

# Navigating Lafayette 2024: Return to Portsmouth

## Itinerary for Families with Children

**Creative Opportunities:** Throughout October, the Recreation Centers and Libraries will host creative sessions where children express their vision of “A Perfect America!” through fashion design, poetry, essay composition, and art. With their permission, the children’s work will be displayed at local libraries until Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, when it will be displayed at the Main and Churchland libraries during It’s Revolutionary! (see event below).

**Enrichment Opportunities:** The Hill House Museum will be offering a special showing of the home on Wednesdays and Saturdays in October from 12-3. Children will be wide-eyed as they experience what a home would have looked like in 1824, complete with unique decorations and the tea set on which Lafayette was served during his visit to Portsmouth! Tours are \$5 per person, and include two presentations that might also interest children: On Saturday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, Tidewater Winds Ensemble will play Lafayette-themed music in the garden, with commentary by interpreters portraying “The Men of the House”. Then, on Saturday, Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, Julie Dunn will share her discoveries about the Hill Family connection to Lafayette’s visit, aided by interpreters portraying “The Women of the House”.

**It’s Revolutionary! Library Event:** Bring the entire family to this Lafayette-Inspired History Extravaganza at the Main Library! Revolutionary War Heroes and their wives will lead children in games, scavenger hunts, and more! Out front, walk thru Youth Virginia Regiment’s Revolutionary War Encampment and learn about what life was like as a soldier or camp follower. Listen to members of the Ethiopian Regiment and 1st Rhode Island explain which side they chose and why. Inside, Frederick Douglass will speak on Lafayette and Abolition, James Fayette will relate his relationship with the General as his spy and his friend, and Lafayette’s daughter, Virginie will share memories of her parents. This event is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

## LIGHT THE ELIZABETH OCTOBER 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

When Lafayette arrived in Norfolk on October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1824, Portsmouth lit 42 bonfires to welcome him. Two hundred years later to the day, Portsmouth will again welcome Lafayette, this time, with  
**42 FOUNTAINS OF LIGHT!**

## LAFAYETTE IN PORTSMOUTH OCTOBER 25<sup>th</sup>

### Portsmouth City Park

Battle of Scotts Creek Reenactment by Youth Virginia Regiment

**10 a.m. Lafayette in Attendance**

### North Street Landing

Children Greet Lafayette and Virginie Upon Arrival by Boat  
**2 p.m. Lafayette leads children two blocks to Lafayette Park**

### Marquis de La Fayette Park

15-minute Special Program for Children  
**2:15-2:30 approximately**

### Procession to the Civic Arch

Lafayette will leave the park by carriage and proceed down North St. There will be a 20-minute stop at Emanuel AME Church, a 5-minute stop at Trinity Episcopal Church, a brief moment in front of Towne Bank and a brief moment to admire the mural on Crawford St.. Then the carriage will proceed to the Civic Arch at High St. Landing for a 20-minute ceremony. **NOTE:** Based on the ages of your children, you may choose to leave at this point, follow the entire procession on the sidewalk, or wait for Lafayette at any point on his route.

# Additional Opportunities for High Schoolers

## Lectures:

- Saturday, Oct. 2 at 2 p.m. American Friends of Lafayette's Frank Womble will speak on 1824/25 Visits to Hampton Roads and Our Region's Upcoming 2024/25 Lafayette Celebrations.
- Saturday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. Dr. Ingo Heidbrink will speak on The Maritime Dimension of Lafayette's Return.
- Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. John V. Quarstein will speak on Lafayette's Victory in the Virginia Battle of the Capes.

## Interpretive Presentations:

- **It's Revolutionary!** at the Main Library Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> will feature three interpretive presentations: 12:30 p.m. Frederick Douglass will speak on Lafayette and Abolition; 10:30 p.m. James Fayette will relate his relationship with the General as his spy and his friend; and 11:30 Lafayette's daughter, Virginie Lafayette will share memories of her parents.
- During the procession on Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, Lafayette's carriage will stop at Historic Emanuel AME Church where he will be greeted by Frederick Douglass. Inside the church, a 20-minute program will include a brief history of Emanuel's importance to the Underground Railroad and Civil Rights Movement, an introduction of Lafayette by Frederick Douglass, and a brief address by Lafayette himself.

## Centennial Monument Rededication Ceremony:

- On Oct. 25<sup>th</sup>, 100 years ago, Fort Nelson Daughters of the American Revolution dedicated a pyramid monument in remembrance of Lafayette's visit to Portsmouth in 1824. Now, 200 years later, Fort Nelson DAR will rededicate that same monument with a short, but meaningful ceremony. Mayor Glover will be in attendance and is expected to read a proclamation declaring the day, "Lafayette Day" in Portsmouth!

# RECREATION CENTER SCHEDULE

<b>Neighborhood Facility</b>	<b>Sept. 30/4:30-5:30</b>
<b>Cavalier Manor Recreation Center</b>	<b>Oct. 1/4:30-5:30</b>
<b>J.E. Parker Recreation Center</b>	<b>Oct. 2/4:30-5:30</b>
<b>Churchland Primary Afterschool</b>	<b>Oct. 3/4:30-5:30</b>
<b>Churchland Elementary Afterschool</b>	<b>Oct.4/4:30-5:30</b>
<b>Cradock Recreation Center</b>	<b>Oct. 7/4:30-5:30</b>
<b>Cradock Elementary</b>	<b>Oct. 7/4:30-5:30</b>
<b>Senior Station</b>	<b>Oct.8/10:30-11:30</b>
<b>Waterview Elementary Afterschool</b>	<b>Oct. 9/4:30-5:30</b>



## WHAT TO EXPECT

**Project Theme “A Perfect America”:** Children will be introduced to the project theme by an interpreter.

**Areas of interest:** Art, Costuming, Poetry, Essay Contest. Children may choose one or two areas of interest. If two areas are chosen, they will switch part way through. If there is no interest in a particular area, that’s ok!

**Creating Their Projects:** The interpreter and volunteers will then provide materials and get the children started on their projects. They can take the next day to finish them. Art and poetry projects, as well as essay contest entries will be picked up on the third day. Poets and Essay Writers can be filmed on the third day if they like for broadcast on the library television. All projects can be displayed at one of the local libraries, and moved on Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> at the Churchland or Main Library-child’s choice. Fashion designers can participate in our It’s Revolutionary Fashion Show at the Main Library October 19<sup>th</sup>.

**See you there!**