



We are eagerly anticipating the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Naturalization Ceremony and are looking forward to welcoming you to Monticello!

Please review these Frequently Asked Questions to help plan your day.

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## NATURALIZATION CEREMONY FAQs

### **I am getting naturalized at Monticello. What time should I arrive and where do I go?**

We recommend prospective citizens arrive at 6:30 a.m. at the Monticello David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center (1050 Monticello Loop Charlottesville, VA 22902). Please be on time!

### **Where do I park and check in?**

Please [print this parking pass](#) and display the parking pass in your vehicle window to park at the visitor center. When you arrive, give your name to the Monticello staff member at the visitor center to park.

You will be checked in by Monticello staff and directed to USCIS representatives for processing in advance of the formal ceremony.

### **Who can join me and where do they park?**

Each citizen is welcome to invite their friends and family to the Naturalization Ceremony at Monticello! Please have guests check-in at the welcome table at the visitor center and a staff member will give each citizen guest a wristband for access.

Up to 2 vehicles per prospective citizen may park at our visitor center (1050 Monticello Loop Charlottesville). Please arrive by 8 a.m. Print the parking pass found on the registration webpage and display it in your vehicles.

Additional vehicles may park at Piedmont Virginia Community College (PVCC) and take buses to Monticello. Free shuttle times from PVCC to Monticello can be reserved [HERE](#).

**Those unable to attend are invited to view the livestream** of the Naturalization Ceremony on our website at [www.Monticello.org/july4](http://www.Monticello.org/july4) beginning at 9:00 AM. ET.

### **My guests would like to come later than my arrival time, is that possible?**

Yes, your guests may arrive with you, or later.

We recommend they arrive by 8 a.m. to allow time to go through security



screenings and board shuttles to the ceremony location. If they arrive separately, please make sure they have a parking pass displayed in their vehicle.

**What security and safety procedures do I need to be aware of?**

All citizens and their guests will be required to pass through a bag check and security screening. For your safety, **we require clear bags** for anyone attending the Naturalization Ceremony.

All bags will be inspected through our no-touch process. Exceptions to these policies will be made for all medically necessary items after proper inspection.

**The arrival time is early - will breakfast be provided?**

Yes! Citizens and their guests are welcome to enjoy complimentary breakfast pastries and beverages at our Monticello Café in the David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center. Guests are welcome to head directly to our café seating area upon arrival. Prospective citizens may do so *after* the check-in process. Staff at the front entrance of the visitor center courtyard can direct you.

**How will I get to the Ceremony site on the West Lawn of Monticello?**

All prospective citizens will be directed by staff and will travel together to the West Lawn on Monticello shuttles from the visitor center beginning at 8:00 a.m. For security purposes, guests of prospective citizens will be required to travel separately to the West Lawn on Monticello shuttles.

**How do I return to the David M. Rubenstein Visitor Center?**

Following the ceremony and the mountaintop celebration, citizens and their guests may return to the visitor center on Monticello shuttles from the East Walk or on the walking trail at their convenience.

**What time does the Ceremony begin?**

A rehearsal for the ceremony will begin at 8:30 a.m. The Naturalization Ceremony will begin at 9:00 a.m.

**What time does the Ceremony end?**

The Naturalization Ceremony ends at approximately 10:15 a.m.

**Can I take a tour of Monticello?**

Yes! Citizens and their guests will be invited to enjoy a complimentary guided tour of Monticello beginning at 11:15 a.m., directly following the Ceremony. These tours will begin at the East Walk.

All citizens will also be receiving a voucher for 4 free tickets for tours of Monticello to be used any time before 07/31/26.



**Where can we get lunch following the ceremony and who can join me?**

Each citizen will receive a gift card to our café that can be used at the food tent on the West Lawn or the visitor center café on July 4.

**What should I wear for the Naturalization Ceremony?**

Festive attire is welcome! The Naturalization Ceremony takes place on the West Lawn of Monticello where we will have a large tent with fans and shade. Please dress appropriately for the day's events and weather. Please remember to wear sunscreen or sunglasses if needed.

**What do I need to bring?**

Please remember to bring all necessary paperwork with you, as directed by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services

Please also bring your printed Parking Pass to display in your vehicle.

**Where will I be sitting?**

New citizens will have reserved seats at the front of the seating area. The area is a designated courtroom and only prospective citizens will be allowed to sit there.

**Will my family sit with me?**

No, citizen guests and family members will be seated in a reserved area in the center of the West Lawn, directly behind the citizen seating area. Monticello staff members will be available to help identify seating areas.

**Will the Saunders-Monticello Trail be open if I want to walk to the visitor center?**

No, there will be no access to Monticello's visitor center from the Trail, which will remain closed until 11:00 a.m.

**Is there childcare available?**

Children are welcome! Unfortunately, childcare will not be provided. Additionally, children will not be able to sit with prospective citizens in the court-appointed area of the West Lawn. Please be sure to have someone available to sit with your child during the ceremony.

**I have limited mobility, what services are available to me?**

Monticello maintains a wheelchair-accessible shuttle, accessible restrooms, and accessible parking spaces. Wheelchairs are also available for use on a first-come, first-serve basis. An ASL interpreter will also be on site for the ceremony.

Please contact the Special Events department at 434-984-9821 for more information.

**This is an exciting day for me. How can I share my thoughts?**



During the ceremony, there will be an opportunity for new citizens to share their thoughts with the court and audience. If you would like to speak, please keep your comments to 1-2 minutes.

A Monticello staff member would also be happy to speak with you to learn your story after the ceremony! If you have already contacted Monticello with an interest in speaking with the media, we will arrange for your introductions immediately following the ceremony. This special experience will take only a few minutes; please stay on the West Lawn and Monticello staff will help connect you. We are honored to hear your thoughts!