

# **COLONIAL KIDS WEEK**

**HELD AT THE  
JOB LANE BARN,  
BEDFORD, MA  
JUNE 26 – 20, 2017**

# COLONIAL KIDS WEEK

## Day 1: Making a Fire, Making Candles



Lee Yates and Sharon McDonald go over the plan for the day, and for the week.

Lesson learned: With no matches or lighters, colonials had to be able to start fires with a spark from a flint – very hard. Alternative – make friends with your neighbors, and borrow fire from them when yours goes out!



Boy Scout leader, Jeff Carter, shows the lighting technique, using steel and flint



Everyone was given a chance to try the technique with steel and flint

# COLONIAL KIDS WEEK

## Day 1: Making a Fire, Making Candles

Lee Yates Recipe for  
Dipping Candles

1 string  
Jar of melted wax

Dip string in hot wax. Withdraw  
string. Let wax set. Repeat

Everyone lined up with their string. One at a time, they go to the table to dip their string into the hot wax, then go back to the end of the line. After several trips, the wax buildup on the string results in a nice candle





# COLONIAL KIDS WEEK

## Day 2: Militia Drill, Yarn Dyeing, Hoop & Stick toy

Future Minutemen preparing  
to defend our town



Militia drill, led by Bedford  
Minutemen, Roy and Shirley Kring



# COLONIAL KIDS WEEK

## Day 2: Militia Drill, Yarn Dyeing, Hoop & Stick toy



Being a colonial kid was hard. Even playing with colonial toys required some special skills.

But with grit and determination, these skills are soon mastered.



# COLONIAL KIDS WEEK

## Day 3: Colonial Tools, Stilts & Cider Press



Don Corey explains how colonials built their houses and barns, starting with the very heavy wood mallet for driving wood pegs into beams. Then everyone had a chance to use colonial tools to drill holes and saw wood.



Some tried colonial kid's chores – raking and pitching hay



After some hard work, colonial kids could relax by pitching real horseshoes -- horseshoes that real horses wore out!



# COLONIAL KIDS WEEK

## Day 3: Colonial Tools, Stilts & Cider Press

Colonial kids made their toys. After final assembly of their stilts, they learn to operate them.



Some teachable moments



After much trial and error, success walking on stilts!



A common refreshment in colonial times was fresh apple cider. Don Corey explains how this was made, using a real cider press.

# COLONIAL KIDS WEEK

## Day 4: Churn Butter, More Colonial Toys, Weaving



Lee Yates Recipe for  
Churning butter

Heavy cream

Mason jar

Put some of the heavy cream into the  
Mason jar and cap it. Shake  
vigorously until butter forms.

If you wanted butter in colonial times, you made it yourself. Our Colonial Kids were given a Mason jar about half full with heavy cream; then they were told to shake it vigorously. After several minutes, they began noticing a yellow blob forming within a milky liquid. The yellow blob was butter, the milky liquid was buttermilk!





# COLONIAL KIDS WEEK

## Day 4: Churn Butter, More Colonial Toys, Weaving



During some lighter moments, our Colonial Kids learned of other toys earlier colonial kids made to amuse themselves. And these toys are still fun to make and use!



# COLONIAL KIDS WEEK

## Day 4: Churn Butter, More Colonial Toys, Weaving



Sharon explains the finer points of colonial weaving, using the yarns that were dyed on Day 2.



Good weaving requires good concentration and attention to detail





# COLONIAL KIDS WEEK

## Day 5: Making Kites, Town Meeting



Lee explains how the kites are decorated and built



Kite decoration is an important art.



Lee helps with final assembly



Finally, let's go fly a kite!

# COLONIAL KIDS WEEK

## Day 5: Making Kites, Town Meeting

*Warrant – Mock Town Meeting,*

*Friday, June 30*

*1 Article To allow all citizens to vote in this special meeting*

*2 Article To know whether the Swine shall go at large under the Regulation of the Law this present year*

*3 Article To refuse to buy, purchase or consume any goods, wares or merchandise which shall arrive in America from Great Britain*

*4 Article To see if the Town shall enlist and train Minutemen and to pay twenty-five Minutemen one shilling per week. And that they shall exercise and train four hours per week.*

*5 Article To know in what method the Town will proceed relating to a school (to have a central school or quarter (held in homes) schools in different parts of Town)*



An article is moved

A citizen explains her position on the article



And then, the vote is taken

