

White House VISITOR CENTER

1450 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW

The Annual Easter Egg Roll: A White House Tradition



The first public White House Easter Egg Roll dates back to 1878 and the administration of President Rutherford B. Hayes. Traditionally on the Monday after Easter, hundreds of children flock to the South Lawn of the White House to roll colorful eggs through the grass.

Appearances by the White House Easter Bunny, souvenir eggs, celebrities and maypole dances have surprised and delighted children at this event through the years.

This year's event will be held Monday, April 9. The event is free to the general public, however, tickets are required. In case of inclement weather, the Egg Roll will be cancelled. For more information about the Easter Egg Roll, please call the White House Visitors Office 24-hour information line at (202) 456-7041.

Additional activities will be held on the Ellipse and in the White House Visitor Center from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Easter Monday. For more information, call the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631.

Spring Garden Tours Showcase the White House Grounds

Spring Garden Tours provide a special opportunity to visit the grounds around the White House. Over the years, the eighteen acres that comprise the White House grounds have been subject to constant change.

As the first president to occupy the White House, John Adams ordered the first planting of a garden. Thomas Jefferson then undertook a complete redesign of the garden. He started the tradition of planting trees and it was his idea to plant groves.

President John Quincy Adams was an experienced gardener who found pleasure

working in the gardens of the White House.

President Rutherford B. Hayes began the tradition of planting commemorative trees. Today, there are more than three dozen such commemorative trees.

In 1913, First Lady Ellen Wilson replaced the colonial-style garden with a rose garden on the west side of the White House. Today the Rose Garden hosts many official functions. The upkeep of the grounds became the responsibility of the National Park Service during the Kennedy administration.

Self-guided garden tours will be offered on Saturday, April 21 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, April 22 from 12 noon to 4 p.m.

The tours are FREE, however, tickets are required. Tickets may be picked up at the Ellipse Visitor Pavilion beginning at 8 a.m. on each day of the tours. For further information, call the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631.



Andrew Jackson Statue

More than 20,000 people crowded Lafayette Square on January 8, 1853 when this statue of General Andrew Jackson was unveiled on the 38th anniversary of the Battle of New Orleans. Participants in the dedication ceremonies included President Millard Fillmore and the statue's sculptor, Clark Mills.

The statue depicts Jackson reviewing his troops on the morning of the Battle of New Orleans. This battle secured the general's place in American history. His leadership and gallantry preserved the Union against the invading British troops.

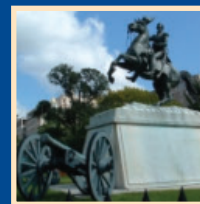
At the dedication ceremony, Senator Stephen Douglas of Illinois delivered the day's oration stating:

"The statue before you...is the work of a young, untaught American. He never studied nor copied. He never saw an equestrian statue, nor even a model. It is the work of inborn

genius aroused to energy by the triumphant spirit of liberty which throbs in the great heart of our continent..."

Today, more than 150 years later, the statue looks much as it did when it was unveiled. It serves as the focal point of the parabolic walks in Lafayette Park. The statue also conforms to the scale and character of the 19th century houses around Lafayette Square.

It was the first equestrian statue designed, cast and erected in the U.S. The sculptor built a foundry near the site, proving to other American sculptors that they did not have to send their works to Europe to be cast.



SPECIAL FAMILY ACTIVITIES



★ It's Cherry Blossom Time!

Join us in the White House Visitor Center on Friday, April 6 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. for a special family activity! Create a "tissue" cherry blossom and construct an origami White House at the Youth Area Resources Desks.

★ Eggs, Eggs and More Eggs....

On Monday, April 9, enjoy family activities and crafts at the White House Visitor Center between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. and visit a special exhibition of handcrafted Easter eggs representing each state and the District of Columbia. No reservations necessary. The Easter egg exhibit will remain on display at the Visitor Center through Tuesday, May 1.

★ Junior Ranger Days

Junior Ranger Days will be celebrated on Saturday, April 21, and Saturday, April 28 between 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. during National Park Week. Participants in our special "garden and grounds" crafts programs will plant a seedling to take home.

★ Join Us on Memorial Day

On Monday, May 28, activities will focus on this day of remembrance for those who died in our nation's service, including those honored in President's Park at the First Division Monument and Second Division Memorial. Activities will be offered from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

★ It's Cleanup Time on our National Trails

Join us on Saturday, June 2 and Saturday, June 9 as we clean up our National Trails. *For more information, call (202) 208-1631.*

★ Observe Flag Day

President Harry S. Truman signed an Act of Congress on August 3, 1949 designating June 14 of each year as National Flag Day. Join our crafts program on Thursday, June 14 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. *No reservations required.*

★ On Exhibit at the White House Visitor Center

The White House Visitor Center welcomes two new exhibits this Spring:


The Franklin D. Roosevelt photographic exhibit opening on May 21 celebrates the 125th anniversary of Roosevelt's birth in 1882.





Pets are not elected to office, but they do take over the White House! View two centuries of family pets that lived in the White House in this interesting exhibit, "White House Pets," opening June 13.


WALKS, TALKS AND OTHER THOUGHTS


Rangers present talks and walks (weather permitting) daily at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. The talks, from 15 minutes to one hour in length, encompass every subject from the history of President's Park to the lives of the famous men and women who have called the White House "home". Check at the Information Desk for times and subjects today!


 "Presidents and Baseball" – Hear about many of the presidents' fascination with baseball.


 "A Walk Around President's Park" – Discover some fascinating facts about this parcel of land surrounding the gates of the White House.


 "What's In This Place?" – The White House Visitor Center has many presidential exhibits on display. Join a Park Ranger and hear about their history.


 "What Color is the White House?" – The executive mansion was built of grey sandstone. Why is it white?


 "Thank You, Mrs. Taft" – Each year, the nation's capital celebrates the 1912 gift of cherry trees accepted on behalf of our country by First Lady Helen Taft.


 "The Caretaker President" – It's World War I. There are many whispers about the occupant of the Oval Office. The fate of the country may rest in the hands of a "caretaker president."

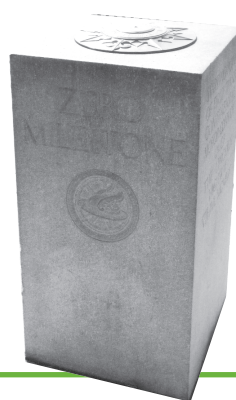
 "Washington's Washington" – Parts of Virginia and Maryland were combined to create America's new capital city. It's not a state and not a commonwealth. What is it?

 "A Stroll Through Lafayette Park" – Join a Park Ranger and discover the many different activities and demonstrations that have occurred in historic Lafayette Park, located north of the White House.

 "The Good Friday That Wasn't" – Did you know about the many plots, conspiracies and attempts to overthrow the government and how they relate to Good Friday, 1865? Join a Park Ranger and learn more!

 "The New Capital City" – How did the District of Columbia become the capital of the United States?

 "Lincoln's Washington" – What did President Lincoln do when the Civil War threatened the Washington area?



The Zero Milestone, left, is one of the many monuments you will see on one of the guided walking tours offered at President's Park.

SPECIAL PARK EVENTS



Celebrate National History Day at the Visitor Center

On Wednesday, June 13, view the winning National History Day projects submitted by high school history scholars from across the country. The projects will be on display between 10 a.m. and 12 noon at the White House Visitor Center.

For more information about this and other programs offered at President's Park, call (202) 208-1631 or go to www.nps.gov/wbho

KEY



Interpretive Program



Walking Tour



Special Event



EXPERIENCE
Your AMERICA

Programs may change due to reassignment of rangers to other duties that serve the National Park Service. Every effort is made to maintain the schedule as printed. Please contact the Visitor Center at (202) 208-1631 to confirm programs and dates. The Center is open daily from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, e-mail us at wbho_presidents_park@nps.gov.

This calendar is sponsored by the National Park Service and the White House Historical Association.