



For Immediate Release  
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## **Get Interactive With** **April Vacation Variety** **Daily Hands-On Fun At Plimoth Plantation!**

**Plymouth, MA – April 10, 2011** – Can't get away for April Vacation? Not to worry, Plimoth Plantation is open for hands-on holiday fun, presenting a wide variety of offerings for families to enjoy. For children looking for a something to do all week long, Plimoth Plantation is offering a Shakespearean Adventure for Kids ages 8-13 years old. This interactive experience is an exciting and unique way to spend the holiday week, exploring history, theater and classic literature. In addition, daily through out the week, Museum teachers and Plimoth Plantation artisans are presenting unique hands-on activities, such as Colonial games, Native jewelry and pottery workshops, a beeswax candle making workshop, cornhusk doll making and much more for families to enjoy. Also, families will delight in daily, interactive guided tours of Plimoth Plantation's living history sites. These walk and talks include an exploration of the land, 17<sup>th</sup>-century breed animals and heirloom, colonial and Native plants of the famed living history museum.

"At Plimoth Plantation, we know education can be entertaining and fun when it is combined with hands-on experience family exploration," said Richard Pickering, Plimoth Plantation, Deputy Executive Director.

A variety of April vacation programs will be offered daily, beginning Saturday April 16, 2011. Vacation Programs are as follows:

**Saturday, April 16, 10 a.m.—noon and 2—4 p.m.**

**Meet the Author! *Felix and His Mayflower II Adventures***

Meet the Captain of *Mayflower II* and children's book author, Peter Arenstam, for a signing of his books, including *Felix and His Mayflower II Adventures* and the Nicholas Series of book.

**Monday, April 18, all day in the Craft Center**

**Porcupine Hair Headdress—Honoring A Native Military Tradition**

Visitors are invited to meet Bob Charlebois at the Crafts Center today. Mr. Charlebois is of the Sokoki Nation, Odanak First Nation, Quebec.



*Wampanoag Home*



*Mayflower II*



*17th Century English Village*

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Smithsonian Institution  
Affiliations Program

Porcupine Hair Headdresses are meant to look like the crest of a Piliated Woodpecker, which is a bird that is an extremely territorial defender of her children. Traditionally, this type of headdress was worn by men from Warrior Societies who had earned the right to wear it, by going into combat for their people. Today, Warrior Societies still exist as honoring societies for our soldiers who are serving in places like Iraq and Afghanistan. Only a select few Native artisans have been trained to create these beautiful headdresses. Mr. Charlebois comes from a long line of artisans who have been creating them for generations. Today, he will be working on a porcupine headdress in the Crafts Center and will answer guest's questions about this very important work.

**Monday, April 18 –Friday, April 22, 9:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.**  
**Something Wicked This Way Comes— A Shakespeare Adventure For Vacationing Kids**

Join Plimoth Plantation for a weeklong exploration of the plays of the immortal Bard. Children will spend the week exploring the world of theater onstage and off through interactive sessions. Sessions will include: acting, mime, history, costuming, and much more. Days will feature rehearsal time, theater games, visits to museum sites, and costuming and staging one of Shakespeare's plays Hamlet. This exciting and dramatic week culminates on Friday with a performance for family and museum guests. This is a must-do for all budding Bards!

This week-long Shakespeare Adventure program is for children aged 8-13. Participants bring their own lunches and snacks. Program fee is \$260 per child; \$200 for Plimoth Plantation Museum Members. For more information or to register, call 508-746-1622 ext.8359 or email [programservices@plimoth.org](mailto:programservices@plimoth.org).

**Daily, Monday, April 18 – Friday, April 22, 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**  
**April Vacation Corn Husk Doll Making**

Come down to the Wampanoag Homesite and have an opportunity to make your own cornhusk doll. This great, hands-on activity will be taught by the Native staff at the Wampanoag Homesite. Guests of all ages are encouraged to join in this fun program. FREE with Museum admission.

**Daily, April 18—22, 10:00 –10:45 a.m. and 2:30—3:30 p.m.**  
**April Vacation Family-Fun Guided Tours**

Meet in Plimoth Plantation's Craft Center for family-fun guided tours that focus not just on the living history of Plimoth Plantation, but also on the history of the land, it's animals and surrounding plants. These guided tours are FREE with museum admission and no reservations are required.

**Native Springtime Plants and Animals Tour**  
**Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10:00—10:45 a.m.**  
**Tuesday, 2:30—3:15 p.m.**

Spring marks the New Year for the Wampanoag, and is a time to celebrate

new life for all living beings. In this 45-minute long, family-friendly guided tour through the Wampanoag Homesite and along the Eel River, you'll learn about edible native foods from the earth and waterways, like skunk cabbage and water lilies! Free with admission, no registration required.

**Weird and Wonderful Colonial Plants Tour**

**Monday and Wednesday 2:30 –3:15 p.m.**

**Thursday, 10:00 –10:45 a.m.**

When the Pilgrims sailed to New England, they packed clothes and tools, but they also packed seeds to plant in their new home. On this kid-friendly guided tour, families will get up close and personal with some of the weird and wonderful plants that the colonists brought along, like Solomon's Seal, Sweet Cicily, Feverfew and Lady's Mantle. Free with admission, no registration required.

**Super Special Animals at Plimoth Plantation Tour**

**Tuesday, 10:00 –10:45 a.m.**

**Thursday & Friday, 2:30 –3:15 p.m.**

Did you know that Plimoth Plantation is home to some incredibly rare and super special animals? On this family-friendly tour, you'll meet lots of animals including a breed of goats that so rare that there are less than 1,000 left in the world! You'll also learn about rare animals in the wild, including an endangered turtle called a cooter that lives only in Plymouth County ponds. Free with admission, no registration required.

**Daily, Monday-Friday, April 18—22 at 11:00 – noon & 1—2 p.m.**

**April Vacation Hands-on Workshops**

Visit Plimoth Plantation this week for hands on workshops offered two times, daily. Pre-registration is suggested for these family-fun learning sessions that include Colonial and Native handcrafts, games and interactive activities for all ages. These workshops are \$7 per person in addition to Museum admission and \$5 per person for Museum Members.

**Colonial Games Workshop, Monday, 11:00 – noon**

What do "nine pins," "hunting a deer in my Lord's park" and "stool ball" all have in common? They were all popular games in 1600s England. Join us for this invigorating program and try your hand at these, and other, popular recreations. In addition, make an authentic ball from wool scraps that you can use to play these games at home. 17<sup>th</sup>-century games—as fun today as they were back then!

\$7 per person, \$5 for museum members. Pre-registration is suggested by contacting: 508-746-1622 ext. 8359, or [programservices@plimoth.org](mailto:programservices@plimoth.org). Limited walk-in registration may be available.

**Wampum Pendant Workshop, Monday & Wednesday from 1-2 p.m.**

For centuries the Wampanoag have been making beautiful and meaningful purple and white beads from the shell of the quahog. These beads, called wampum, were used for jewelry and were sewn into belts that recorded important events. In this hands-on workshop, participants will use traditional techniques of sand and stone grinding (and lots of

elbow grease) to turn a piece of shell into a bead for a pendant. \$7 per person, \$5 for museum members. Pre-registration is suggested by contacting: 508-746-1622 ext. 8359, [programservices@plimoth.org](mailto:programservices@plimoth.org). Limited walk-in registration may be available.

**Wampanoag Pottery Workshop, Tuesday, 11:00 – Noon**

Clay is a material of high value and importance in Wampanoag culture. Wampanoag people have used clay for thousands of years to make clay pots, pipes for smoking tobacco, beads and pendants for jewelry. Come join a member of the museum's Native staff to see examples of traditional clay objects used in Plimoth Plantation's Native program and to make clay beads and/or a small clay bowl of your own. \$7 per person, \$5 for museum members. Pre-registration is suggested by contacting: 508-746-1622 ext. 8359, [programservices@plimoth.org](mailto:programservices@plimoth.org). Limited walk-in registration may be available.

**Cool Colonial Knots Workshop, Tuesday, 1:00 —2:00 p.m.**

Join us for a knotty workshop! Knots were an important tool for sailors, colonists and the Wampanoag. In this hands-on workshop kids will learn to tie some basic knots, then advance to the cool and complicated knot called monkey's fist. Time permitting, we'll make a lanyard to wear and take home. For ages 8 and up. \$7 per person, \$5 for museum members. Pre-registration is suggested by contacting: 508-746-1622 ext. 8359, [programservices@plimoth.org](mailto:programservices@plimoth.org). Limited walk-in registration may be available.

**Defending the Colony Workshop, Wednesday, 11:00 – Noon**

Join the militia! Children will be taught 17<sup>th</sup> century marching, musket and pike drills, by a costumed colonial officer, and learn about the reasons 17<sup>th</sup> century English people believed they needed to defend their colony. The activity will conclude with a combined exercise of pike and musket, and a march half-way to the fort where they'll be reviewed by Captain Standish or his lieutenant, and dismissed with a hearty, "God save King Charles"! \$7 per person, \$5 for museum members. Pre-registration is suggested by contacting: 508-746-1622 ext. 8359 [programservices@plimoth.org](mailto:programservices@plimoth.org). Limited walk-in registration may be available.

**Wampanoag Corn Workshop, Thursday, 11—Noon & Friday, 1—2 p.m.**

Corn was, and still is, a very important plant to the Wampanoag and other Native People. In this hands-on workshop led by Native museum teachers, kids will explore objects made from corn (some of which may be surprising!), hear traditional stories about corn and make a large cornhusk figure to take home. \$7 per person, \$5 for museum members. Pre-registration is suggested by contacting: 508-746-1622 ext. 8359 [programservices@plimoth.org](mailto:programservices@plimoth.org). Limited walk-in registration may be available.

**Beeswax Candle Workshop, Thursday 1:00—2:00 p.m.**

Shed a little light on history, by making your own beeswax candle! Learn how tallow (beef fat) and beeswax candles were made in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and try your hand at dipping candles. Kids will go home with a beeswax candle and a beeswax ornament of their own making!

\$7 per person, \$5 for museum members. Pre-registration is suggested by contacting: 508-746-1622 ext. 8359, [programservices@plimoth.org](mailto:programservices@plimoth.org).

Limited walk-in registration may be available.

**Earth Day Worm Composting Demonstration, Friday, 11:00—Noon**

What's one of the things that worms do best? Poop! And worm poop is one of the best things for garden soil. Clever gardeners have been using worm composting systems to turn piles of kitchen scraps and leaves into beautiful, healthy compost for their gardens. Come meet a worm composter (called a vermicomposter) and hundreds of her favorite wriggling composting critters, called red wigglers! Who knows, worm composting may be for you (though make sure to ask your parents first...).

**Saturday April 23, All Day**

**St. George's Day**

Come celebrate St. George's Day at *Mayflower II*. Make your own colorful "Cross of St. George's" flag, 10-11AM and 3:30-4:30PM. Learn why *Mayflower II* often flies the "Red Cross" flag. You will also have a unique opportunity to hear about St. George and the dragon from Plimoth Plantation's colonial interpreters. Free with admission.

**Saturday, April 23**

**Shakespeare's Birthday**

According to the calendar, today is Shakespeare's birth/death day. Spend a day honoring playwright, poet and all around timeless literary talent, Shakespeare, with food, presentations and fun!

**Saturday, April 23, all day**

**Sonnet Read-a-thon**

Stop by to join in the reading of Shakespeare's Sonnets. Free with Museum admission.

**Saturday, April 23, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Speak Like Shakespeare**

In this introductory dialect class, Museum guests will have the opportunity to learn to speak like Shakespeare. Fun for all ages, this class meets in the classroom of the Henry Hornblower Visitor Center. Free with museum admission.

**Beginning Easter Sunday, April 24, 2011, continuing May through November, every Saturday and Sunday at 10:30 and 2:30, and Thursdays at 2:30 PM**

**Worship In Plymouth Colony—An Interactive Program Highlighting 17th Century Services**

Feel like a part of the congregation, following the drumbeat and gathering in the Fort/Meetinghouse where museum guests are encouraged to join in

a unique living history experience. The museum's colonial interpreters, assisted by contemporary museum guides, will provide colorful and detailed explanation of worship practiced, and required, by the founders of Plymouth Colony. They will also lead psalm-singing from the 1612 Ainsworth Psalter, and offer a short reading from the preferred "Geneva Bible." Questions about the early colonial church are always welcome at these interactive gatherings...and listen closely to the murmurs in town. You might be surprised to hear that not everyone in Plymouth Colony shares the same religious views as the reformers!

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#### **About Plimoth Plantation**

Plimoth Plantation is a 501 (C-3) charitable organization and a bicultural, 17<sup>th</sup>-century living history museum located an hour south of Boston in Plymouth, (Exit 4, Route 3 south) and 20 minutes north of Cape Cod. The museum is open daily from 9 am, to 5 pm, 7 days a week, from March 19, through the end of November 2011. Plimoth Plantation is a private, non-profit educational institution supported by admission fees, contributions, memberships, function sales and revenue from our varied dining programs/services/special events and museum shops. Plimoth Plantation is a Smithsonian Institution Affiliate and receives support from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, The Federal Institute of Museums and Library Services, The Massachusetts Endowment for the Humanities, private foundations, corporations, and local businesses. For more information visit: [www.plimoth.org](http://www.plimoth.org).