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Start the New Year Right with Virginia's First Night Celebrations

-Family fun reigns at alcohol-free celebrations welcoming the New Year-

Media Only

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RICHMOND, Va. – Virginia's First Night Celebrations are geared for families seeking good-old fashion fun. Virginia celebrates this New Year tradition at events in historic downtowns, riverfronts and Colonial central. Travelers visiting Virginia for alcohol-free First Night celebrations will delight in parades of costumed merry-makers, mule-drawn hayrides, "boot-scooting" contests, children's activities, musical entertainment and of course fireworks! Held on December 31st, Virginia's First Night celebrations reflect special traditions, each offering families a diverse and memorable New Year's Eve destined to make wonderful memories. Below are just a few of Virginia's First Night Celebrations with more information available at www.Virginia.org.

Tidewater & Hampton Roads

The 16th annual [First Night of Williamsburg](#) is a family friendly event that offers a snapshot of amusement spanning more than three centuries. Entertainment includes traditional storytellers, magicians, bands, puppeteers, clowns and jugglers. A sizzling fireworks extravaganza provides the evening's grand finale.

Central Virginia

[First Night Virginia in Charlottesville](#) is the second oldest of 130 First Night celebrations worldwide. Activities include more than 75 performances in 24 different venues around the Charlottesville Downtown Mall including a Teen Band Showcase. The event starts in the early afternoon and continues till midnight with fireworks at 9 p.m.

Shenandoah Valley

[Enchanted Eve Roanoke](#) held in near-by Vinton has been recognized as a Top 20 event by the Southeast Tourism Society. Children, teens, adults and the young at heart will find the perfect activity to celebrate the New Year.

Introduced in 1992, [First Night Harrisonburg](#) encourages a safe, alcohol-free way to bring in the New Year. Dance, music and drama bring a hot New Years vibe to Harrisonburg's historic Main Street and will end with a bang at midnight with a fireworks show.



FEATURE

[First Night Winchester](#) rings in the New Year in historic Old Town. Some 50 performers stage 35 shows including rock'n'roll, jazz, country, classical and big band music along with magicians, puppeteers and a world champion trick roper. At midnight Winchester, the “Apple Capitol of the World,” takes a twist on the traditional Times Square ball drop and will instead drop – a giant apple.

Northern Virginia

[First Night Leesburg](#) and [First Night Warrenton](#) are long standing traditions offering a multitude of performers and activities for both children and adults. A Grand Illumination on the courthouse lawn will conclude the evening’s activities as everyone receives a candle and passes the flame to their neighbor while singing Auld Lang Syne.

Across the Potomac River from the nation’s capitol, [First Night Alexandria](#) races into the New Year with 200 runners competing in a one-mile race. The evening’s entertainment includes 55 acts on 36 indoor stages as well as clowns and face painters. At midnight a spectacular firework display will take the “last night” of the year into the first.

The streets of Old Town [Fredericksburg](#) will come to life on New Years Eve with a traditional First Night festival of music and fun. Along sidewalks that George Washington and Abraham Lincoln once walked, modern-day celebrants will enjoy a variety of performing arts programs that will delight all ages.

Virginia invites families to live out their passion for ringing in the New Year in a safe and family-friendly way at a First Night celebration. For more information on Virginia’s First Night celebrations and other New Years Eve activities visit www.Virginia.org or call toll free 1-800-VISITVA for additional travel planning resources.

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