

Fall/Winter 2017 Virginia Homeschool Days*

Compiled by Heather Smithson, Fredericksburg



Photo by Mary Sandkam

September 7 HENRICUS HISTORICAL PARK

Chester—Central Region

henricus.org/event/home-school-day-whos-in-charge-here-government-in-the-colonies/?instance_id=264

Program: Who's in Charge Here?

Government in the Colonies, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.—Experience a homeschool education program designed to help meet curriculum goals in the fun, interactive environment of a living history museum. Students will work in the re-created colonial town as the colonists set up their militia, economy, and way of life. Students will also learn how the native inhabitants, the Powhatan Indians, organized their successful and widespread society. Students will be divided by age level to work on age-appropriate activities and curriculum. Ages 4–14. Registration is required by September 4th; call 804-318-8797. Admission: \$14 student, \$8 for accompanying adult. Discount for patrons.

September 8 FRONTIER CULTURE MUSEUM

Staunton—Shenandoah Valley

frontiermuseum.org/education/home-school

The Frontier Culture Museum offers homeschool families the opportunity to learn history in the way that homeschoolers learn best: through active involvement in the day-to-day activities of the past. Students are encouraged to participate in cooking, gardening, wool and flax processing, and animal care. Special events can also be found throughout the year just for homeschool

families. Group visits available for 15 or more participants.

September 9–24
COLONIAL WILLIAMSBURG
Williamsburg—Hampton Roads
colonialwilliamsburg.com/plan/homeschoolers

Ticket prices range from \$8 for single-day youth to \$19 for multi-day adult, with add-on experiences \$5 to \$15. Tickets must be purchased in advance online.

September 9–24
JAMESTOWN SETTLEMENT AND AMERICAN REVOLUTION MUSEUM AT YORKTOWN

Jamestown and Yorktown—Hampton Roads

historyisfun.org/learn/homeschool-scouts/homeschool-program

Includes age-appropriate hands-on programs for students and family, guided tours at both museums, as well as admission to Jamestown Settlement and the American Revolution Museum at Yorktown throughout the program dates. Also offers homeschool daily rate and group programs year-round.

September 13

MAYMONT
Richmond—Central Region

maymont.org/experiences/education/homeschool

Program: Creature Feature, 10–10:45 a.m., Nature Center and Grounds—Learn how animals tough it out in the wild using claws, jaws, shells, senses, and more to protect themselves. Participants will venture outside to complete a senses and defenses scavenger hunt. Ages 4–7; adult must accompany child. \$9 per child (includes Nature Center admission). Register online at maymont.org by September 12. For information, call 804-358-7168.

Program: Pollinators, 11 a.m.–12 p.m., Nature Center and Grounds—Explore the world of pollinators up close in this interactive program. Learn about plant and animal adaptations, symbiotic

relationships, environmental threats, and ways you can help. Participants will venture outside in search of wild pollinators in their natural habitat. Ages 7 and older; adult must accompany child. \$9 per child (includes Nature Center admission). Register online at maymont.org by September 12. For information, call 804-358-7168.

Program: One House, Two Worlds, 11 a.m.–12 p.m., Maymont Mansion—Maymont's unique history provides a rich resource that awakens students to ideas and events of the past and illustrates how the past affects their lives today. Students examine a complex and often neglected period of history as they explore the perspectives of employer and employee, served and server, represented within Maymont Mansion. Ages 8 and older, \$6 per person. Register online at maymont.org by September 12. For information, call 804-358-7166, ext. 329.

September 14

SULLY HISTORIC SITE
Chantilly—Northern Virginia

fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site
10 a.m.—Enrich your homeschool group's understanding of Fairfax County circa 1800. Register online. Sully will also work with groups of at least 30 children to schedule their own Homeschool Day. Questions? Call Tammy Higgs, Historian, at 703-437-1794.

September 20

MAYMONT
Richmond—Central Region

maymont.org/experiences/education/homeschool

Program: Go Outdoors and Explore, 10–11a.m., Nature Center and Grounds—Explore the outdoors through activities that teach nature observation skills. Learn to not only observe nature but to record your observations and participate in citizen science programs. Ages 8 and older; adult must accompany child. \$9 per child (includes Nature Center admission)

continued on next page

**This list includes events scheduled as of June 28, 2017.*

sion). Register online at maymont.org by September 19. For information, call 804-358-7168.

Program: Wetland Exploration, 11 a.m.–12 p.m., Nature Center and Grounds—Dive in and learn about small creatures that live in the stream that runs through Maymont's grounds and exhibits. Through field investigations, students will gain a greater understanding of one of our most precious resources, wetlands. Most of this program will occur outside; please dress appropriately for the weather. Ages 5 and older; adult must accompany child. \$9 per child (includes Nature Center admission). Register online at maymont.org by September 19. For information, call 804-358-7168.



Photo by Rebecca Esch

September 27
THOMAS JEFFERSON'S MONTICELLO
Charlottesville—Central Region
monticello.org/site/visit/events/home-educators-day

At this World Heritage site, students can explore a variety of Jeffersonian topics at indoor and outdoor hands-on activity stations, take a special guided tour of Monticello, roll hoops and play games on the West Lawn, hike the trails, and more. Adults \$20 (\$15 in advance), students \$6, children 4 and under are free.

September 27
MAYMONT
Richmond—Central Region
maymont.org/experiences/education/homeschool

Program: Bird Encounter with Raptor Valley Tour, 11:15 a.m.–12 p.m., Nature Center and Grounds—Can owls spin their heads all the way around? What adaptations help birds survive in the wild? Soar into the world of birds with an “encounter” that includes fun facts and a close-up glimpse of one of Maymont's raptors. Then learn about how and what

owls eat by dissecting an owl pellet. Ages 4 and older; adult must accompany child. \$9 per child. Register online at maymont.org by September 26. For information, call 804-358-7168.

September 29
VIRGINIA LIVING MUSEUM
Newport News—Hampton Roads
thevlm.org

Living exhibits depict Virginia's natural heritage from the mountains to the sea. Visitors experience animals native to Virginia in habitats, discovery centers, and interactive exhibits. Explore the new outdoor Dinosaur Discovery Trail. Nature Connects: Art with LEGO Bricks features giant nature-themed LEGO brick sculptures. Registration available online soon.

September 29
STATE FAIR OF VIRGINIA
Meadow Event Park, Doswell—Central Region

Admission includes all exhibits but does not include Midway rides. Students (age 5 through high school): \$6.15 each; adults: \$13.36 each; children aged 4 and under are admitted free. Ride wristband: \$16.45 each if purchased in advance. Educational Expo and Teacher Guides available here: statefairva.org/p/other/278

September 29
MAYMONT
Richmond—Central Region
maymont.org/experiences/education/homeschool

Program: Biomimicry, 10–11a.m., Nature Center—Nature inspires us to use imagination and ingenuity to solve human challenges with amazing inventions and creative processes. Come explore some of those inventions and solve a challenge taking inspiration from nature. Ages 11 and older; adult must accompany child. \$9 per child (includes materials). Register online at maymont.org by September 28. For information, call 804-358-7168.

October 5–6
RED HILL (PATRICK HENRY'S HOME)
Brookneal—Southern Virginia
redhill.org/about/home/current-events
Living History Days for Homeschool Students—Programs rotate among spinning and weaving, basket making,

blacksmithing, rope making, tin punching, pottery, and Colonial medicine. Cost for this event: \$5 per child ages 9 & up; \$3 per child ages 4–8; and ages 0–3 are admitted for free. \$6 per adult. Advance registration required for this event.

October 6
VIRGINIA AQUARIUM & MARINE SCIENCE CENTER

Virginia Beach—Hampton Roads
Homeschool Day details available soon at virginiaaquarium.com/learn/homeschool-opportunities.

October 17
VIRGINIA SAFARI PARK
Rockbridge County—Shenandoah Valley
virginiasafaripark.com/VisitorInfo/School-andCampGroups.aspx

Drive-through safari with free-roaming elk, gazelle, and zebra; exotic flora; and a petting zoo. Special homeschool rate: \$7 per child/student, \$15 per parent.

October 30–November 3
LURAY CAVERNS
Shenandoah Valley
luraycaverns.com/events

Special rates all week. Learn the chemistry, geology, and history behind this Virginia landmark. Reservations are required: call 888-443-6551 or 540-743-6551 and choose option 4.

November 16
SULLY HISTORIC SITE
Chantilly—Northern Virginia
fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/sully-historic-site

10 a.m.—Enrich your homeschool group's understanding of Fairfax County circa 1800. Register online. Sully will also work with groups with at least 30 children to schedule their own Homeschool Day. Questions? Call Tammy Higgs, Historian, at 703-437-1794.

Here are some other locations that regularly host Homeschool Days or other educational events and activities. Be sure to check for homeschooling discounts!

Agecroft Hall

Children's Museum of Virginia

George Washington's Ferry Farm

George Washington's Mount Vernon

American Civil War Museum
(Includes Historic Tredegar, and the White House & Museum of the Confederacy in Richmond, and the American Civil War Museum—Appomattox)

Hugh Mercer Apothecary Shop

James Madison's Montpelier

James Monroe's Highland

Historic Kenmore Plantation

Kluge-Ruhe Aboriginal Art

Collection of the University of Virginia

Local counties' parks & recreation departments

Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden

National D-Day Memorial

Nauticus and the Battleship Wisconsin

Norfolk Botanical Garden

Oatlands Historic House and Gardens

Pamplin Historical Park

Science Museum of Virginia

The Valentine

Virginia Air & Space Center

Virginia Living Museum

Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

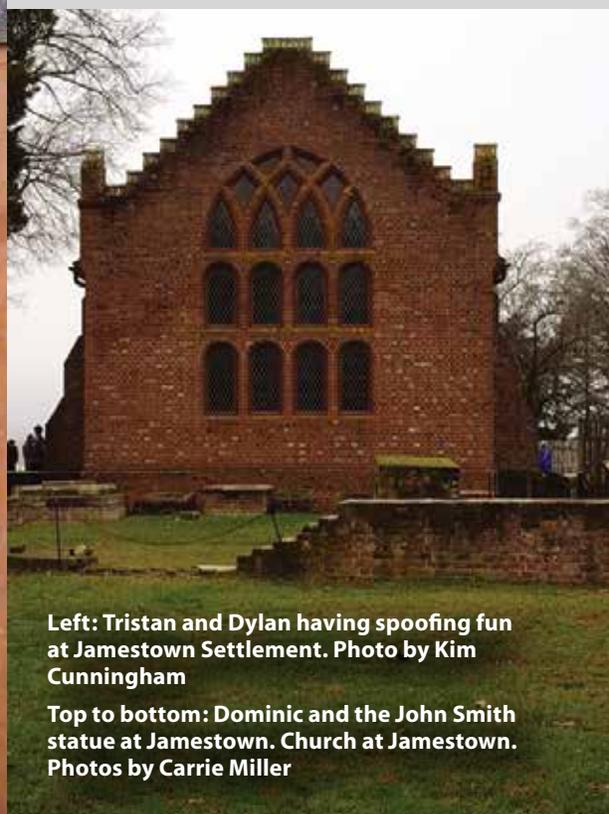
Virginia Museum of Natural History

Virginia State Parks

Helpful Field Trip Website: virginiafieldtrips.com/index.php?id=145



When you go to a homeschool day or on a field trip, please share on Instagram and tag your posts #vahomeschoolfieldtrip. We love to see what our members are learning and doing! Tagged photos may also be shared on our social media sites or in a future issue of Voice.



Left: Tristan and Dylan having spoofing fun at Jamestown Settlement. Photo by Kim Cunningham

Top to bottom: Dominic and the John Smith statue at Jamestown. Church at Jamestown. Photos by Carrie Miller

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Editor's Note: Stephanie Gillespie originally compiled a list of Homeschool Days in the fall of 2016 and posted it online at the Virginia Homeschooling Facebook group. With her permission, the list has been updated for 2017.