complimentary Hampton Carousel 100th Anniversary commemorative coins, on Sunday, July 25, 11:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

While supplies last, each guest will receive a colorful commemorative coin that was specially minted to celebrate the carousel's 100th Anniversary in 2020. The painted metal coins feature a trio of carousel horses on one side, and the seal of the City of Hampton on the reverse. The coins are presented courtesy of the Hampton Convention & Visitor Bureau.

Built in 1920, the carousel is completely restored to its original beauty and housed in its own weather-protected pavilion at Carousel Park on the city's downtown waterfront. It is one of only 170 antique wooden merry-go-rounds still existing in the U.S. Hand crafted by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company for the Buckroe Beach Amusement Park, Hampton's Carousel is a whirling tribute to the skill of its creators.

After untold numbers of young and old enjoyed the carousel over its 65-year tenure, it was put in storage with the closure of Buckroe Beach Amusement Park in the mid-1980s. It was moved and restored at its current location in Carousel Park on Settlers Landing Road in Downtown Hampton in 1991. It still boasts its original mirrors and oil paintings, as well as 48 intricately decorated horses. Rising and falling to the strains of the original band organ, many of these carousel horses are so finely carved that the veins in their necks and legs are visible. Special hours are available for groups or special occasions.

The Hampton Carousel is located at 602 Settlers Landing Rd. For more information, call the Hampton Visitor Center at 757-727-1102 or visit HamptonHistoryMuseum.org.

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Images:

Carousel at Buckroe Beach Amusement Park, undated, Hampton History Museum

Contemporary images of the carousel courtesy of the Hampton Convention and Visitors Bureau

Hampton Carousel coin image, Hampton History Museum

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, harbor tours and cruises, Hampton University Museum, The American Theatre, among others.