

Colonial Night Watch 2020

The St. Augustine Garrison, The Colonial Quarter and the Castillo de San Marcos present The Colonial Night Watch on Saturday, December 15, 2020. This popular annual event recreates historic Night Watches in garrison towns, where any



citizen still on the streets after the city gates were locked, were required to carry a light so they could be seen and identified by the Night Watch.

This day long event begins at the Castillo de San Marcos with a flag raising ceremony. It then continues in the Colonia

Quarter starting at 10:00 a.m. featuring Spanish, French, British and Native American reenactors portraying events of colonial St. Augustine from 1739 through 1784.

Soldiers will perform military drills and cannon and musket firings on the grounds of the Castillo and the Colonial Quarter. See a working blacksmith, leather worker, pewter molding, loom weaving, medical instrument demonstration and cooking demonstrations in the Colonial Quarter. Visitors will be able to take part in making Native American corn husk dolls and trade bead bracelets and necklaces. At 2:00 p.m. follow us to the Isabella Garden where visitors will experience Hammer Dulcimer music and see reenactors take part in dancing the Virginia Reel.

The Colonial Night Watch culminates in a torch light parade beginning from the Castillo at 7:00 p.m. It will proceed west to the City Gates, south down St. George Street to the Plaza de la Constitution. Parade participants will be greeted with a welcoming speech from Mayor Nancy Shaver at the Government

House. This will be followed by a "Volley of Joy" by soldiers and militia, and singing of Christmas carols to ring in the Holiday Season.

The public is invited to follow the parade to the Plaza and is encouraged to participate in singing Christmas carols. Reenactors will be on hand throughout the day for scheduled flag raising, military weapons demonstrations and other historical presentations on the grounds of the Castillo and in the Colonial Quarter. All of the event activities will be posted at the Colonial Quarter entrances.