

October 14, 2005

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JAMESTOWN MYSTERY ARTIFACT CONTEST WINNERS TO RECEIVE FAMILY VACATION

RICHMOND, Va. – Students in kindergarten through 12th-grade who offer the best explanations about how early colonists used a mystery artifact unearthed at Historic Jamestowne will win a two-night family vacation to Jamestown, Virginia, the first permanent English settlement in America and the birthplace of the United States.

Featured in DIG magazine's October 2005 Jamestown issue and sponsored by the Virginia Tourism Corporation, the contest is open to students in kindergarten through 12th-grade nationally. Entries must be sent to DIG magazine by November 18, 2005.

Winners will receive free admission for their parents and siblings to Historic Jamestowne, Jamestown Settlement museum, Yorktown Battlefield, Yorktown Victory Center, Colonial Williamsburg, Busch Gardens Williamsburg and Water Country USA, plus two-night accommodations at the Great Wolf Lodge in Williamsburg. They will also win a mystery package for their classmates from Historic Jamestowne.

To enter the contest, students should describe their idea in 150 words or less about how a double-walled, oval ceramic bowl unearthed by archaeologists at Historic Jamestowne was used during the late-16th and early-17th centuries.

“Although it is unique in America, the double dish form is known through at least 22 vessels that have been excavated in England from late 16th and early 17th-century contexts,” explains Bly Straube, APVA curator at Historic Jamestowne.

Straube said suggested uses have ranged from a flowerpot to a container for ecclesiastical Holy Water to candle- or soap-making. The Medieval Pottery Research Group documents the form as “a rare ceramic form, presumably with a specific function which remains unknown.”

Historical accuracy counts and a drawing illustrating how it might have been used must be submitted with each entry. Winners for grades K-3, 4-5, 6-8 and 9-12 will be chosen by the APVA Jamestown Rediscovery staff and notified by December 20, 2005.

For contest rules and details, visit: www.digonsite.com. For more information about the archaeological excavation at Historic Jamestowne visit www.historicjamestowne.org. For information about visiting Jamestown and traveling in Virginia visit www.virginia.org.

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