



Dwight D. Eisenhower Library

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NEWS RELEASE

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Celebrating Ike's Birthday

The Eisenhower Center and the Eisenhower Foundation, Abilene, Kansas, have announced upcoming events for the 2006 celebration of former President Dwight D. Eisenhower's birthday. On Thursday, October 12, 7th graders from Abilene Middle School will spend the day at the Center for a day of learning and entertainment. Staff at the Center, while dressed in 1950s period clothing, will offer living history tours of the Presidential gallery, explaining the important elements of the Eisenhower administration like civil rights, the Cold War, life in the White House, and family life style during the 1950s. Tours of the Library archives are also on the agenda, along with the short film, *The Great American Student*, which will introduce a 1950s Teenagers' Fashion Show. Both will give a glimpse of a young person's life during the 1950s. Music, movies and dance of the era will be demonstrated, and a 1950s "backyard barbeque" served. "We hope to provide the younger generation with a glimpse of life in the 1950s when Dwight Eisenhower was President, showing both the serious and nostalgic side of the decade," said Dan Holt, director of the Eisenhower Center.

Later that evening, an old fashion campaign rally will be held at 6:30 p.m. on the front porch of the Eisenhower Family Home, led by Dr. Michael Brikner, history professor at Gettysburg College, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, who is currently working on his ninth book, entitled, "Electing Ike: Sherman Adams and the Making of a President, 1952." A local crowd of supporters will chant with their "I LIKE IKE" placards and sing songs from the 1952 presidential campaign.

Festivities continue at 7 p.m. with "Ike's Idols" singing contest in the Visitors Center auditorium at the Eisenhower Center. Persons interested in being a contestant should contact the library at 785-263-6700 or toll free 877 RING IKE, or by email at eisenhower.library@nara.gov for an entry form. There will be two categories. The junior category for ages 17 and under and senior category of 18 and over. Cash prizes will be given in both categories in the amounts of 1st place - \$100, 2nd place - \$75, 3rd place - \$50, and 4th place - \$25.

Following the contest, "Elvis" will make an entrance and perform several memorable tunes. Mr. Tarry Westley, Kansas City's leading ELVIS, according to the *Kansas City Star*, and one time studio back-up artist for Glen Campbell, Osmonds, and Elvis Presley, has signed to perform at the birthday celebration. Westley also heads the annual Elvis parade in Kansas City. Birthday cake will be served at the conclusion of the celebration.

The public is invited to come out and celebrate the 34th President's birthday. There is no charge for any of the events.

